

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 27 September at 7pm

Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Gary Collinson, Tricia Golinski, Sheila Gore, Peter Macfadyen, Cath Puddick

In attendance:

Charles Wood and Lucia Chadwick (Active and In Touch), June Barnes (Frome Carnival Committee), Colin Cobb, Martin Dimery, John Clarke, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Anna Francis (Resilience Manager), Rachel Griffin (Marketing and Communications Manager), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

11 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
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| 2017/39/TM | <p>The meeting started at 7.07pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Jean Boulton, Toby Eliot and Mel Usher</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 2 August 2017 The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 2 August 2017 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Tricia Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2017/40/TM | <p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs Richard Ackroyd thanked June Barnes and the Carnival Committee for their efforts for the 2017 Frome Carnival.</p> <p>John Clarke informed everyone that SCC's consultation on Children and Families services had started that day which could be accessed via their website. He also noted that a consultation on library services was expected in November/December.</p> | |
| 2017/41/TM | <p>3. Q&A session with multi-year agreement recipients Active and In Touch and Frome Carnival Committee</p> | |

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| | <p>Charles Wood, Chair of Active and In Touch, noted the organisation began in 2011 and became a charity in April. Their aim was to support those in Frome experiencing isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>He explained Career South West employed Lucia Chadwick as Co-Ordinator for 15 hrs per week. The objective for Active and In Touch was to train 25 new volunteers and support 45 new beneficiaries in 2017. Active and In Touch supports any adult for any reason.</p> <p>Lucia and Charles noted that Active and In Touch was benefitting from the FTC community training programme and by being based in Frome Town Hall their profile had been raised.</p> <p>June Barnes, Chair of Frome Carnival Committee, noted they were grateful for the support of FTC which had to help to cover increasing costs for the Carnival such as the presence of St John’s Ambulance which cost over £1k. June note they had signed up to Volunteer Frome which had provided 4 new volunteers for the 2017 Carnival.</p> <p>Sheila Gore asked if the minimal amount of large floats was a trend? June explained that there were no large sites to construct the floats, they were expensive to build and there were not enough volunteers to put them together.</p> | |
| 2017/42/TM | <p>4. For Discussion: Build opportunities for local people to support each other</p> <p>Kate Hellard gave an overview of the report and explained that Participate Frome had come about to complement the work of Vision 4 Frome. At the end of the project there was a long list of things that residents had said they would like to see such as improved pedestrian access, slower drivers etc and even a lido. Other initiatives had included a youth services report which informed the support FTC had funded. Various community events had been supported by FTC as well as increase in FTC run events and the introduction of Participatory Budgeting. The Community Connections report had focused on three pilot areas and ran events to help galvanise more community action.</p> <p>Ali Barclay thanked Kate for her continued hard work as Community Projects Officer. Ali explained that FTC was a council that wanted to enable and work with community on a participative level.</p> <p>Ali asked those at the meeting to answer the question ‘What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of developing longer term work at neighbourhood level?’</p> <p>Meki Nattero, who had produced the Community Connections report noted that some of the recommendations from the report has been</p> | |

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| | <p>followed through but not all. She explained that understanding the reasons why the recommendations weren't followed through would help FTC understand whether they are spread too thinly etc.</p> <p>Table 2 thought the advantages were ownership in the community, doing what matters, more resilience and spreading ideas. They thought the disadvantages were that it would be slow to develop and might not focus on what the professionals feel was important.</p> <p>Table 3 thought the disadvantages were defining neighbourhood. The advantages were that at a political level, neighbourhoods could be defined by their wards.</p> <p>Table 4 discussed access to Fair Frome, the struggle to scale up meaning some might miss out and how do you measure success? They thought about linking into s106 agreements and travel plans.</p> <p>Kate Hellard summarised by noting that community development was about the broader objectives of FTC.</p> | |
| 2017/43/TM | <p>5. For decision: Frome's Draft Transport Strategy</p> <p>Anna Francis summarised her report and noted that the strategy would not only have an impact on transport but also on issues of air pollution and effects on health. However, she explained that there was not much data around transport use, how people travel etc. Anna noted that the strategy required joint working with stakeholders and other tiers of council.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski said she was thrilled to see the transport strategy which she described as ambitious and overlapped well with the fossil free ambition and wellbeing pillar of work. She queried whether SCC were fulfilling their statutory obligation due to the lack of timetable information at bus stops.</p> <p>Neil Howlett from the Frome and District Chamber of Commerce noted that every new housing development has a travel plan and the developer is meant to gather feedback from residents on how they travel suggesting there would be data available. He explained that signage improvements would help greatly to assist drivers in getting to their destinations quicker as well as helping pedestrians find their way.</p> <p>Sheila Gore suggested that the strategy should have a stronger focus on health which in turn would convince people that the changes would be worthwhile.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FTC adopts the strategic priorities | |

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| | <p>2. FTC looks to work with Somerset County Council and others to secure funding for an in-depth transport study</p> <p>Proposed by Tricia Golinski, seconded by Cath Puddick, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2017/44/TM | <p>6. For information: Volunteer Frome</p> <p>Kate Hellard gave a brief overview of the purpose of Volunteer Frome. She noted that it was accessible online and in the Town Hall. Kate explained that the future plans were to further develop the website and database, focus more on young people and target volunteers with specific skills.</p> <p>Jenny Hartnoll from Health Connections asked if Volunteer Frome was linked with organisations that were not based in Frome such as Cinnamon and the Red Cross. Kate noted that it had been promoted regionally and locally and organisations that were based outside of Frome were starting to approach Volunteer Frome directly.</p> | |
| 2017/45/TM | <p>7. For decision: Discover Frome information point – Frome Town Centre</p> <p>Rachel Griffin was pleased to report that the Discover Frome Information Point has been so well received it would be continuing until at least 2020.</p> <p>The recommendation was to underwrite the cost of providing an information service at Black Swan Arts from June 2018 until March 2020. This cost is not to exceed £7435 in total.</p> <p>Proposed by Richard Ackroyd, seconded by Cath Puddick, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2017/46/TM | <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 15 November at Frome Town Hall</p> | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.13pm