

# Full Council Meeting – 6 December 2022

## Portfolio Holder Report for Community.

### One Teams

#### Halcon:

- The Chill and Chat support group is going well with our volunteer Amy recently completing the Freedom programme which qualifies to deliver work to individuals.
- The Halcon Skateboard club is going from strength to strength with additional funding secured through the Taunton Unparished fund, which will support the running of sessions over the next few years.
- The Lane Estate Tenants and Residents Association (LETRA) group are being supported to develop the garden at Newton Road community hall and Rich Shadrick has secured the support of the Taunton Midweek gardening group to help in the New Year.

#### North Taunton:

Youth violence and anti-social behaviour continues to be a concern, police, YOT and Children's Social Care are working with known young people and there are regular multi agency peer group mapping meetings. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), police and the one team held an engagement day for young people and their families in half term to signpost to services, clubs and activities. It was well attended by many partner organisations but not by as many young people as we would have liked to have seen unfortunately. We have sent out consultation letters to Priorswood Place businesses, surrounding organisations and ward councillors as the VRU is proposing installing a knife amnesty box in Priorswood and the town centre.



Equans who are the main contractor delivering the NTWP continue to deliver on their community value targets which directly benefit the area. For example they have replaced all the boards around the perimeter of the artificial football pitch at the youth club in Selworthy Road, are providing gifts for a xmas charity who give presents to local

children including tenants on the NTWP estate and are regular visitors in local schools, particularly Taunton Academy.

North Taunton has benefitted from volunteers litter picking in the area. The QLPS organised a Halloween themed litter pick encouraging children and families to join in and Green Days Day Care Centre continue to support our estate walkabouts.

The Pantry Rowbarton and Priorswood Library were shortlisted for BBC Radio Make a Difference Award at a wonderful awards ceremony at the Cricket Club, although not winners they all enjoyed a wonderful evening being rewarded for the great work they do in our area.



## Wellington

- Pete Joint is currently working alongside the clerk at Wellington Town Council, Spark Somerset and a number of other local organisations to ensure there is enough provision such as warm banks in the Wellington area as winter approaches.
- We are proud of our role in supporting volunteers to open the Rockwell Green Food Pantry back in September.
- There will be a Xmas Wacky Wednesday for 0-5 year olds on Wednesday 14 December at Wellington Sports Centre from 10.00 – 11.30.

## Community Employment

SWT Community Employment Hubs continue to operate on a face to face basis and virtually.

We've secured funding to extend two posts for a further 12 months – Community employment hub support officer and Volunteer Recruitment and training officer . Established Volunteer Recruitment and Management policies for SWT and recruited 20+ volunteers to support hubs. Established employment and skills delivery at the Ukrainian Guest Welcome hub in Taunton.

- HPC drop in events x 13 to be held at the Community Employment Hub locations: Wellington/Minehead/Taunton/Stogursey - to support HPC. recruitment also across the District virtually and face-to-face jointly with Sedgemoor District Council see attached for where and when for SWT area
- Joint bi-monthly Employment and Skills Forum meetings led by SWT and SDC Employment and Skills Leads.

- Delivery of two SWT employment and Skills/community hubs 'Cost of Living crisis support events took place in Taunton (at CICCIC) and West Somerset (West Somerset House), good attendance, excellent networking for all exhibitors.
- In collaboration with SDC set up two virtual events with Community Council for Somerset/ SCC micro providers to support the recruitment of micro providers in Somerset. This is an information session for people to find out how to become a micro provider. Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 11:30am – 12:30pm and 6:30pm – 7:30pm.

### **Skills Bootcamps:**

Bootcamps is a funded skills training programme introduced as an element of the Government Skills for Life programme. The Bootcamp is a response from the Government to support the current economic climate to enable the development of new skills for employees in the workforce, upskilling people who may be looking to change their careers or support those not in work or returning to gain relevant skills to meet business need. The Bootcamp training programme content and delivery model is not driven by qualifications, it is driven by the business need.

The counties of Somerset & Dorset are planning the Bootcamps for 2023 and some information, advise and feedback from business on their requirement, priority skills needs and express interest in the Bootcamp, with no strings attached, to inform the Bootcamp planning process.

### **CCTV**

We are currently working with suppliers to get the 11 new CCTV cameras for Taunton installed and we hope they will be ready early in the new year.

### **Hardship Fund**

Our £50,000 Harship Fund was administered by Citizens Advice as a back up to those who weren't eligible under Somerset County Council's Household Support Fund. Unfortunately, within a month (September) it was used up. Feedback was presented to Community Scrutiny and demonstrated that arrears and debt was the main cause of the fund being used up so quickly. It also showed a wide spread of people being affected showing the impact the current crisis is having on all of us. If you'd like to see the stats, please get in touch with me.

We have utilised an underspend and committed an additional £50,000 to the Somerset Community Foundation's Warm Somerset Spaces Fund which will help venues to stay open across Somerset to provide warmth. We will do our part to promote this.