



What we're working on, at the moment...

Shopping Local



Saturday 7 November saw the highlight of the Frome Shop Local Week. Nine performers entertained shoppers in various locations including Frome Wholefoods, Raves from the Graves, Ellenbray and Crocker and Woods. Performers included musicians Pete Gage, Eddie Martin, puppeteer Annie Aldam, Al O’Kane and poet Hannah Teasdale. The concept of the day was to encourage people to visit shops and cafes that they might not have frequented before, spreading footfall throughout the town. The wind and rain was against us for much of the day - but most venues were well attended with some visitors coming from as far as Bristol and Bath to see particular acts. Press and social media coverage promoting Frome Shop Local week was pretty comprehensive, 300 flyers were hand delivered to residential properties and also distributed via the normal outlets. The overall message being that shopping locally and supporting the town centre was key if we are to continue to thrive as a town. Shops including Ellenbray and Kerry Chapman Interiors reported good levels of business throughout the week. This year’s event was fairly small, the intention is to expand in 2016 and run at

least two ‘Shop Local’ events each year! [Town Centre Community Coordinator](#)

Frome the Great Town



This month Frome received The Great Town award 2016 by The Academy of Urbanism. The Award recognises the places that have

demonstrated innovation and excellence in all aspects of urbanism. A number of factors led to Frome winning this award. Some examples include:

- The fact that the Town Council has established a progressive, risk taking and supportive authority that in the eyes of the assessors genuinely cares about the town and its communities.
- Frome now has an exceptional range of cultural and community opportunities including two theatres, a music venue and regular festivals.
- The town has around 400 listed buildings and there has been significant investment in the historic fabric. There are also good examples of new building in the town that manage to avoid pastiche and fit well in scale and materials.
- Frome is also considered to be excellent in its response to environmental issues. There is a concentration of businesses producing environmental products and services and an emphasis on getting them to network and build further opportunities. The Frome Renewable Energy Cooperative was considered by the assessors to be especially impressive.

A big thanks to everyone who gets involved in the many events and projects that take place in the town and surrounding areas. And to all those who were involved on the day for the judges visit!

[Economic Development & Regeneration Manager](#)

Update on the Saxonvale campaign



At the Council meeting on 10 June, Councillors agreed to pursue a campaign to secure refusal of Frontier Estates' planning application for Saxonvale by Mendip

District Council. The central element of this application is a proposal for a new foodstore of 25,000 sq. ft. net. A number of interest groups were engaged and the following organisations signed up to work with the Town Council: Frome & District Chamber of Commerce, Keep Frome Local, Vision 4 Frome, Frome & District Civic Society. One of the main products of this cooperation was the production of a joint statement which was widely shared. There was also a jointly agreed submission to Mendip District Council setting out a detailed case for refusal. At this time, the application remains undetermined but the expectation is that it will be considered by the Mendip Planning Board shortly.

In the meantime, Peter Wheelhouse, EDRM and Jeremy Smalley, Planning & Regeneration Consultant have been continuing to work on an alternative approach to regeneration of the site that addresses some of the long term constraints to development. The aim is to bring forward a mixed use scheme that incorporates uses for which there is clear evidence of need in the town. The intention is that the local community will be participants, not commentators in the planning process. A further update will follow shortly. *Minute number 2015/41/E0 10/06/2015* [Economic Development & Regeneration Manager](#)

Community Noticeboards

Community noticeboards are now in place across most of our parks and green spaces. The boards are made of weatherproof recycled plastic – meaning they're far more durable and better value than softwood equivalents; and they're cheaper than hardwood. The boards have been made by Protomax, a company based on the Vallis trading estate, which recycles mixed plastic waste into useful products. [Environment Manager](#)

Homelessness in Frome

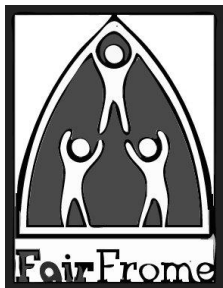
Front-line staff at the Council recently attended an information session lead by Tony Perry from Elim SLAP (Street Level Access Programme) and Wendy Miller-Williams, of Fair Frome. Elim SLAP has a drop-in session at the Bridge Café, Selwood Road on a Monday. The Bridge Café is a community café run by volunteers from several churches, at the junction of Trinity Street and Selwood Road, Frome.

Staff learnt that across Mendip there were a number of homeless or displaced and vulnerable people. However in Frome specifically, the number was very low; many displaced people are passing through Frome. There is a lack of emergency accommodation across Mendip, but there are a number of hostels in Bath and in surrounding areas to Frome. These are not always available to access on short notice, and lodgings near Frome

tend to offer spaces via referrals. Julian House in Bath can book people in on the door, if there is room available.

Other services which can help people in need of support are:

<p>Mendip (Frome) Citizens Advice Bureau - King Street</p>	<p>Advice drop-in session times Monday 10am-2pm Wednesday 10am-2pm Friday 10am-2pm</p>
<p>Mendip District Council Housing Options Drop-in Sessions - Shepton Mallet</p> <p>People who are or may become homeless can receive in-depth homeless prevention advice with an emergency appointment to come back later the same day.</p>	<p>Advice drop-in session times for housing register enquiries 8.30am - 10.30am 1.00pm - 3.30pm</p>
<p>The Bridge Café - Selwood Road</p>	<p>Drop-in café and support Wednesday 11am-4pm Thursday 11am-4pm Friday 11am-4pm</p>
<p>Routes drop in centre - Palmer Street</p> <p>Young people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness can access support by calling 01749 679553 or visiting the Routes hub.</p>	<p>Advice drop-in session times Week-days 10am-5pm</p>



Wendy Miller-Williams of Fair Frome highlighted the charity’s work and the grocery-top-ups Frome Food Bank can provide to families or individuals in-need. Referring agencies who can provide food vouchers for a top-up are:

- YMCA Routes (they will help a person of any age): Palmer St open Weekdays 10am-5pm 01749 679553
- CAB Mendip King St open Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10am-2pm 01373 465496
- The Bridge Street Children’s Centre on Wyville Road, open Monday-Thursday 8.30am-5pm (open til 4.30pm Fridays) 01373 467473
- The Key Centre open Monday-Thursday 8.30am-5pm Fridays open until 4.30pm
- The Bridge Café Selwood Road open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 11am-1.30pm 01373 469944

Fair Frome 07714587129 www.fairfrome.org info@fairfrome.org

The Information Centre and reception staff at the Palmer St offices often get enquiries about local support services, so this was a useful session and discussion.

Panels updates

Keep Frome Clean Panel

We have now completed the fact finding part of "October Watch" and received over 100 replies, in various formats. There will now be a few weeks of number crunching and analysis to determine exactly what the response was and where the problems are. Once the results are in, we intend to hold a meeting in late November, early December to discuss the findings and make proposals to full council. Thanks to everyone who reported full litter bins, weeds, litter and the like. If you still have any photos or evidence to submit please do that as soon as possible using our email address.

Richard Ackroyd
Chair KFC
College Ward

Town Centre Panel

The Town Centre Panel meets again on 19 November with a view to making the December Council. At that meeting we will pull together the ground we have covered (which is considerable), outline some projects and make recommendations to the Council and others.

Mel Usher
Chair TCP
Market Ward

Wellbeing Panel

After a series of lively debates in the previous 3 panels we have come up with some recommendations and suggestions about how the wellbeing in the town might be improved. We will bring these to the next panel meeting in order identify who is to take them further and what costs are involved.

There are inevitably several areas that have been identified that cross over the remit of the Sports and Town Centre panels, and need to be addressed as a whole town (e.g. transport, accessibility and caring for the carers).

The last meeting of the panel focused on 'Building Communities within Frome.' We recognise that there are areas within Frome where there are no community centres, no shops or community spaces and that myths can build up about these areas (e.g. 'they are all commuters'.) Then there are other areas where the community seems to be strong. 'Connection' has been identified by NEF (New Economics Foundation) as one of the 5 ways to improve wellbeing.

Several ideas were put forward that would increase the building of community at a local level: the development of the role of community connectors (health champions) who would act as a central point for information and 'community watch' in the neighbourhood; pop up shared spaces with community activities and mobile leisure facilities. There were also lots of creative ideas about activities that would build the community across Frome, such as a sports day in town and pop up theatre and storytelling.

The energy and engagement was high. We have decided to spend the next meeting partly to explore the vision of Frome's wellbeing, and how that might be measured. To pull together recommendations and projects to take to the Council, and to look at 'where next' for this panel.

The date of the next meeting is 3 December 2015 1-3 at the Elliot Building, behind Frome Town Hall.

Ali Barclay
Interim Chair
Berkely Down Ward

Sports and Leisure Panel

The sports panel has now completed the planned series of 3 public meetings. All with a turnout of 30 representatives of local sports groups facilities, providers and interested individuals. More than 60 organisations have been represented in total. An audit of facilities and sport and leisure activities in the town has supported the conclusion of a series of recommendations to be presented to Council in December, with a report detailing the work of the panel and its findings. There is a strong feeling from the group that there now needs to be some action – with small, medium and larger-scale projects and initiatives which will support the development of facilities and participation in sport. As well as to create a level of sport and leisure opportunity in Frome, that the town is proud of, and encourages clubs and individuals to participate in the town rather than travelling out of town to access facilities that are currently not available in Frome.

Significantly the group shares a common goal of working together to achieve these aims and has agreed that they will continue to meet as a forum on a quarterly-basis. There is acknowledgment that in the past, groups and organisations have focused on the issues relevant to them and that to move Frome's facilities and activity forward they now need to consider a wider-view of what is required, and support each other to achieve the goals identified.

Kate Hellard
Community Projects Officer

Garry Collinson, Chair, Berkely Down Ward