

## Agenda Item 4

For Information: Community Development Update

Author: Kate Hellard, Community Development Manager

### Summary

This report provides a summary of the evaluation methods currently being used to review the Community Development Pilot in the Trinity area of Frome

In February 2018 Town Matters agreed that FTC adopts 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.

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

### **The projects delivered in the last three months include:**

**Litter picks and clean ups;** building on previous litter picks in the area, the Community Group have recently cleaned the paved area outside the shops on Selwood road and continue to initiate litter picks across the area.

**A Community lunch;** held in Trinity Church Hall the event was well received by those who attended but numbers were very low.

**Community / Junk Gardening;** a Saturday morning event which followed the successful trial of junk gardening at last year's Trinity street party. Members of the public came along with old containers and pots to replant and brighten up the area, while other volunteers cleaned up the street, repainted old plant pots and offered neighbours potted plants for their front gardens and doorways.

**Small 'street events';** the core members of the community group meet on a regular basis to review and reflect on the projects and initiatives that they are running. In response to the low turnout for neighbourhood wide events the group agreed to trail 'street level' events in order to engage the residents in a particular street. The first of these took place during half term in Trinity Walk.

The event was supported by Live West who provided a skip so the residents could support each other in a clear out and FTC who paid for a BBQ. The Community Group organised the day and provided plants for more junk gardening. The feedback from residents was very positive and they are keen to work together in the future to organise other street parties and opportunities to get together.

Through events such as these and community meetings, which we have held in the area, it is possible to see a significant, positive change in the way residents are engaging with each other and the various organisations and statutory services involved in working there.

Residents have told us that they feel better connected, are more able to talk to each other and are not afraid to challenge anti-social behaviour that they see happening on their streets. Generally, there is a feeling of positivity in making things happen and the group are now looking to take on a small green space, with the support of FTC, in order to create more opportunities for residents to be involved in an ongoing community gardening project.

In other areas of Frome, other local neighbourhood groups are forming, and the Community Development Manager is supporting them with basic start-up information. We have previously agreed to initiate a series of peer to peer networking opportunities for neighbourhood groups across the town and are looking to make more resources available on our website.

Kate is currently undertaking a masters research degree course with Middlesex University in Community Regeneration, through which she will undertake a research study with the residents in Trinity to find out more about what her support brings to the community development project there. It is anticipated that this inquiry will give us a better understanding of how we can further develop the pilot study in Trinity and support the development of new neighbourhood groups across the town.

We continue to keep a photographic diary of events delivered through the project and record stories of successes and things which could be delivered differently in the future. Going forward we are keen to gather more qualitative and quantitative information from residents in Trinity and other areas about how FTC can support them to build stronger, more resilient neighbourhoods in their areas which support individuals and families living within them.