

## Area North Chapter 2020-21

### Area + Team

	Project description	Lead Officer	Lead Service	End of year review
Economy	Complete signage improvements and refurbishment at Cartgate Tourist Information Centre, creating a hub for tourists and encouraging visitors to stop in Somerset.	Katy Menday	Leisure & Recreation	Signs printed and ready for erection on building for opening planned for Monday 12th April. Hinkley Fund failed to provide funding despite multiple requests and so request to Area North to support the project at £1,000. New eye catching and welcoming signs will ensure footfall to (Gold award winning) TIC is increased.
	Continue to support individual businesses including local food and drink producers.	Joe Walsh	Economy	Fully engaged with Ruritage - a regeneration programme that is funded by EU monies to combine food and drink providers with creatives to increase social inclusion. Engaged in a similar project called 'Cultivate' that seeks to achieve similar objectives. Working with external organisations such as the University of Exeter, FSB and others to progress Circular initiatives that allow businesses to diversify. £5,000 provided to the Manufacturing Hub, to progress the number of businesses attending the sector based events. Food and Drink Directory has been produced and distributed, work is now underway to move this online and expand the amount of businesses involved. This has, unfortunately, been delayed slightly due to Covid 19 and resource pressures.
	Support local events and initiatives aimed at encouraging the footfall in local high streets.	Joe Walsh	Economy	Impacted by Covid 19. Re-opening of the high street work conducted in line with Government Guidance - surrounding Covid 19. Signs distributed to all TCs who requested them. Work is underway to determine how SSDC allocate / spend the funding associated with the 'Welcome Back Fund'. A Town Centre workshop was held in partnership with Mendip District Council to start to evaluate what is required as part of a high streets / town centre recovery.
	Engage Town Councils to develop programme of investment through the Market Town Investment Group	Joe Walsh	Economy	Assessed and approved Market Town Investment Group funding applications of over £220,000 of SSDC investment which will be match funded by Town Councils equating to over £439,000 of investment within our market towns.

Environment	Progress the 1.6 million Ham Hill National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) project. Make progress against the development phase timetable (£98K)	Katy Munday	Leisure & Recreation	Good progress has been made despite Covid. Discussions with Historic England are ongoing to ensure the heritage at risk is properly considered in all project elements. A speed limit reduction to improve visitor safety is proposed on the Highway via a formal application to SCC. Due to Covid activities could not run as planned but rangers shifted to online events and activities that have continued to engage audiences. A successful Cultural Recovery Fund grant has enabled employment of two fixed term rangers to support work on site including project development. In May a new online secret Story App will be released with OS to engage family audiences. The final application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund is due to be submitted in Feb 2022.
	Support community led initiatives that contribute towards combatting climate change.	Tim Cook	Locality	Forms and process updated. Promotion through press release and new SSDC Environment news letter. Survey sent and completed by Environment Champions on how we can best help parishes. 7 projects supported through the district with £29,434 being awarded in grants for projects estimated at £266,478. 4 out of the 7 projects were within Area North
	Re-launch the refurbished River Parrett Trail in Spring 2021.	Katy Munday	Leisure & Recreation	Entire project delayed due to Covid. Volunteers could not walk the route and check it and film making was slowed due to travel restrictions. However in March 2021 we have picked up progress and aim to launch in the summer of 2021 with a push in October 2021 to capture the shoulder season and extend visitor stays. The films, route pack, call to action leaflet will all be complete by June 2021.
Housing	Promote and support new Community Land Trusts where appropriate.	David Clews	Strategy & Commissioning	Nothing to report on this item.
	Complete Housing Needs Surveys when requested.	Anna-Maria Lenz / Marie Collins	Strategy & Commissioning / Case Services	No survey requests received.
Communities	Support a range of improvements to community facilities. – Programme of live schemes to be set out in Delivery Plan	Tim Cook	Locality	See delivery plan below
	Tackle social isolation by maintaining the network of volunteer led health walks through promotion, training and support.	Julia Booth	Locality	Health walks have been hindered by Covid and have stopped/started/stopped throughout the pandemic. Support provided where necessary throughout the year.
	Deliver a programme of Play days in towns/villages in Area North	Julia Booth/Terena Isaacs	Locality	Summer play days have been cancelled this summer due to Covid -19. This year we are delivered 2000 free Activity boxes and an Activity booklet, district wide, to encourage fun and safe activities at home. Boxes were handed out at Kingsbury Recreation ground

Healthy, Self-reliant Communities	Tackle social isolation by improving community transport links	David Crisfield	Strategy & Commissioning	Due to additional resource pressure created by the Covid 19 pandemic the Community Transport Council Priority has unfortunately been delayed. Work is ongoing with external partners, including the Connected Places Catapult and Somerset County Council to identify the most efficient way of enabling a demand responsive transport platform in a vastly rural area. The Connected Places Catapult have recently presented their findings on their 'Assessing Sustainable Transport Solutions (AsSeTS) for Rural Mobility' report that has been funded by the Department for Transport. The report identifies ways to enhance accessibility and transport solutions in rural environments by improving the knowledge base around demand for new mobility services. South Somerset has been included as a rural case study within the report. We are currently waiting a final report that will include recommendations, and next steps will be to evaluate and progress where appropriate.
	Deliver weekly volunteering opportunities at Ham Hill Country Park	Rachael Whaites	Leisure & Recreation	Volunteering suspended from end of March 2020 due to Covid19. Weekly Zoom meetings held to keep volunteers and rangers in touch with each other.
<b>Delivery Plan</b>				
S106 funded project support	Seavington Recreation Field - improvements to play area	Adrian Moore	Locality	Play area now in full use. SSDC continuing to give advice and support regarding upgrading safety features on original play equipment.
	Langport Recreation Ground - improvements to changing rooms and new skate park	Adrian Moore	Locality	The parish council are currently waiting for new designs for the changing rooms. The skate park project has been paused due to their capacity to deliver. We will re-engage when requested.
	South Petherton Recreation Ground - Recreation ground master plan. Pavilion project	Nathan Turnball	Locality	Locality Officer and Parish council will be looking into this project, when Play Area project has been completed.
	South Petherton Recreation Ground - Recreation ground master plan. Play Area project	Nathan Turnball	Locality	Award offer letter has been sent (7.4.21)
	South Petherton Recreation Ground - Recreation ground master plan. Pitch Maintenance	Nathan Turnball	Locality	Locality Officer and Parish council will be looking into this project, when Play Area project has been completed.
	Martock recreation ground - pavilion and play area improvements	Adrian Moore	Locality	Advice and support given to Parish Clerk. When parish council sub-committees regroup, will re-engage when requested. Advice and support has been given regarding refurbishing the MUGA surface and artificial cricket wicket. Requests for S106 monies has been received and offers awarded.
Project Support	Isle Brewers church refurbishment and Community Space.	Adrian Moore	Locality	Final interior works being completed. Final invoices will be submitted when all works complete. Official opening planned, pending Government guidelines.

Pr su	Stoke Sub Hamdon (Hamdon Community Arts Project (HCAP) - Purchase of ex-United Reform Church.	Adrian Moore	Locality	Advice and support given to group. Negotiations still under way regarding building purchase. Awaiting invoice to download funds.
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