



Bridgwater Town Council

Portfolio:	Community
Portfolio Holder Name:	Cllr Liz Marsh
Full Council Meeting Date:	Thursday 19 th January 2023
Agenda Item:	TC2023.7

Report:

Hamp Community Association and Hamp Community

Bridgwater Town Council is taking on responsibility for the ReCreation Centre in Hamp and are keen to find a way to bring such a vital community building back into the Community. Working in co-operation with the Hamp Community Association this project should be up and running by the Spring as a Youth and Community Centre. A consultation project is being led by ward councillors to agree the management and programme for the new centre.

Holy Trinity Church continues to offer a warm space every Monday 12-4pm

Sydenham Community Centre and Sydenham Community

The two delegates that were elected by the BTC Cllrs at the last Full Town Council meeting on the 8th December 2022 to join the trustees at Sydenham Community Centre (Cllr Alex Glassford and Cllr Richard Morgan) have been accepted by the existing trustees at their meeting held on the 28th December 2022 and should now be included in all future Sydenham Community Centre meetings and be able to provide a report back.

Bridgwater Town Council is currently in consultation with Somerset County Council about the future ownership and management of the Rollercoaster building in Sydenham. A meeting is being set up with ward councillors and community groups during the next few weeks. More information about that should be available in my next report.

Victoria Park Community Centre and Victoria Community

The 6th Annual Christmas Fair that took place on Sunday 4th December was a huge success and was well attended.

The Nursery continues to grow and now caters for 30 children over 5 days a week.

Cafe and bookings are still doing extremely well. All Victoria Park Community Centre staff and Pantry Volunteers either have or will be completing their Level 2 Food Safety and Hygiene for Catering Certificate and Food Allergy Awareness Training.

The new Victoria Park Pantry project is ongoing but does now have an opening date of Tues 14th Feb and are currently recruiting and training volunteers to help run it. Once open it will be running every Tuesday afternoon/early evening and offer its members in the Victoria Park Community and surrounding areas quality food that would otherwise be sent to landfill and wasted for a fraction of the cost that it would be to buy in the shop (£3.50 per week for at least £15 worth of food). Membership will begin at 15 and be grown to 30 initially with scope to increase to 50 depending on demand.

The new Victoria Park Health and Wellbeing hub will now also launch in Feb 2023 due to the decision to undertake a £150k complete refit so that it meets hospital standards. The



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investment is incredible and will offer all of the wrap around care to the local community and beyond from Midwifery to tackling long term chronic health conditions. The staff will also be able to issue prescriptions thus massively reducing the workload of local Doctors surgeries allowing them to get their waiting times down and better meet the needs of the patients. Hopefully this will also give more life to the Pharmacy on site too.

General Community News

The Community Drop In at the Town Hall on a Tuesday has been a huge success with regular calls to see it extended to be an ongoing provision. What started as a warm space idea has become a real community hive of activity and a much needed and wanted social space. Many thanks must be given to Ann-Marie Gould for all of the hard work, effort and enthusiasm that she has and continues to put into this. Thanks too to the Cllrs, Council staff and volunteers who readily and regularly support this project as well.

Police Forum

The next Police and Public Safety Forum will be on Wednesday 15th February, all questions must be submitted in advance and a reminder of this will be sent out nearer the time.

Recommendations: There are none