



BONEY HAY
BURNTWOOD
CHASE TERRACE
CHASETOWN

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Our Ref: GH/JM

09 September 2019

To: **All Members of the Community and Partnerships Committee**
Councillors Darren Ennis [Chairman], Woodward [Vice Chairman], Norma Bacon, Laura Ennis, Evans, Gittings, Kirkham, Loughbrough Heron, Westwood and Willis-Croft

Dear Committee Member

COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee in **The Ron Bradbury Room, The Old Mining College Centre, Queen Street, Chasetown, Burntwood WS7 4QH on Monday 16 September 2019 at 6:00 pm** to consider the following business.

Yours sincerely

Graham Hunt
Town Clerk

While audio and video recordings of this meeting are entirely legal, as a matter of courtesy to Town Council members who work for this town and this Council on a voluntary basis, we would be grateful if you would let the Clerk or the Chairman know beforehand.

AGENDA

TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

To receive a presentation.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**
To consider any declarations of interests and consider requests for dispensations.
3. **MINUTES**
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 18 July 2019 [Minute Nos. 9-17] **[ENCLOSURE NO. 1]**.

4. DEMENTIA ACTION PLAN FOR BURNTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL [ENCLOSURE NO. 2].
5. JOINT PARISH COUNCILS MEETING [ENCLOSURE NO. 3].
6. PLAY IN THE PARKS [ENCLOSURE NO. 4].
7. CHRISTMAS EVENTS
[To receive a verbal update]
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
[For discussion purposes only]

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE HELD AT
THE OLD MINING COLLEGE CENTRE, QUEEN STREET, BURNTWOOD
ON THURSDAY 18 JULY 2019 COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor D Ennis (in the Chair)

Councillors N Bacon, L Ennis, Evans, Gittings, Loughbrough Heron, Westwood, Willis-Croft and Woodward

In attendance

G Hunt, Town Clerk

Ms J Minor, Senior Administration Officer

Councillor Flanagan

Councillor Place

G Williams, Director of Seventeen43 Limited

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Kirkham.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 15 [Consultation on Staffordshire County Council's Revised Statement of Community Involvement] as she is a County Councillor.

Councillor Woodward declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 17 [Any Other Business] in respect of Bracken House, Burntwood.

Councillor Westwood declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 17 [Any Other Business] in respect of Burntwood BID.

Councillor D Ennis declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 17 [Any Other Business] in respect of Burntwood BID.

Councillor Evans declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 17 [Any Other Business] in respect of Chase Terrace Technology College as she is Chair of Governors.

11. MINUTES

Councillor Woodward made reference to Minute No. 5, Page 2 [Play in the Parks 2019 Update] and in particular the Enhanced DBS checks and Safeguarding [Children, Young People and

Vulnerable Adults] Level 1 with regard to volunteering at the events. The Town Clerk confirmed that he was in the progress of making the appropriate enquiries.

Councillor Woodward made reference to Minute No. 8, Page 6 [Induction] and in particular that the Town Clerk had stated that a copy of the Code of Conduct would be circulated in the Minutes. The Senior Administrative Officer explained that all members of the Town Council had already received a copy of the Code of Conduct in their Welcome Pack. The Town Clerk confirmed that the current Code of Conduct was under review together with other policies however it was **AGREED** that the Senior Administrative Officer would email all members a copy of the Code of Conduct.

Councillor Woodward made reference to Minute No. 8, Page 7 [Induction] in particular the resolution that the Senior Administrative Officer would circulate all agendas to all members. The Senior Administrative Officer confirmed that she had already undertaken the resolution and that all members were getting a copy of all agendas so that all members were fully informed [up to date].

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee held on 18 June 2019 [Minute Nos. 1-8] be received and where necessary approved and adopted.

12. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

13. WAKES FESTIVAL UPDATE

Councillor D Ennis informed members that he felt the Wakes Festival went well however it was a very hot day which he said showed in the footfall [big rotation of the public].

Mr Gary Williams, Director of Seventeen43 Limited stated that the heat was a challenge however this was the fourth year at the Leisure Centre and the event was well received.

Councillor D Ennis explained that the spaces available for stalls this year had been altered to allow for different sizes and this seemed to have worked well [less regimental format this year].

Mr Williams stated the main challenge is the car park however he had had a pre-meeting and post meeting with Burntwood Leisure Centre and the event was signed off at the end of the festival day.

Councillor Evans felt that the car parking arrangements were much more slick this time. Mr Williams stated that fundamentally he did his best endeavours to keep all happy and the car parking was helped this year by the fact that the medical centre was closed.

Councillor Woodward stated that she had enjoyed the event this year and by reducing the size of the arena had made it better. Councillor Woodward thanked Mr Williams, Councillor D Ennis, Senior Administrative Officer and the Town Clerk for all their hard work.

Mr Williams explained that due to the event management plan and risk assessments carried out the lost children [2] were reunited with their families within minutes and the situation was dealt with.

Councillor Woodward thanked Nancy Wilkes Photography who had done an excellent job in taking lots of photographs of the event. Councillor D Ennis stated that the Town Council now had a number of photographs which could be used in the future.

Councillor D Ennis stated that positive feedback had been received via social media and that he had seen no negative feedback.

Councillor N Bacon felt that the event had been well organised.

14. UPDATE ON THE MODERN DAY SLAVERY EVENT HELD ON 03 JULY 2019

Councillor Willis-Croft explained that he together with Councillor Loughbrough Heron had attended The Modern Slavery Awareness Raising Event held on 03 July 2019 in Lichfield. The event was run by Lichfield District Safer Community Partnership and led by Voice of Hope, a Staffordshire based charity. The event provided information about what modern slavery is, how to spot the signs and how to report it.

Voice of Hope is intentional in making a stand against the social injustice of modern slavery and human trafficking, through a range of initiatives and working with strategic partners, they believe they can make a positive difference for good in the community.

Their action plan is to:

Raise awareness - raise awareness about human trafficking within community groups, churches and universities. To provide information leaflets in public places that include their contact details.

Education - to create an education curriculum to educate the next generation as a preventative measure of human trafficking. Young or vulnerable people need to be equipped and empowered with information to avoid becoming victims of this crime.

Training - training programme designed for professionals including first responders in order that they may recognise signs of human trafficking and modern slavery in order that they would know what to do if suspicious of a potential victim of trafficking.

Network and Support partners who are working to recover and restore and rebuild the lives of victims of human trafficking. Voice of Hope assist Staffordshire Police when they require reception centres. Reception centres are places of safety that potential rescued victims are initially taken to start their journey of restoration.

All information that is reported to Voice of Hope is dealt with in strict confidentiality, they only pass on information that will help in the rescue of potential victims of trafficking.

Councillor Woodward thanked Councillors Willis-Croft and Loughbrough Heron for their attendance but queried how do you report it. Councillor Willis-Croft explained that information was handed out at the event which included a helpline number [0800 0121 700] and a website

[www.modernslavery.co.uk]. Members suggested that it may be useful to have the information available on the Town Council's website.

Councillor D Ennis felt that it may be useful to have an anti-slavery policy and let members of the public know about contact details etc.

Councillor Evans felt that as some of the Town Council councillors were school governors they also have an important role.

15. CONSULTATION ON STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S REVISED STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Town Clerk explained that Burntwood Town Council have been given the opportunity to comment on Staffordshire County Council's draft revised Statement of Community Involvement [SCI].

The document explains how Staffordshire County Council will consult with people and organisations when they are preparing planning policies or processing planning applications. Their current SCI was adopted in 2014 and needs to be reviewed to take account of changes in legislation and the approach to planning.

The Draft Revised Statement of Community Involvement provides updated guidance and a straightforward explanation of the opportunities to become involved with consultations relating to all aspects of the planning the County Council undertake.

The County Council will collate all of the comments received during the consultation period [all responses must be received by Wednesday 24 July 2019] and take them into account as they finalise the Statement of Community Involvement for formal adoption by the County Council [anticipate this will be in the Autumn of 2019].

Councillor Woodward stated that she personally thought that the document was a bit technical however it was good to spot these consultations [Councillor Birch is currently drafting a response on the methodology of the Green Belt review by Lichfield District Council]. However on this occasion she would be happy for no response to be forwarded to the County Council.

The Town Clerk stated that the County Council's Statement of Community Involvement could be taken into account when reviewing the Town Council's own policies.

Councillor D Ennis felt that a more "layman's terms" document were needed and that any comments needed to be sent to the Town Clerk.

16. PLAY IN THE PARKS

Councillor D Ennis informed members that he had had several meetings with Mr Williams, Director of Seventeen43 Limited together with site visits.

The Town Clerk explained that the purpose of the report was to seek the approval of the Committee to commission Seventeen43 Limited to manage the summer 2019 Play in the Park events programme.

By Way of background, since the summer of 2015 the Town Council have organised a programme of free family focused events. This year the programme is made up of 8 days of activities delivered from 8 different sites across the parish. The majority of activities are provided by partner organisations such as the District Council, Spark and Friends of Chase Terrace Park. The programme has grown over the years and now is attended over the summer by hundreds of local people.

At the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 15 July 2019 consideration was given to a recent audit of the health and safety policy and practices of the Town Council. The audit highlighted a number of areas where appropriate health and safety arrangements were not in place. The Play in the Park programme was one of the Town Council's activities which did not comply with health and safety legislation. No risk assessments have ever been undertaken in respect of these events.

In the past the Town Council had provided two members of staff to set up and manage the events programme. This placed a big strain on the team at a time when team members wish to take their holidays.

It is proposed to put the Play in the Parks events programme on the same footing as the Burntwood Wakes Festival. In the case of the Wakes Festival the setting up of the event, all risk assessments and the event management is undertaken by a professional events management company, Seventeen43 Management. This has meant that the Festival has been consistently delivered in a safe and efficient way to ensure maximum public enjoyment. The Seventeen43 Management Company have quoted £1,975 to manage all 8 events.

The Policy and Resources Committee when considering the health and safety audit recognised the need to bring in outside expertise to address the lack of adequate assessment and management of the risks associated with the events programme.

The Town Clerk explained that the cost of £1,975 can be met from the Events Budget. There was currently £3,618 currently available in the budget.

The Town Clerk stated that there is a pressing need to address the health and safety requirements of running the programme. The Town Council does not have the in-house expertise to undertake risk assessment required by health and safety legislation. The management of the events by the Town Council is not sustainable as it is placing a big strain on staff resources.

Councillor Evans felt that this was essential expenditure and equated to approximately £246 each event [safety of the children is essential].

Councillor Woodward explained that when she had first heard about the gaps in the overall management of the events her first thoughts was that the events could not go ahead. Councillor Woodward made reference to the Town Clerk's report [2.3] and in particular the big strain on the staff team to provide two members of staff to set up and manage the events programme.

RECOMMENDED that the Community and Partnerships Committee authorise the Town Clerk to appoint the Seventeen43 Management Company to manage the 2019 Play in the Parks Events programme.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

[Councillor D Ennis suggested that “Any Other Business” should remain on future Agendas [for discussion purposes only] so that future Agenda items could be discussed].

17.1 Dementia Friendly Town [Minute No. 7.1 - 18 June 2019 refers]

Councillor Willis-Croft informed members that he had personally visited Bracken House in Burntwood which was an excellent first class facility.

Councillor Evans stated that she had recently attended an open day at Chaseview Care Home in Water Street as Chairman of the Town Council and the work that is undertaken by the carers needed be recognised.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the first meeting of the Dementia Task and Finish Group had met which had been chaired by Councillor Evans and a report setting out the agenda for the next 12 months for the Task and Finish Group would be reported to the next meeting of the Community and Partnerships Committee [09 September 2019]. The Town Clerk stated that the aim of the County Council was to help people to live independently in their own homes.

Councillor Evans stated that this was in line with the District Council’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Councillor Woodward felt that this could lead up to positive work [Dementia Awareness Week next year].

17.2 Christmas Events

Councillor Westwood asked if the Christmas events were on track and the Senior Administration Officer stated that the majority of the expenditure had already been booked [i.e. face painter, mini zoo, festive train etc].

17.3 Town Deal

Councillor Woodward explained that the Town Deal was setup four years ago to make links between the three tiers of local government covering Burntwood. Semi-formal meetings are held with representatives from Staffordshire County Council, Lichfield District Council and the Town Council to get rid of some of the barriers. Talks have included the need for supportive housing [Bromford], the former Olaf Johnson site and how to progress better health facility [Greenwood House]. It also flagged up the need for a better health facility the other end of the Town.

At a recent meeting of the Town Deal held on 16 July 2019 it was decided that the meetings would be held on a two monthly basis to be chaired by Councillor Evans. There are five main priorities including town centre redevelopment, supportive housing, transport links, health provision and Chasewater.

Councillor Loughbrough Heron mentioned the Highfield Ward being represented and Councillor Woodward confirmed that County Councillor Tittley had been invited to the meeting.

17.4 Lichfield District Strategy - Strategic Plan

Councillor Westwood made reference to Lichfield District Strategic Plan and informed members that the District Council would be consulting on this in November/December 2019. Councillor D Ennis felt that the Plan was not allowing growth for businesses within Burntwood and that the Town Council needed to push and support the Burntwood BID.

The Town Clerk felt that Burntwood was a place of employment [light industrial] giving commercial and retail opportunities.

Councillor Woodward explained that when she was Chairman of the Town Council back in 1988 one of her objectives as Chairman was to get a link between the businesses and the Town Council. She had written to all businesses in Burntwood however only received three replies. There are significant businesses within Burntwood.

Councillor D Ennis stated that in Chasetown alone there was Cameron Homes and Chasetown Civil Engineering who were now getting more involved in the community however there is no links between them and us. Councillor D Ennis felt that there needed to be a networking group database.

Councillor Woodward made reference to the space currently known as the "community hub" being made available at Chase Terrace Technology College. The space would provide training, life skills, community venue [for hire] etc.

17.5 Parish Councils - Partnership Working [Minute No. 7.4 - 18 June 2019 refers]

Councillor L Ennis made reference to the resolution that the Town Clerk sets up an initial meeting with neighbouring representatives from different Parish Councils and asked if a meeting date had been set.

The Town Clerk stated that a meeting had been made for 01 August 2019 with representatives from Norton Canes Parish Council and Heath Hayes with Wimblebury Parish Council. Hammerwich Parish Council have been invited.

Councillor L Ennis confirmed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor King would be representing Hammerwich Parish Council.

Councillor Woodward advised that she had been in email communication with the Chairman of Hammerwich Parish Council who had specific issues relating to Hammerwich only.

Councillor Loughbrough Heron asked if Longdon Parish Council had been invited. Councillor D Ennis stated that initially the meeting was with Parish Councils which border the Town Council boundary.

[The Meeting closed at 7.12 pm]

Signed

Date

Community and Partnerships Committee

16th September 2019

Dementia Action Plan for Burntwood Town Council

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out an action plan for the Town Council that will enable it to make a meaningful contribution to health and social work being undertaken across the town to support people living with dementia and their carers.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Dementia is a term used to cover a range of brain related diseases. In recent years there has been a marked increase in the number of people diagnosed with dementia. It is estimated that 38% of the population either has a family member or close friend who is living with dementia. The number of people with dementia is expected to increase with 1 in 3 people born this year will go on to develop dementia. The disease is more common in older people with 1 in 14 people over 65 being effected compared to 1 in 79 for the under 65's. The disease is often linked to other significant diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and depression. As a result, dementia is often more prevalent in areas where deprivation causes problems of ill health. The negative factors that are present in Burntwood are set out in Table 1.

Table 1 Indicators of risk

Indicator of increased risk	Ward where prevalence above the national average
% of population aged 65 and over	Boney Hay, Chase Terrace, Highfields and Summerfield and All Saints
% of population aged 85 and over	Boney Hay and Chase Terrace
Dependency ratio of older people per 100 working age population	Boney Hay, Chase Terrace, Highfields and Summerfield and All Saints
Within top quarter of Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Chasetown
Disability Living Allowance	Boney Hay, Chase Terrace, Chasetown and Summerfield and All Saints
Limiting long term illness	Boney Hay, Chasetown and Summerfield and All Saints
Limiting long term illness aged 65 and over	Boney Hay, Chasetown

- 2.2 It can be seen from Table 1 that Boney Hay is triggering virtually all of the indicators and is such potentially a high-risk area. However, it should also be recognised that

Chasetown has also triggered all of the indicators, with the exception of the age indicators. This could indicate a future health problem in this community.

- 2.3 The lead authorities for providing dementia services are the NHS (health care) and Staffordshire County Council (social care). The voluntary sector is also active providing low level support and guidance. Finally, the private sector is responsible for providing residential care facilities which sometimes offer day care opportunities. In some areas dementia action groups, sometimes called dementia action alliances, have been set up to coordinate activity between the three sectors. There is a Dementia Action Alliance for Lichfield but it does not cover Burntwood.
- 2.4 Burntwood Town Council does not have any statutory responsibilities in respect of the treatment of dementia or the provision of care for people living with dementia or their carers. However, a working group chaired by Cllr. Di Evans has already met and has generated some ideas on how the Town Council might contribute to the work that is already going on. Cllr. Evans, in her capacity as Chairman of the Council, has decided to make dementia the theme of her charitable work this year.

3.0 Role of Burntwood Town Council

- 3.1 Despite the Town Council not having a statutory role there are things that it could do to support the work of the lead agencies and the voluntary sector. This disease is having a devastating impact on the community and number of people effected is expected to increase. It is important however to recognise any role could only be a supporting one.
- 3.2 One of the key issues that the Town Council could help to address is lack of awareness. At present the diagnosis rate for England is 71%. This is at a time when 600 people per day are being diagnosed so a large number of people are not missed. One of the reasons for this under diagnosis is a possible lack of awareness. Interestingly one of the main actions of many Dementia Action Alliance's is to raise awareness of the dementia and the support that is available. This lack of awareness can have quite a limiting impact on the ability of people living with dementia to stay within the community. Unfortunately, very few shops and facilities are at the moment dementia friendly. This may take the form of providing a slow till for payment or staff trained to be dementia aware. Some Supermarkets have already started to take on dementia friendly practices but not all shops are doing so yet. This can restrict independent living and places a huge financial burden on public funding in respect of the provision of residential care.
- 3.3 Another key issue linked to awareness is there is no single place where information about what advice and support is available. An implication of this lack of an overview is that gaps in provision and support can go undetected. The Town Council is well placed to help with creating and maintaining such an overview. The local knowledge of town councillors will be helpful in assembling this information. Finally, the Town Council could also use its grant scheme to help establish any new groups that are seeking to provide support in areas of deficit. In summary the contribution that the Town Council could effectively make is as follows:
- Promoting the advice and support that is available in Burntwood
 - Identifying any gaps in provision
 - Supporting the establishment of community or voluntary groups to meet identified need

3.4 To enable the Town Council make this contribution the following action plan is recommended:

Action 1 All town councillors to undertake dementia friends training

Action 2 Member dementia champions to be appointed for Boney Hay, Burntwood, Chase Terrace and Chasetown

Action 3 Town Councillors to map dementia provision in their respective wards

Action 4 A dedicated dementia page set up on the Town Council website to promote available dementia advice and support

Action 5 Start discussions with the business community regarding how to make shops more dementia friendly

4.0 Finance

4.1 The Dementia Action Plan will not require any additional funding and can be implemented within existing resources. The Community Grant scheme is available to support any new groups.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Dementia is clearly a significant health issue effecting the town. Parts of the community already have triggered indicators that suggest a higher risk of developing the disease. There is already a great deal of activity to provide advice and support to people living with dementia and their carers. The Town Council has a limited but key role. Improved awareness and access to advice and support will help increase the rate of diagnosis and enable people to live for longer as independent members of the community.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 The Community and Partnerships Committee is recommended to approve the Dementia Action Plan for Burntwood Town Council as set out in paragraph 3.4

Contact Officer

Graham hunt

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Community and Partnerships Committee

16th September 2019

Joint Parish Councils Meeting

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members on the recent joint meeting with adjoining Parish Councils

2.0 Background

2.1 There are number of issues that cut across administrative boundaries. Chasewater is a good example where any changes Staffordshire County Council make to the management of the Country Park could have implications for all of our residents. It is also true that local people do not think in terms of administrative boundaries when accessing services or responding to issues. The recent reduction in public services also suggests the need for better partnership working to minimise impact and maximise any opportunities for doing things differently. At the instigation of the Leader of the Town Council a meeting was set up with Hammerwich, Norton Canes and Heath Hayes and Wimblebury parish councils to discuss matters of mutual interest.

3.0 Joint Meeting

3.1 The meeting was held on 1st August 2019. Attendance at the meeting was as follows:

- Burntwood Town Council - Cllr Sue Woodward, Cllr Di Evans, Cllr. Robin Place and Graham Hunt
- Hammerwich Parish Council – Cllr Vance Wasdell, Cllr Greenway and Cllr Dave King
- Norton Canes Parish Council – Cllr John Preece and Linda Florence
- Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council - Ray Symthe

3.2 The key issues that were discussed are as follows:

- Chasewater. The future of the country park was recognised as an issue. The meeting was unable to reach any conclusions or shared actions. It was agreed that it would be a standing item on any further meetings
- Burntwood Cemetery. Cllr Place. Said that Hammerwich Parish Council remain unhappy that their residents cannot be buried in the cemetery. This is a long-standing issue. Cllr Woodward agreed to look at the matter again.
- Local Plan Review. All parties agreed that a coordinated approach to the review was needed
- Footpaths and Cycleways. This probably offered one of the most obvious opportunities for joint action. This was seen to be an important issue in the light of the ongoing cuts to bus services. Key routes identified were;

- i) National Cycleway Route No5 which goes around Chasewater and out westward through Cannock
- ii) Chasewater to Marquis Drive footpath that could revitalise the Heart of England Way
- iii) Chasewater to Lichfield
- Public participation in Council meetings. This was raised by Cllr. King who felt that Burntwood were too restrictive. Cllr Woodward also agreed to look into the matter. It was recognised that separate a meeting should be held between Hammerwich and Burntwood to discuss this issue along with Burntwood Cemetery

3.3 The meeting agreed to meet again in 2 months.

4.0 Progress

4.1 Some progress has been made since the August meeting. A report on public participation at Council meetings was considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 9th September 2019. It recommended that the public should be able to participate at all Council meetings providing that 3 days' notice was given to the Town Council. This was to give the Town Clerk time to provide any background information that might be needed to assist the Committee to respond to any issues raised. Investigations have also been undertaken to see on what basis people who lived outside of the parish could be buried in Burntwood Cemetery. A report outlining the findings of these investigations is programmed to go to the Policy and Resources Committee on 19th November 2019. Finally, the clerks from Burntwood, Norton Canes and Heath Hayes and Wimblebury met to start working on National Cycleway Route No 5.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 This first joint meeting indicated there were sufficient areas of mutual interest to continue to meet.

6.0 Finance

6.1 There are no financial commitments at the moment.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 This report is for information purposes only.

Contact Officer

Graham Hunt

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01543 677166

Community and Partnerships Committee

16th September 2019

Play in the Parks 2019

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the events delivered this year under Play in the Parks initiative.

2.0 Background

2.1 The first Play in the Parks events were held in 2015. The initiative was introduced to encourage families to make greater use of their local parks. Following the success of the first year the Town Council committed itself to a second year and sought to achieve the following wider objectives:

- to offer families local activities during the summer break
- to create opportunities to work and engage with local organisations in a positive and collaborative way
- to create local social cohesion
- to enable the Town Council and other agencies to engage with local young people
- to promote healthy living
- to promote a sense of place
- to achieve earlier intervention to promote civic pride

2.2 The format of 2 events per week for 4 weeks delivered from local parks is now well established. The parks used are Burntwood Park, Chase Terrace Park and Redwood Park along with Open House, St Matthews Cricket Ground and more recently Sparks. On offer is a range of informal sports and games, a bouncy castle and roundabout. The events are well attended and on good days turn into a mass picnic. Attendance can range from 300 to 500 people depending on the location and the weather.

2.3 The Play in the Parks initiative has grown year by year. This has been possible due to the contribution of local partners, the involvement of councillors and Town Council staff. The cost to the Town Council for the years prior to this last year was between £2,000 to £3,000 per annum. For 2019 the cost has been £5,000.

3.0 Play in the Parks 2019

3.1 As with the previous year 8 events were planned using the venues listed in paragraph 2.2. This year for the first time an Events Management Company was used to deliver the events. This was felt necessary in response to the increase in the scale of the events which were now beginning to pose significant health and safety challenges. The 8 events were as follows:

- Monday 29th July Sparks (Springhill Academy). This was a very well attended event at the beginning of the school holidays. Sparks provided craft activities. Other

activities included face painting, health and wellbeing and a bouncy assault course. It is estimated that in the region of 350 attended.

- Wednesday 31st July St Matthews Cricket Ground. This event was cancelled due to the ground being waterlogged.
- Monday 5th August Chase Terrace Park. Up to 800 people are estimated to attend this event which is supported by St John's Church. A range of activities were provided including a mega slide and funfair ride
- Wednesday 7th August Open House. This was another well attended event with an estimate of 350 people being present
- Monday 12th August Burntwood Park. Reasonable weather saw up to 300 people attend the event. A range of attractions were provided
- Wednesday 14th August Redwood Park. Despite some inclement weather 300 people attended the event
- Monday 19th August. Chase Terrace Park. Again, the weather impacted on attendance. This time an estimated 400 compared to the estimated 800 of two weeks previously
- Wednesday 21st August Redwood Park. The final day was well attended with the estimate being in the region of 500. A good range of activities was again provided

4.0 Finance

4.1 The net cost to the Town Council for Play in the Parks 2019 is just over £5000 after a £500 grant from the Lichfield Safer Communities Partnership Small Projects Fund. This is approximately £2,000 more than the previous year due to the commissioning of an Events Management Company to manage the events. This was felt necessary to free up Town Council staff and address health and safety concerns. The extra cost can be covered from within the approved budget.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 This year's events have been very well attended by local people and are clearly valued by them. This role of partners is becoming important as the resources of the Town Council have become stretched. The combination of staff holidays, sickness and other commitments has made for a challenging summer for the Town Council. However, the appointment of an Events Management Company ensured that the events ran smoothly and any risks managed.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 There is no recommendation. This report is for information purposes only.

Contact Officer

Graham Hunt

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