

**Policy & Resources Committee**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>12 November 2019</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Reports - External Organisations</b>

**Thame Barns Centre** (Cllrs Deacock & Dodds)

The last meeting referred to a number of changes that have recently occurred. A change has been made to the office accommodation. The Centre has taken over the Church Office and a new Church Office has been developed. Keeping up with the times the Centre has now acquired a Credit Card Machine. The Barns remains very busy with 12 weddings and many big parties, being booked every Saturday and many Fridays and Sundays. Reliable and regular staffing remains an issue.

One issue was raised concerning car park signing which Graham has taken on board, to ensure it keeps to the spirit of the agreement.

A further change is to the trustees as the September meeting was the last one for the Vicar Alan Garratt and soon will be welcoming the new Town Clerk.

**Citizens Advice** (Cllr Austin)

I attended the Citizens Advice AGM held in Abingdon on Tuesday 15th October. The AGM in part commemorated the 80th birthday of the organisation. It was founded on September 4th 1939- the day after World War 2 began. The Leader of SODC, Sue Cooper, expressed her thanks for CA's efforts and the links established with SODC. In terms of the progress being made and challenges faced by CA, the Director (Oxfordshire South & The Vale), Jon Bright, emphasised the increasing workload particularly in benefits queries and the need to recruit more volunteers to meet demand. He, also, emphasised that the organisation had to be more inventive in raising funds. Though continuing to provide essential funding, the Districts were reducing support and the CA are now seeking sponsors in the private sector. Also, a substantial part of income was now coming from individual contracts such as that for Universal Credit advice. It was particularly pleasing to note the high quality ratings that Oxfordshire South & Vale received both from external audit and its customers.

**Health Hub (including Community Hub Pilot)** (Cllr Champken-Woods)

Community Hub – During the recent Stake Holder Group Meeting of which I am a member all reports were positive in particular the newly installed Ultrasound which is now up and running. McMillan Nurses will soon be able to carry out Chemotherapy at the Community Hub thus saving patients travelling to Stoke, Wycombe or Oxford.

Health Hub – There is a meeting to be held on the 6th November so I should have an update for the next P&R meeting.

**NALC** (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk continues to circulate the weekly NALC Bulletin, and regular OALC and SLCC newsletters, so Councillors should be up-to-date on all current NALC campaigns and activities. We are not aware of any issues specifically relevant to Thame Town Council.

The Town Clerk and I both attended an OALC Meeting in Kidlington on 16th October where NALC's Solicitor talked about current legal issues, concentrating most of his presentation on the new requirements for website accessibility but also touching on matters relating to speed activated signage, electric vehicle charging points, bullying, and codes of conduct.

By the time the P&R Meeting is held I will also have attended NALC's annual two day conference at Milton Keynes and will hopefully have had time to circulate a separate report on that.

### **Red Kite Family Centre (Cllr Emery)**

Report by Amy Spicer, Centre Manager of Red Kite Family Centre.

#### Red Kite Update - October 2019

It has been a busy and vibrant start to the term at Red Kite with the stay and play sessions always full to bursting since the start of the school year. Over the last year 357 families have visited the stay and play sessions to learn through play with their children, meet other families in the community and access support from the team here at Red Kite when needed. In a recent survey monkey of users of the centre the parents said:

*"It is the only chance that we get to mix with other babies and mums. Without it our lives could be quite isolated."*

*"It makes us feel connected with the Thame community"*

100% of all survey feedback stated that the stay and play sessions at both Thame and Chinnor were 'excellent'

There are now 1905 parents and carers registered with the service. 14 young parents have regularly accessed the young parent's lunch club and the Dads Breakfast club has seen 35 Dads attend over the last year. We have also supported 15 families with children with additional needs through the sensory explorers group. One parent said:

*"Our eldest son has SEN and used to attend Sensory Explorers before he started school. The support and understanding was such a huge help. Now the staff know us and the children well and it's a lovely welcoming environment for the children to attend."*

Red Kite has continued to run services in the community with messy play events running in local schools, 'starting from a story sessions' running monthly in local pre-schools and the monthly session with the Day Care Centre. This term has also seen the start of Thame Children's Cinema put in place with support from Thame Town Council. Over 130 tickets were sold for the cinema over the two events and we look forward to successful showing at the start of next year.

### **Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)**

The Business Forum met on 17 September, this time hosted at Thame Museum, and again achieved a good turnout.

Planning matters inevitably filled a substantial part of the meeting but there was also a useful discussion around exploring initiatives regarding commercial waste disposal and recycling. This project is still at the scoping and fact finding stages but is gaining traction and is receiving cooperation from both County and District. Nicky Stallwood (LWS) then introduced the subject of Corporate Social Responsibility, which it was agreed should be the subject of a full presentation and discussion at the next meeting, to be held at Kubota on 3 December.

### **Thame & District Day Centre (Cllr Midwinter)**

The clients and managers are settling in to our new location of the Cricket Club very well and are very happy there. We have had a few hiccups that necessitating the Cricket Club applying for planning permission for Air Conditioning to be installed to help in the location we have our freezers. As with most

organisation we are always looking for volunteer helpers for this most worthwhile cause to help carers have some time for themselves, and the lonely to have social interaction.

### **Thame & District Housing Association (Cllr Emery)**

The Board and its committees continue to meet throughout the year. Business is conducted professionally and in accordance with the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). Members are kept informed on relevant matters by the Chief Executive, Nigel Tonge. Our Board members are local people with a range of skills that contribute to the running of the Association. During the year we welcomed Ms Sarah Peplow to the Board.

The Association's accounts are audited each year by Richardson's, a local firm. This year they again reported a good clean audit with no issues identified. Their report tells us the Association is well run and financially strong with adequate reserves to maintain their properties. As well as Richardson's they engage the services of an Internal Auditor to review internal controls. His report indicates that, their controls are robust and effective and that the Association is run and managed well.

The Association's aim is to provide housing to as many older people in Thame and the surrounding villages as they can at a rent that people can afford. In the autumn of 2018 they purchased a building adjacent to Pearce Court and are in the process of deciding to convert the building into a further three flats. A planning application has been submitted in which to apply for the conversion and also to build a further two flats at the front of the plot, adjoining 21-24 Pearce Court. Vehicle access to the flats will be through the existing car park. At the same time, they plan to alter the office entrance to create a new access to the building facing the upper car park. This will separate office visitors from the entrances to the flats in that block and make the office entrance more obvious to visitors.

The application was rejected, further advice is being considered.

Once again it has been a busy year, especially so at Pearce Court where they completed refurbishment of the communal room which had certainly seen better days. It is now a bright and attractive space and the comfortable seating areas make it a good place for residents to relax in comfort over a cup of tea, or a board game. The addition of a small kitchen area in the room allows residents to easily make a hot drink.

In July 2019 the room was formally opened and named the "John Gadd Lounge" and John Gadd himself "cut the ribbon" at the ceremony. John worked for this Association for twenty-six years before his retirement in 2013 and it seemed fitting to name the lounge in his honour.

### **Thame Youth Memorial Trust (Cllr Tipping)**

Nothing to report as no meetings have been held.

### **Thame Youth Projects Group (Cllr Tipping)**

Since the last update we've had a cake sale which raised a £398.01, which was a fantastic figure with a fabulous turnout for the stall. The youth group also are holding a stall on Thame Market to promote the charity on the 19th November featuring a tombola and sales of items from youth group to help raise funds for future projects and goals. So if you are free do pop along and support a great local cause.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Century Thame (Cllrs Fickling & Francis)**

21st Century Thame: Minutes from meeting on Wednesday 23rd October 2019 - 12pm at Racquets

1. **Attendees:** Sue Martin-Downhill (Chair), Helena Fickling, Sharon Smits (Secretary), Becky Reid, David Laver, James Ebney (Youth Worker for Thame Youth Projects),
2. **Apologies:** Lin Wylie, Laura Fellows (Marketing), Linda Emery (Volunteer)

3. **Art Crawl:** Very positive feedback from the vendors and artists. Even Priest End Farm Barn had a good Saturday footfall. Lots of artists sold art. Becky learnt a lot to improve next year. Map needs more orientating points and info about disability access. It is suggested that next year it can be bigger with more specific promotions.
4. **Cows:** Laura has agreed with James at the Phoenix Studio to fix the damaged cows in early December. James of Youth Project is arranging for one cow to be painted in Spring 2020. James may have a couple more ideas of groups who can paint one. If more still need painting by Art Crawl next year maybe we could ask Art Group to complete. Have asked Lin for the document with photos of the cows and list of sites. Laura to continue to liaise and oversee.
5. **Website:** We have a database error currently and having difficulties logging in - but much is riding on the website e.g. SODC believed that 21st Century Thame had folded!
6. **Constitution:** Sharon and Sue are looking at whether the constitution should be changed and whether there are benefits to being a different type of 'company'/ 'organisation'. E.g CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) or CIC (Community Interest Company). We should ask OCVA and John Savell (john@savell.uk.com) for their advice.
7. **Green Living Plan:** A draft document is in the pipeline. There are moves to have electric charging points around Thame.
8. **Thame Tidy:** Present for Rosie has been purchased by Becky, need to arrange a time to give it to Rosie. Thank you for all your years of running the Thame Tidy, you have certainly made a difference to Thame and surrounding area.
9. **Trees:** Many trees have been cut down recently throughout Thame. It is reported that Woodland Trust supply trees. We have agreed to start a project to increase the number of trees in Thame. Helena to discuss within the town council in case there is anything afoot regarding tree replacement. We should discuss with Green Living Plan. Thoughts .... get trees from Woodland Trust and get residents to foster until trees are mature enough for public places. Social media to encourage more trees generally.
10. **Oxfordshire Towns Meeting:** Becky to inform Melanie Smams at SODC that 21st Century Thame still exists.
11. **Thame Equipment Bank:** We have 1 generator left in service. Peter Harris is getting quotes for all new chairs. We have recently purchased 50 fence pins.
12. **Red Kite Centre** - Thame Cinema for all. 21st Century Thame funded the leaflets, with a promo paragraph on it. 63 people attended the first show.
13. **Love Thame Calendar** - 21st Century Thame has supported the Love Thame Calendar as the bank account and also an advertiser. Sharon asked if 21st Century Thame could support further with a shortfall. It was felt that the shortfall of printing costs should come out of the proceeds before 21st Century Thame get involved - otherwise 21stCT money is basically going straight to charity and not being spent on improving Thame.
14. **Friends of Elms Park** - Short update: Thame Concert Band will not be putting on 'Proms in the Park' next year but will be doing something on a smaller scale and the plan is for the Proms to be rescheduled for 2021. We will however continue to explore the feasibility of other events for Elms Park.
15. **Thame Carnival:** Fly-past application has been submitted by Peter Harris. Still need a project manager - Sharon to meet with 3 new people.
16. **Taste of Thame:** Website under construction.
17. **The Shopping Guides:** Maps are in the bus shelters. Any remaining budget to be used to replace the perspex. Becky will be looking at renewing the maps already as a year has passed since they were started this time.
18. **21st Century Thame Twitter and other social media** : 21st Century Facebook page created but actually we wanted to rename the old - still working on this.
19. **21st Century Thame Recruitment of new members:**
  - A volunteers fair may be the way forward - Sue to discuss with Racquets etc.
  - Need a leaflet to distribute in the new houses - awaiting website.
  - Job Description for Advertising Sales Person - needs website
  - Website is very important at this stage
20. **Mayors Charity Fair:** We have decided not to have a stall at Mayors Charity fair.

21. **Thame Market** : We should promote ourselves at the market - when it's warmer, when a cow is ready and when the website is up and running.

22. **Presentation Evening** : Discuss at next meeting.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 12th December 12noon - Racquets bar

**Welfare Trust** (Cllr Champken-Woods)

There has been no meeting since the last P&R meeting.