

NOTES OF THE **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2019** AT 7.00 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs A Jones Chairman (Presiding)  
Mrs C Bunday Vice Chairman

Councillors M Hocking M Joyce (Dep Mayor)  
D Howe C N Parker

In attendance: Mrs K Crout

By Invitation: Ms Denise Ratcliffe Home-Start Teignbridge  
Ms Liz Journeux Home-Start Teignbridge

Officers In attendance: Kelly Burridge - Events Co-ordinator  
Alexandra Robinson – Committee Administrator

**CE1. CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

Nominations were received for the election of the Chairman of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2019/2020.

Accordingly, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Ann Jones be elected Chairman of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2019/2020.

**CE2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors David Corney-Wallker, Colin Davieson, Richard Jenks (Mayor) and Mrs Lesley Sheffield.

**CE3. VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

Nominations were received for the appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Community & Engagement Group for the year 2019/2020.

Accordingly, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Community Engagement Group for the year 2019/20.

**CE4. INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Ann Jones gave notice of her intention to declare an interest in Minute (CE6) below.

**CE5. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Community Engagement Group meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were received and signed as a correct record.

## CE6. PRESENTATION – HOME-START

The Chairman welcomed Ms Denise Ratcliffe, Co-ordinator Home-Start Teignbridge and invited her to update Members on the work of Home-Start in the town.

Ms Ratcliffe thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to update Councillors on the work of Home-Start and raised the following key points:

- 'Harry the Elephant' is the Home-Start mascot, who had been active within the town's events including the Carnival Tractor Pull 2019;
- Although a national organisation, the local branch of Home-Start covers the breadth of Teignbridge but is based in Newton Abbot and is centred within the town;
- Home-Start has been active in Teignbridge for the last thirty years supporting those families with young children, in need of support due to a wide range of circumstances;
- The organisation provides non-judgemental and practical support in the home to build confidence and the ability to manage and handle some of the aspects of family life with young children;
- Home-Start is now completely self-funding and relies on grant funding and donations for ongoing support;

Ms Ratcliffe introduced Ms Journeux, a volunteer support worker for Home-Start, Ms Journeux raised the following key points:

- ❖ The Co-ordinator, Ms Ratcliffe received referrals from other health professionals (such as the health visitor) and meet with the family to assess the support needed;
- ❖ The Co-ordinator would then arrange a suitable volunteer to 'match' with the family, someone whom would fit in well and gain the trust and confidence to support the family effectively;
- ❖ A fully trained DBS checked volunteer would then meet the family at home on a weekly basis, assist with child support and care in the home;
- ❖ The organisation has noted the increasing number of families new to the area or moved from abroad where English is not their first language and the volunteer has provided child support for parents to attend language classes;
- ❖ In addition, those families receive cultural support so that they settle more easily into the wider community;
- ❖ Support staff will encourage families to venture out, helping in a variety of ways an example given was the encouragement to select a school for the children or acting as an advocate where needed;
- ❖ Home-Start run a family group at St Paul's Church, Devon Square held on Mondays in term time from 9.30-11.30 to allow families to meet and connect with others in the community; particularly valuable for those where English is their second language;
- ❖ The Monday family group reaches out to over 100 families;
- ❖ Home-Start Teignbridge recently formed links with the local Fire Service to ensure that families had access to home safety checks and the free home safety equipment available.

Ms Ratcliffe thanked the Councillors for being nominated as this year's Mayoral Charity and she invited all Councillors to attend the forthcoming Home-Start AGM to be held in November (date to be advised). The Chairman invited questions from Members who raised the following:

- Home-Start received referrals from individuals and health professionals such as Children Services, Health Visitors and more recently GP's;
- The qualities and training of a volunteer;
- The funding available to Home-Start to continue the extensive work across the community;
- The limited financial resources to deliver services;
- Cultural and language difficulties experienced within some families new to the area; and
- Encouraged Home-Start to seek funding from other town and parish councils within the Teignbridge community.

The Chairman and Members extended their thanks and appreciation to the staff and volunteers of Home-Start Teignbridge for the considerable amount of work they undertake to support and assist families with young children in Newton Abbot. The Chairman thanked both Ms Ratcliffe and Ms Journeux for their enlightening update to Members where upon they were invited to leave the meeting.

*Councillor Mrs Ann Jones having previously declared an interest, took part in the discussion thereon.*

#### **CE7. MUSEUM REPORT**

The Chairman reminded Members that they received regular updates on the Newton's Place project at all Council and Committee meetings, and more recently there had been a display of photographs of the refurbishment within Newton's Place.

Councillor Mrs Jones referred to the Museum report, previously circulated, which intended to update Members on the recent activities in the Museum in preparation for the move and the work of the Museum Volunteers. The Chairman invited the Committee Administrator to highlight key points from the report.

Mrs Robinson referred to the Museum Report and raised the following points:

- The funding team (made up of Museum volunteers) had worked extremely hard and had some recent notable successes; £6,000 from Awdry Trust, £3,500 from the Ulverscroft Foundation and most recently £13,500 from the Arts Fund.
- Talk by Stained Glass conservator, Steve Clare, held in Abbotsbury Church 17<sup>th</sup> September;
- The extensive work of the Museum volunteers to de-commission the Railway Room and packing of the collection in preparation of the move;
- The new Museum Volunteers alone had amounted in excess of 200 hours of work in the past few weeks, and
- The automaton donations box, a mediaeval market, which the Curator referred to at the last meeting had been delivered to the Town Hall to be stored until the move.

The Chairman thanked the Committee Administrator and conveyed her appreciation the tremendous amount of work undertaken by the Curator, the Museum staff and the growing team of Museum volunteers. Members echoed their thanks for the considerable effort and time given in the preparation of the Museum collection for the move to Newton's Place. There being no additional questions from Members, accordingly it was;

**RESOLVED** that the Curator's Museum Report be hereby, noted and accepted.

**CE8. NEWTON IN BLOOM**

- A. **Sponsorship** - The Chairman invited the Events Co-ordinator to update Members on the sponsorship gained for 2019. Miss Burridge reported that the Council had received sponsorship for all the planters and floral displays that were currently sponsored. However, there were still four planters that did not have sponsorship. Miss Burridge explained that she was cautious in requesting additional sponsorship from businesses that already contributed to activities in the town, but she welcomed new suggestions from Members. The Chairman made some suggestions, particularly in the light of the VE Celebrations 2020. Miss Burridge finished her report, inviting Members to contact her with details of potential sponsors as they arose.
- B. **Floral Displays** - The Events Co-ordinator reported on the arrangements for winter planting for 2019/20. Miss Burridge advised that she had received a report from Idverde Contracts Supervisor, Mr John Payne. Mr Payne noted that summer planting for 2019 had been very successful and the planting arrangements had coped well with the weather. He made particular note of the display of petunias in The Avenue and the abundance of flowers in the hanging baskets in the town.

The report added that preparations were underway to remove the summer bedding in time for the spring bedding planting to commence over the next couple of weeks. Members commented on the beautiful floral displays throughout the town and in Courtenay Park but expressed their disappointment that the raised bed outside the railway station was now exclusively green shrubbery. Miss Burridge reminded members that following a Health and Safety risk assessment, Idverde staff were no longer able to access the bed safely given its close proximity to the road but she offered to make further enquiries about the possibility of alternative planting arrangements.

There being no further questions from Members, the Chairman thanked Miss Burridge for her update on Newton in Bloom and accordingly it was:

**RESOLVED** that the update report on Sponsorship and Winter Planting be, hereby, noted.

**CE9. ACCOUNTS/INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

**A. MUSEUM**

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, and from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, previously circulated. It was noted that the generous legacy from Christiana Ditchburn's estate had been received and was included as income in the budget.

Members also noted that the outturn figure for 2018/19 had been earmarked for the Newton's Place Project and moved to the Newton's Place Budget and therefore suggested that as per last year that the remaining budget for 2019/20 should also be earmarked for the Newton's Place Project.

Following consideration, it was;

**RESOLVED** that

- a) The Income and Expenditure Statements for the Museum be hereby noted and accepted;
- b) The Community and Heritage Committee be **recommended** to consider any remaining Museum budget as ear-marked for the Newton's Place Project to be moved to the Newton's Place budget and
- c) The Community and Heritage Committee be **recommended** to retain the Museum Budget at **£32,800 for 2020/21**.

**B. NEWTON IN BLOOM**

The Community and Engagement Group received and noted the Income and Expenditure statements from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, previously circulated. It was noted that the Idverde contractor fees for 2019/20 had increased and it was therefore predicted that there would be an overspend in the region of £3,000 at the year end. Members discussed the budget requirements for the year 2020/21 and following consideration, it was;

**RESOLVED** that

- a) The Income and Expenditure Statements for Newton In Bloom be hereby, noted and accepted and
- b) The Community and Heritage Committee, at the meeting to be held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019, be **recommended** to consider an increase of £3,500, to give a budget of **£21,500 for 2020/21** to cover the projected contractor costs.

**CE10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community and Engagement Group would be 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 at 7.00 pm in the Town Hall.

CHAIRMAN