

Full Council Meeting – 27 July 2021

Report of Councillor Chris Booth – Community

Somerset West Lottery (Update 16th June)

There were 1055 tickets sold in the most recent round, benefiting 84 causes. Since its creation, there have been 244,429 tickets sold, generating £15,750 for players and £17,350 for causes.

VCS Grants Working Group

The Working Group has just commenced and is likely to meet at least another four times going into early September to discuss the ongoing grants that we give out as a council, over £250,000. The Group will come up with recommendations in due course.

Crimestoppers

Crimestoppers are hoping to set up a 2 year programme to work in local schools, including 6 in Taunton (one of these being a pupil referral unit), one in West Somerset and supporting home schooled children via the Minehead Eye. Currently the programme is awaiting its final financial request from the Hinkley Point Grants Panel in order to get started; if this is not successful, I have requested SWT Council does what it can to ensure the programme will go ahead.

Community Chest Update

SWT has received 23 updates so far from community chest applicants about the various projects they have undertaken/undertaking. Despite COVID-19, a sizeable amount of work has been carried out in recent months. A few have had to delay delivery due to the restrictions imposed during lockdown, or looked at alternative methods of achieving their aims. We've had notable reports of thanks from the likes of Transition Town Wellington, the Tavern Fight Club in Watchet, Dunster First School, and the Bishop's Hull Hub.

Domestic Abuse Policy

Somerset West and Taunton Council has an important role in reducing incidences of domestic abuse and to provide support to those affected. The Council recognises that

domestic abuse can have a serious and devastating impact on an individual's sense of security, health and well-being. We therefore wish to formalise our approach in accordance with the Domestic Abuse Act 2020.

The policy covers all the functions and services of the council, its elected members, staff, partners and contractors. It is primarily concerned with protecting those at risk of harm through domestic abuse and providing guidance on how to deal with issues.

One Team Updates

North Taunton

With the summer coming up, there are a number of summer activity days running 11am - 3pm, every Tuesday from 27th July to 31st August. Not only are they free but free food is also provided.

There is also a sport camp over every weekend in the summer holidays, free to children eligible for free school meals and £17.50 a day for those who are not.

The **Local Pantry Rowbarton** has been up and running very successfully for 15+ weeks now. They are full with 30 members which include individual households and families with 5 children. It is run entirely by volunteers, many of whom are members of Rowbarton Church. These members pay £3.50 a week to collect surplus food delivered by Fair Share every Tuesday.

We continue to hold **North Taunton Development Group** meetings bi-monthly with good commitment from those who work and volunteer in the community promoting their service delivery and problem solving community needs. From this group we set up a working group to consider a particular need with Lyngford Park.

We have held several meetings as **Lyngford Park Community Use Working Group**. Thanks to the commitment of partners we have organised 6 family activity days in the park throughout the Summer holidays. We have held a meeting and discussion with SCC about the newly created additional space following the demolition of the old Furnitrust Building and are in discussion with SWT Parks & Open Spaces Team about planting to encourage pollinators. Somerset Art Works have a Priorswood Pollinators running in local schools and the park and have cut a bee labyrinth in the park.

The **North Taunton One Team** virtual meetings continue to be well supported and maintain communication between professionals who now rarely if ever, see each other. We will continue to meet on Teams. The police logs form the majority of our discussion.

We continue to work with the **Violence Reduction Unit** (VRU) team as NT has been identified as the highest area of concern in Somerset for children and young people and

violence. We have met with the police to consider the implications of the initial report. We continue to experience some gang related behaviours, some young people carrying weapons and some individual children causing repeat criminal damage and anti social behaviour. Our PCSOs are actively working with partners including social workers and schools. We are working with Crimestoppers to deliver a programme in schools in the Autumn Term, contact with Citizens UK and The Nelson Trust.

West Somerset

Working with RSLs in Minehead (LiveWest and Magna), Minehead Eye and the Minehead and West Somerset PCSO's to promote community cohesion. Once restrictions are lifted it is hoped to hold a community event on the Seaward Way Estate to connect with young people, improve community confidence and promote various initiatives. This will include but not limited to: NEET youngsters, graffiti art project on the MUGA and some youth work. The PCSO's have already undertaken some free bike marking and are doing regular ASB patrols. This mixed occupancy estate is of particular interest to SWT as it abuts the land where 55 new general need Council Houses are due to be built.

What Would You Do? – Meeting with Crimestoppers, PCSOs and engaging with local schools to encourage participation of this worthwhile initiative. Aimed at Year5 children and their families.

Halcon

Multi-agency case management continues to meet weekly via Microsoft teams. There has been a noticeable increase in requests for family/child support from FIS/CSC for things such as food/bedding/basic white goods. The meetings continue to receive complex cases involving safeguarding and community issues. Violent crime amongst young people is a current concern and priority.

We are also continuing to support food delivery etc. to vulnerable people and supporting the **Link Centre** manager through deliveries and standing in when they are away. We have helped build new patio areas and picnic tables to support the re-opening of the centre to visitors on 17/06/2021.

Our engagement lead has taken volunteers from **Link Power** to Hestercombe house to meet the Head gardener and develop links to support green space future initiatives in the area. This has now developed into supporting planting and maintenance work for the new housing development at the Oxford Inn Roman Road.

Bluebird Theatre Company have been commissioned to run a series of shows and workshops at the All Saints Church this summer including a mums and baby group on Tuesday lunch times.

In partnership with **SASP** we have developed a women's walking group who meet each Wednesday at the Link centre. Again with SASP we are looking to re-start the Halcon ladies rugby group through local demand.

Finally, we are hoping to be able put on some creative arts projects (Covid permitting,) for families and young people in partnership with Somerset Art Works, Hestercombe House and Fuse.

Wellington

I will provide a verbal update if required.