

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY 2018** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs L Sheffield (Chairman)
M Joyce (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| D Corney-Walker | C N Parker |
| C Coyle-Moore | K L Purchase (Mayor) |
| D Howe | Ms L Roberts |
| R Jenks (Dep Mayor) | T Ward |
| Mrs J A Jones | |

In attendance Mr Duncan Cherrett, Young Devon
Mr Phil Sanders, Prince's Trust
Mr Nigel Canham, PR/Media Consultant

Officers In attendance: Sally Henley – Town Development Manager
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

CE1. CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairman of the Community & Engagement Working Group for the year 2018/2019.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Lesley Sheffield be elected Chairman of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2018/2019.

CE2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Carol Bunday and Mike Hocking and Miss Kelly Burridge, Events Co-ordinator.

CE3. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Community & Engagement Working Group for the year 2018/2019.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Mike Joyce be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2018/2019.

CE4. INTERESTS

None declared.

CE5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 21st March 2018 were received and signed as a correct record.

CE6. PRESENTATION – YOUNG DEVON

The Chairman welcomed Mr Duncan Cherrett, Head of Social Action, Young Devon and Mr Phil Sanders, Team Programme Leader for Prince's Trust to the meeting and invited them to update Members on the work of Young Devon in Newton Abbot.

Mr Cherrett thanked Members for the opportunity to explain the work of the Young Devon; he introduced Phil Sanders from the Prince's Trust, who was key in delivering the programme with the young people.

Young Devon was one of only three charities nationwide that were able to offer the Prince's Trust programme outside of a college setting, as it was part of a franchised network established over five years ago; setup to engage and develop young people who for a variety of reasons may not be in further or higher education.

Both Mr Cherrett and Mr Sanders gave a summary of the twelve week programme available for participants and together they raised the following key points:

- ❖ Twelve week programme available to 16-25 year olds in the catchment of Teignbridge (other programmes were being run in Exeter, Torbay and Plymouth).
- ❖ Day 1 – allowed the group to settle in and mix with fellow participants,
- ❖ Week 1- the first challenge – to a manage shopping budget and make the necessary purchases for the week away,
- ❖ Week 2 – New experiences, a week away camping either in the moors or on the coast, climbing or water sports to challenge and develop confidence,
- ❖ Weeks 3-6 - select and carry out a community project, fundraise for supplies and carry out the project as a team, such as the recent refurbishment of Kingsway Community Centre in Teignmouth,
- ❖ Weeks 7 & 8 - having built confidence they are encouraged to undertake two weeks work experience in an area that they are interested in, such work experience may lead to the pursuit of apprenticeships, or employment in that field,
- ❖ Week 9 – consolidates their learning and experience to date; the group produce their curriculum vitae for prospective employers, attend mock interviews and receive feedback and evaluation on the course to date,
- ❖ Weeks 10 & 11 – forms the second social community project where the participants work in the community, perhaps helping to run a coffee morning or a school holiday sporting event but the key aim is to bridge the gap and interact with the community,
- ❖ Week 12 concludes the programme and their efforts are recognised at an Awards Ceremony and Presentation evening.
- ❖ The programme continues to support the young people through mentoring to assist in applications to college, apprenticeships and employment.

The Chairman thanked them both for an informative and thorough presentation and invited question and comments from Members, who raised the following key points:

- The programme is run three times a year, slightly offset from term time to enable those not enrolling on a course time to apply to the programme,
- The participants come from a variety of backgrounds, typically disadvantaged young people,
- The programme delivered from Newton Abbot covers the Teignbridge area,

- The range of work experience opportunities largely included retail and smaller businesses due to health & safety requirements and contractual arrangements for building services,
- A local electrician offered work experience and provided transport to and from work giving the best opportunity and experience to one participant, such support from local business is welcomed and appreciated,
- Noted the changing demeanour of some young people due to the pressures of social media, public examinations, bullying and increased loneliness,
- The pass rate was 97% and was attributed to the high level of support and guidance throughout the programme.

Mr Cherrett and Mr Sanders concluded their presentation, thanking Members for the invitation and invited additional ideas and support from local businesses for work experience placement opportunities in the community. They advised that would like to extend an invitation to the Town Council at the next Awards Ceremony.

The Chairman thanked both Mr Cherrett and Mr Sanders for taking questions and noted that the Town Council would warmly welcome an invitation to a future Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the young people on the programme, whereupon they were invited to leave the meeting.

CE7. FUTURE TOPICS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Chairman reminded Members of the activities undertaken by the Council in respect of public engagement during the last year, the most notable being the community engagement lead by Kate Green in respect of the Newton's Place Project but also the work by Katy Bennie with local schools and other events. Looking forward to the year ahead, Newton's Place remained the key priority for the Town Council and she welcomed Mr Nigel Canham, PR and Media Consultant contracted to manage press and media coverage throughout the project.

The Chairman invited Mr Nigel Canham, to brief Members on a discussion paper, tabled at the meeting, raising the issue of reputational management for the Town Council. Mr Canham referred to the briefing paper and invited a discussion among Members on the best method of raising the profile of the Council within the town and encouraging participation from the community in improving the amenity of areas which may fall into decline due to reduced services from the district or county authorities.

The discussion and associated questions from Members, highlighted the following key points:

- Recent media coverage had unfairly apportioned criticism at the Town Council in respect of grass-cutting despite the efforts of the Council to deliver a service no longer provided by the County Council,
- The local community are unaware of the distinction between the three tiers of local authority in the provision of services,
- Local community involvement in assisting in making improvements to the local amenity should be encouraged,
- Ward Members to lead in their area,
- Launch of Our Newton Abbot Initiative to promote positive work of the Town Council and invite volunteers to support in local improvements such as litter picking and clearing of graffiti,

- To hold meetings at different venues which were more convenient and welcoming to local community,
- Whilst it was hoped that the community would join in, the main aim would be to promote a clearer understanding of what the Town Council delivered,
- An additional benefit to the community may be social interaction of participating in community support,
- 10th June 2018 is global litter picking event and the launch could coincide with this event.

The Chairman thanked Mr Canham for his efforts to date and for the informative discussion document, where upon Mr Canham was invited to leave the meeting.

Following a lengthy and engaging discussion among Members it was suggested that a smaller group of Members could work with Mr Canham on developing the initiative to launch at an event on Saturday 9th June in the town and would report back to the Community Engagement Group, accordingly it was;

AGREED to a) launch Our Newton Abbot Initiative to promote positive community action within the town lead by the Town Council and b) authority be delegated to a smaller group of Members to develop the initiative further and to report back to the Community Engagement Group in due course to include the following Councillors:

David Howe,
Richard Jenks,
Ann Jones,
Liz Roberts, and
Lesley Sheffield.

CE8. TOWN CENTRE FLORAL DISPLAYS

The Committee Administrator gave a verbal report on behalf of Martin Hickman, Contract Manager of Idverde. She reported that the winter pansies had suffered from the extreme rain during the winter but that over the last two months they had the chance to really blossom. They were in the process of being removed in preparation for the summer bedding plants. The colour scheme would mirror that of Teignbridge District Council to include a mixture of double headed Begonias, Zinnia Red Spider, Double zest and Marigold African Vanilla.

Mr Hickman's report noted that Idverde had taken on the maintenance of the grass verges which would be cut six times minimum this year and he proposed that this would be an improvement on last year.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Robinson for Mr Hickman's report in his absence, and Members requested that where practicable that the grass in Courtenay Park be cut in advance of the Band Concerts to improve the amenity of the park prior to these events, accordingly it was;

AGREED that the Town Clerk be requested to contact Green Spaces at Teignbridge District Council to request that further planned grass cutting to take account of events in the park, such as the scheduled Band Concerts.

CE9. ACCOUNTS/INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 (previously circulated) for both the Museum and Newton in Bloom. It was noted that the planned underspend by the Museum had been transferred to the Newton's Place Project as previously agreed.

Following consideration, it was;

AGREED that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the Museum and Newton in Bloom be hereby noted and accepted.

CE10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Engagement Group would be 10th October 2018 at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall.

CHAIRMAN