

Portfolio:	Community
Portfolio Holder Name:	Cllr Liz Marsh
Full Council Meeting Date:	Thursday 1 st February 2024
Agenda Item:	TC2024/7

Hamp Community Association and Hamp Community

The Christmas Shopping Trip to Exeter on the 14th December that was organised and heavily subsidised by the HCA was a huge success.

ReCreation has now opened and although it's early days it is being well received. Not only has the South Bridgwater Pantry now relocated there (operating every Wednesday and currently supporting 60 families) but it is also the new base for the Hamp based PCSOs.

A noticeboard will be going up to inform the local community of what is happening and when which is planned to include clubs/groups for the over 60s, a tots club, sign-language courses and a youth theatre to name but a few. This information will also be available on the ReCreation Community Hub Facebook page.

Sydenham Community Centre and Sydenham Community

The Sydenham Christmas Buffet on the 16th December went well and plans are now being made for a Valentine's Bingo on Sunday 11th February at 12.30pm

Sydenham Community Centre have also re-launched their Sydenham Warm Space as of 11th January offering a free meal and drinks every Thursday from 12 - 3pm in the Hub, all are welcome.

The Rollercoaster building will hopefully be open to the local community again in Mar/April, if any groups or people are wishing to use that space, please discuss it further by contacting Ann-Marie Gould at community@bridgwater-tc.gov.uk

Victoria Park Community Centre and Victoria Community

The Festive Friday event in December was well received and now plans are in place to continue similar Community events throughout the year along with a collaboration with SEED to run a Front Garden Music Festival in Victoria Park on Saturday 8th June. There will also be various Community events involving SASP and the Health and Wellbeing Hub including a retro sports day and weekly Play Days over the summer holidays to encourage active lifestyles.

The VPCC Youth Club currently caters for 8- 11yrs and is looking to expand to cater for 12+ yrs in conjunction with Youth Alliance.

VPCC have also launched a warm space initiative whereby a hot drink and a hot bag can be purchased from their cafe from 9am – 1pm every Tuesday for just £1.

They are also looking to start a youth warm space with their current youth club provision.

In addition to all of that they are looking to begin a Friends of Victoria Park group to be more involved in the keeping of the Community Centre grounds. For more information on that please contact Laura Fowler, the VPCC Centre Manager at laura@vpcc.co.uk

General Community News

The Community Drop In/Warm Space at the Town Hall on a Tuesday from 10am – 2pm has continued to be invaluable and a great success. It continues to grow and is a great chance for members of our communities to come on in, meet people but also it's a chance for them to speak to Cllrs and receive information, help and support on a number of topics. IT advice is also readily available every week courtesy of Spark.

Plans to run various Community events throughout the year are underway including the possibility of a May Day Fair and the return of the Seven Sundays of Summer in Blake Gardens which will incorporate music, the Blake Museum, Active Family Events and lots more.

Police and Public Safety Forum

The next Police and Public Safety Forum will be on **Wednesday 14th February at 2pm** at the Town Hall, all questions must be submitted in advance and a reminder of this will be sent out nearer the time.

Recommendations: (if you are expecting Council to make a decision from your report)

None