

Full Council Meeting – 5 July 2022

Report of Councillor Chris Booth - Community

One Teams and Community Outreach

West Somerset

Crimestoppers - What Would You Do? (WWYD?)

A community project was showcased on Monday 20 June at the Regal Theatre Minehead, in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police, Crimestoppers, Unique Voice, Minehead Eye and local schools.

The WWYD? programme has over the last few months been empowering young people at Danesfield Church of England School, Williton to cope with some of the challenges that they face today in their community. The children have been creatively exploring how to speak out and stay safe when it comes to crime through weekly sessions with the talented drama company 'Unique Voice'.

This follows on from a very successful project that was carried out in North Taunton last year, and it is hoped to roll out further programmes in the future. It will also provide an opportunity on the night, for families to see and access a range of local support on offer, from a variety of local organisations.

Exmoor Area – Local Community Network Pilot

The Exmoor Area Panel meets quarterly and we are providing administrative support to the Local Community Network pilot for the Highways sub-group. (This is one of four pilot schemes being rolled out across Somerset making sure that local areas will have an ongoing voice when the new Somerset Council replaces the current county and district councils in 2032 and is the only one to be taking place in our district). This is progressing well as the Exmoor communities are coming together to work on highways projects and deliver services at a more local level. A devolved budget has been agreed and a Highways Steward appointed as part of the initiative. A great deal of work has been done to lay the foundations and some projects have already been achieved.

Wellington

Wellington One Team organised an Easter Wacky Wednesday at Wellington Park on 13 April from 11.00 – 12.45.

The event had been meticulously planned with a booking system put in place. There was a massive response to the event which lead to the bookings having to be closed nearly a week before the event. As always, the aim of the event was to provide those families with young children with the opportunity to enjoy activities in the outdoors in a relaxed way. A barbecue was provided along with other refreshments. Due to the generosity of a local business all attendees were provided with a ticket for an Easter raffle.

The Wacky Wednesday subgroup planned the day and thanks go out to all involved in this. On the day numerous agencies attended and provided many activities for children and their parents. There was also an information stand where agencies could make the Community aware of what was available for them. A children's entertainer was also booked, and Police Horses made an appearance.

Many thanks to all of those involved with the day including Somerset West and Taunton Council, Police, a large contingent from Churches Together, Street Pastors, Parent and Family Support Advisors, Waterloo Road preschool, Nynhead preschool Live West, SASP, Growing Minds, Library Services, Reminiscence Learning, Everybody Active, Local Councillors, Wellington Foodbank and numerous volunteers..

In total over 400 people attended the event including helpers. After registering the families were able to enjoy food and refreshments, a children's entertainer, Sports Activities, Messy Play, Numerous craft activities, Mini Golf, Splat the Rat, access to a Police Car, a smoothie Bike, face painting and many other craft activities and attractions. Special thanks also to Avon and Somerset Police for arranging for two Police Horses to attend and to Bob House from Churches Together and Marion Vincent from Growing Minds for all their work in ensuring that the event went off so smoothly.

Many thanks to everyone involved in making this event so successful and to all the families who attended on the day.

North Taunton

- Youth crime continues to be a concern, which, generates a lot of negative comments on local social media. SWT ASB officers are working with partners and have issued some of the households with warnings and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- The Pantry Rowbarton has full membership and a waiting list, the coordinators have been concerned about fluctuating amounts of food provided by FairShare and value for money for those in need. Local Pantries Scheme Project Manager and I have met with them recently to offer them further support.

- Priorswood marked the Jubilee by hosting a family arts and craft activity session at Priorswood Library, a production in Lyngford Park by The Bluebirds Theatre Group and a party at St Peters & Wellsprings Churches.
- Discussions are ongoing between The North Taunton Partnership and SWT about possibly taking on the running of the new community facility being built in the first phase of the North Taunton Woolaway Project (NTWP).
- The NTWP hosted a Careers in Construction event in March with employers and training providers at St Peters Church.

Halcon

Halcon One Team

Multi agency case management continues to meet weekly via Microsoft teams. Focus has been on multi agency responses to increased ASB and criminality amongst young people.

Halcon Skateboarding club

Due to the success of last years pilot we are now running two groups a week, juniors 5-10yrs and seniors 11-16years. We run the juniors at the All Saints Church Hall and with the good weather arriving we have been able to run the seniors at Hamilton Park Skate park for the last 6 weeks. Additional funding has been applied for to ensure we are able to continue the club over the next 2 years.

National Citizens Service volunteers

We are again collaborating with a group of young volunteers who are looking to do some community-based work to improve our green spaces and streets. We have a number of local options that are yet to be confirmed but we are confident the volunteers will do a great job as they have before.

Hestercombe House

We will be running some taster sessions at Hestercombe House where young volunteers will be experiencing wood craft skills and nature identification. The group will then progress through a number of workshops to produce 'bug hotels' and other sculptures to be located in greenspaces within East Taunton.

In addition to this we are planning to run small groups from our area up to Hestercombe House to enjoy the gardens and facilities over the summer.

Building thriving communities (Barclays bank/Link Centre)

The initial hardship grants have now come to an end. We were able to award £100,000 in grants to over 125 individuals and families across Taunton. We hope that, due to the success of these awards, that the Link Centre will be issued with further funds to distribute later this summer that have been underspent elsewhere in the country.

SWT Cost of Living Emergency Fund

You will have seen from the motion to Council that we are working with Taunton CAB to administer a £50,000 support fund to help local people in Somerset West and Taunton. This will be advertised via both our CABs and through the Council. The terms and additions for how one is eligible and how to apply will be made public by the beginning of August.

CCTV

The CCTV estate has been reviewed and initial report put forward for consideration as to the feasibility and scope to upgrade the cameras and communications. This review included obtaining Data Protection and Privacy Impact Assessment for Taunton, Wellington, Watchet and Minehead to check the compliance of each camera.

A technical consultant is now finalising a report into delivering a cost effective, integrated network of digital CCTV cameras that will compliantly deliver the current and future needs for our communities and our key partners.

The recommendations will be considered by SWT as part of the committee cycle.

Somerset Health & Wellbeing Board - Living with Covid Update

Pandemic declared on the 11th March 2020, Somerset County Council and partners involved in major incident response.

A Covid-19 health protection board and engagement board have met regularly throughout pandemic.

21st February 2022 - Living with Covid-19 plan published by UK Government.

14th March – Last meeting of Somerset Covid-19 Engagement Board agreed to stand down and to transfer oversight of next phase to be provided by Health & Well-Being board.

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) response to 'Living with Covid19' Plan:

- 'Covid-19 is not over and achieving elimination is unviable in the short term'
- 'There remains a degree of unpredictability about the course ahead... we can expect further waves of transmission'
- 'Disadvantaged areas are likely to be more at risk from outbreaks and prolonged disruption.'

Current guidance:

- Wearing a face covering in crowded areas, such as on public transport.
- Good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Effective ventilation of indoor spaces.
- Taking part in the vaccination program.