

Agenda item 6

For information - Community Development update

Author: Kate Hellard, Community Projects Officer

Summary

This report provides an update of the work to date in Trinity Selwood and other areas of Frome to support communities to be resilient and support each other, through the community development work of FTC

In February 2018 Town Matters agreed that FTC adopt a model of community development aimed at enabling communities to support themselves as well as embed existing FTC projects. The proposal was to pilot this approach in the Trinity (Selwood) area of Frome and build on the work we have already done with groups of residents in that area.

It was agreed to establish a steering group made up of staff and Cllrs from all three tiers of local government. An initial group of FTC Cllrs have now met and agreed draft terms of reference for the group. These are: it will meet quarterly; have a broad overview of the work; steer the monitoring and evaluation of the work; be kept informed and up to date with summary reports of the work; help evidence, review and inform the development of the work; take an active role in exploring ideas from other areas. Representatives of the other two councils will now be invited to take part.

Kate is taking a facilitative, supportive, approach to supporting communities with a specific focus on the Trinity area. She is building on the skills and ideas of local people in order to initiate projects which address local issues and to bring local people together.

So far, the Trinity Community Group has been supported to:



1. Coordinate two **litter picks**. At the second it was noted that there was considerably less discarded rubbish in the area, specifically in Dyers Close. We leafleted 300 houses and met a handful of residents new to the group on the second litter pick.

Participants commented that ‘there is noticeably less litter in the area than last time we collected here’.

Referring to the street outside the school, another said, ‘I’ve been wanting to get stuck into this street for a long time it’s just so brilliant to get a chance’. This led to an idea that we would host a monthly clear up at the end of the school day for residents and parents alike to work together to improve the local area.



2. Provide **social opportunities** for new residents to meet others, community members to meet local Cllrs and all to discuss ideas and possible projects for the future. One member commented that she would like to participate in regular litter picks in the area and finds it a social opportunity whilst doing something positive for her community.

3. Support their **local litter campaign**; with the installation of one new bin next to the shops on Selwood Road and another to follow shortly on the corner of Selwood Road and Trinity Street.

4. Organise a **Street party**; with a street closure application, risk assessment, activities and provision of food. The party is due to take place on Saturday 18 August with pizza, children’s activities and a chance for local residents to share ideas and get to know each other.

5. Find new ways of **communicating** wider with local residents; a Community notice board is due to be installed at the shops on Selwood road soon and we are due to trial a community newsletter



6. Explore the viability of a local **community fridge**; working with Anna Francis, Resilience Manager for FTC who is working with Trinity Church to identify an appropriate site for the fridge.

7. Build a mutually beneficial relationship with **Vallis School**; with whom we are currently discussing possible improvements to the gated road outside of the school, the possibility of a community garden on a piece of school (SCC) owned land next to the Griffin Pub, having a presence at the Vallis Fete, use of the school playground for the Street Party and a possible history project.
8. Advise on the best site for a **Street Games** project funded by Liverty Housing, aimed at engaging 8 – 14 years olds in sports activities with a coaching and mentoring ethos. This project also trains participants in emotion coaching and spotting the signs of mental health issues in young people. The weekly project due to start this month will be promoted to Liverty residents in the first instance but is open to other young people in the area.
9. Secure insurance to cover the groups events and projects, draft a constitution and apply for their first grant funding through the Mayor's Grant.

Other Community Development work

The meeting with Vallis School also generated other ideas for community development projects: a group of children at the school would like to organise a Frome wide **stop bullying march** in October to raise awareness amongst adults in Frome of the issues around bullying. Kate is looking to follow this up with a friendly neighbourhoods campaign which will build on Compassionate Communities and encourage intergenerational activity in communities.

Work with other community groups in Frome:

Nunney Road: are organising a street party and Kate has supported with advice and support on insurance, road closures and the loan of equipment and resources.

Trinity Park: recently held a very well attended BBQ on the green space. Kate attended the event, made new contacts in the area and will continue to support with advice on funding, creating a community group, ideas and general support.

Egford Park: a newly formed residents group now meets monthly, borrowing FTC resources to litter pick the park and provide hot drinks. The group are considering forming a constituted group, have asked FTC to consider taking ownership of the park from MDC and are looking at ways that they can improve the park and continue to get together to deliver projects which improve their local area and provide an opportunity for community members to come together.

We also know of other established and new community groups who are working together to create change in their communities.

To support these groups, Kate is setting up a forum where leaders in each community can share ideas, experiences and seek advice. In the first instance this will be through a meeting / workshop format. We are also exploring the possibility of hosting an online forum where local activities / change makers / leaders can seek peer to peer advice and support.

Web based resources: we are developing a new area on the FTC website which would provide information and advice on street closures, street parties, risk assessments, insurance, bank accounts, grants and activity ideas.

Street Closures: at present the information available online is disparate and differs according to source. We are currently working with officers at MDC and SCC and the police to create clear guidance which would meet all statutory requirements and are also looking at how to follow a now national precedent set by Bristol City Council of making it easier for streets to close on a monthly basis to enable 'playing out' where parents facilitate street play in their streets.

Resources: The new Community Resource Shed now contains a range of useful things for community groups to borrow and use including: gazebos, a smoothie bike, litter pick kit, large thermos flasks, bunting, bean bags, a range of folding tables and chairs.

From Litter Warriors: Kate is exploring the feasibility of creating a network of litter pickers who would meet on a regular basis, be provided with their own litter picker and hoop. It would be based on a similar model in Shaftesbury providing participants opportunities to participate in exercise, social interaction and positive action.

It has been agreed that this pilot work will be evaluated through an action research model with a baseline assessment to be carried out by staff and councillors in the coming weeks.