

**Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting Held Remotely  
on Wednesday 11 May 2022**

**Present** Councillor N Farmer (Chair)  
Councillors A Brown, T Bush, A Crockford, D Jarman

**In Attendance** Councillor S Abbott  
Mrs V Fauset ((Community Services Officer (Health and Wellbeing))  
Ms S Leigh (Community Services Officer (Arts))  
D J Martin (Chief Executive)  
Mrs T Walpole ((Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events))

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors G McCaffery and A White.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under Corsham Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

There were none.

**3. Matters arising from the Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting held remotely on 23 March 2022.**

There were none.

**4. Health and Wellbeing Update (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 23 March – Item 4 and others*)**

The Community Services Officer (Health and Wellbeing) presented a report on the work being undertaken through the Town Council's Health and Wellbeing Working Group highlighting some of the projects being undertaken, including: the Creative Lunch; Go Wild In Corsham project in collaboration with the Environmental Project Officer; The Rise Trust Chat and Chill/ Baby and Me courses; SPARKS workshops; Stay Safe Initiative; Portable Wellbeing Studio; Corsham Youth Zone and The Rise Trust Detached Youth Work.

Discussion took place over the positive youth activity being implemented by Corsham Youth Zone and The Rise Trust, and how these agreements would be monitored, reviewed and reported on. An update on this would be provided at the next meeting.

The report was noted.

**5. Public Art Projects (Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 23 March 2022 – Item 5)**

The Community Services Officer (Arts) updated the Committee on the status of the two public art projects at Cross Keys and Portland Rise. There had been few expressions of interest in the Cross Keys project, and it was felt that rather than take these forward, the period for expressing interest should be extended for an indefinite period.

It was confirmed that the Portland Rise project should be community led, and that the project manager would not need experience in public art. Community engagement would be a key criterion when selecting the person or organisation to manage project/s.

It was pointed out that a fence had been erected between Portland Rise and Potley Lane, blocking a footpath. This was being taken up with Wiltshire Council's Planning Services.

Further updates would be provided at the next meeting.

**6. Spring/Summer Events 2022 (Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 23 March 2022 – Item 6)**

On behalf of the Head of Community Services, the Chief Executive gave an update on recent and upcoming community events:

- i) Easter Trail – There had been almost 100 entries and feedback was excellent. More trails were being planned for the summer holidays.
- ii) Platinum Jubilee Trail – This family trail was up and running with QR codes in seven town centre shops. A press release had been issued, with details on Facebook, and shared with schools.
- iii) Summer Busking Saturdays – This had started on 7 May and would run for 21 weeks until the end of September. It was co-funded by the Town Council and Martingate.
- iv) Taste of Corsham – Preparations were progressing well with 18 stalls confirmed and arrangements in place for partner groups, publicity, equipment hire, entertainment, toilets, prizes, etc.
- v) Summer Fete – It was reported that the Jubilee-themed Summer Fete plans were going well. Elements of the event would include:
  - Stalls (13 stalls already booked)
  - Bar (to be operated by Kettlesmith's)
  - Music (so far, Corsham Windband, Jug Band and Real Imposters had been booked; PA system sorted)
  - Children's sports activities (booked)
  - Fairground rides
  - Guide Dogs running Dog Show
  - Essentials booked (toilets and First Aid)
  - Flypast requested
  - Campus will be asked whether they want to run any activities alongside (as in 2018)
  - School to be approached re parking for stallholders, etc.
  - MOD element still being discussed – probably something Army-related (military first-aid station or similar)

- MOD emergency vehicles will come if possible
- Corsham Police in attendance with vehicle
- Corsham Fire Station to be approached
- Jubilee element: tables set up with street party atmosphere; fancy dress competition for children; crown-making/colouring, with more ideas to follow
- Art activity.

The updates were noted.

## 7. StoryTown 2022

The Community Services Officer (Arts) gave an update on this year's StoryTown work, including the funding bid to Arts Council England. Highlights included:

- An Arts Council England bid for £30,000 over three years was due to be submitted in May.
- StoryTown continues to work with the charity ReadEasy.
- The Gilbert and Sullivan event, an extension of last year's event at Corsham Court, was booked at Pound Arts for 7 October.
- Shakespeare Live would be bringing The Comedy of Errors to the Town Hall on 16 October.
- Corsham's Big Read was 'How to Stop Time' by Matt Haig.
- Theatre practitioner, writer and teacher Marnie Forbes-Eldridge was collaborating with schools and The Pickwick Association with plans for an event in Beechfield Nature Area.
- Pounds Arts would have a residency from Gonzo Theatre for the week of StoryTown, which would result in a family-friendly production.
- We are the People – The community events linked to Tanvir Bush's Wellcome Trust funded project was due to launch in September. The team of disability activists and researchers at Bath Spa University was likely to have elements of work which would crossover with StoryTown activity.
- There would be a trees/books/nature in the landscape activity to embrace existing areas of interest including Hibernaculum at Beechfield; Caroline Rudge's ornamental fence panels at Lacock Road Cemetery and Anya Beaumont's artwork at Springfield Rec.
- Marketplace-style event for local publishers/writers.

The update was noted.

## 8. Youth Activities (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 23 March 2022 – Item 7*)

Following previous discussions, the Committee was updated on the following projects and initiatives aimed at young people.

- i) Corsham Youth Zone – Two paid youth workers were in place thanks to a Town Council grant. This was enabling CYZ to stay open without reliance on as many volunteers. (*Also see Item 4.*)
- ii) The Rise Trust Projects – The Under 5s/Families and Detached Youth Work was working well. Two detached youth workers were active in the town two evenings per week and were in regular contact with CYZ and the police. Arrangements for monitoring the Town Council funded posts were in place and would be developed further over time. (*Also see Item 4.*)

- iii) Corsham Youth Council – The Head of Community Services would be restarting CYC with two meetings ahead of the summer break. CYC would be fully relaunched in September.
- iv) BMX Display – A BMX event was being planned for 19 August 2022 along the lines of the activity which ran in 2019. It would be a free event to watch. The plan was to expand the afternoon to include a possible parkour demonstration, small fairground rides, etc, and link up with the Campus with activities such as free climbing wall sessions. It would be a good opportunity to promote Bikeability, Corsham Cycle Network, CYZ, The Rise Trust and other groups/activities/resources for young people at the same time.

The update was noted.

**9. Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events) (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 23 March – Item 8*)**

Tracey-Ann Walpole, the Town Council's new Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events) introduced herself and explained her main areas of work and priorities, which included supporting local businesses. The Committee welcomed the progress already being made.

The meeting commenced online at 7.30pm and closed at 8.47pm. There were no members of the public present.