

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Town Matters Committee

Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 7pm
Frome Town Hall, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Richard Ackroyd, Ali Barclay, Sara Butler, Rob Collett, Anita Collier, Maxine Crawley, Mark Dorrington, Nick Dove, Sheila Gore, Anne Hills, Paul Horton, Andy Palmer, Andy Wrintmore

In attendance:

Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Deputy Town Clerk), Kate Hellard (Community Development Manager), Hannah Stopford (Children and Young People's Project Officer), Jess Francis (Children and Young People's Project Officer), Laura Flaherty (Executive Assistant to the Town Clerk and Mayor)

1 Member of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2019/20/TM	<p>The meeting started at 7.01pm</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from John Nelson, Steve Tanner and Scott Ward.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members' interests None was received.</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 9 October 2019 On the community development project, Kate Hellard explained that the discussion at the last meeting had been very useful and informed the work programme and budget for 2020/21. It was felt that the proposal to extend the community development work into Stonebridge required more time and capacity. Kate said the plan was now to monitor the situation, continue the ongoing work and to then put bring forward proposals at a future Town Matters meetings.</p> <p>Paul Wynne clarified that if Cllrs agreed to go forward with Wild about Trees project, Stonebridge would be part of it.</p> <p>The minutes of the Town Matters Committee meeting held on 9 October 2019 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed by Rich Ackroyd, seconded by Anne Hills, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Andy Palmer arrived at 7.08pm</p>	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

2019/21/TM	<p>2. Questions and comments from the public and Cllrs</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd had joined the Rangers at the Dippy when they were working with the Critchill student volunteers. He noted how impressed he was with the interactions between Rangers Toni, Mark and the students. Headteachers from other schools had visited as they were hoping to do similar projects in the future.</p>	
2019/22/TM	<p>3. For decision - Children and Young People’s Projects officer action plan</p> <p>Hannah Stopford and Jess Francis, Children and Young People’s Project Officers, summarised their work since the beginning of the project in the summer and autumn.</p> <p>Hannah was focusing on children aged between 0 – 5 years and had visited groups, nurseries and spoke with people who ran Facebook pages aimed at families. She found that there was a huge amount in Frome that was aimed at or catered for under 5’s. The majority were run for free or at a low cost. She said the biggest challenge for families was finding up to date and accurate information about services and groups. She noted that her and Jess were looking at FTC’s own directories to feed into improving this provision.</p> <p>Hannah explained that funding for Get Set services had been cut and identifying and supporting families before they reach crisis point was crucial. Hannah had also investigated the Homestart initiative in Bristol and was exploring whether it could be replicated in Frome.</p> <p>Jess meanwhile was focusing on children aged between 5 and 12 years old. Her research revealed that there was a good range of out of school activities during term time but less during the school holidays and in particular the summer holidays when many families struggled with childcare and found holiday clubs expensive. Many families relied on grandparents and extended families to support childcare. She also found that those clubs that were run by local people as businesses, mainly catered for 5 – 8 year olds.</p> <p>She carried out a survey in middle schools to explore what families with children over 8 did in the summer holidays and received over 500 responses. Only 16% of respondents attended holiday activities and many would like more activities but, again, struggled to access accurate and up to date information about what was available. The survey also revealed that there was not a regular play scheme for children with additional needs with many having to travel into Bristol or Bath to access this provision. Jess was hoping to support a group of parents of children at Critchill to create a play scheme at the school during the school holidays.</p>	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Jess and Hannah were exploring a project called 'Playing Out'. Residents would apply to close the road in their street to enable the kids to play safely on the street. They were beginning their trial in Spring 2020.

Kate Hellard explained Jess, Hannah and herself would jointly focus on children aged 13 and above. She explained that the pinch points for this age group were around anti-social behavior, drugs and drinking. It had been shown to begin particularly around year 8/9. The team had successfully secured a grant for £10k to target those year group by offering three or four sets of six sessions with various providers including Wiltshire Outdoor Learning. Cooking and parkour sessions were also being explored. The aim of these would bring families closer together through shared activity and hopefully steer them away from anti-social, violence or criminal activities.

Hannah, Jess and Kate were putting together a training programme aimed at building resilient communities and would be aimed at anyone involved in their community including schools. Kate explained that all of their work had common themes and the aim was to find ways of building capacity in neighbourhoods and local organisations to ensure families did not reach crisis point.

Sheila Gore said Hannah, Jess and Kate had done an impressive amount of work. She was unclear what FTC's role would be. She felt the work could become overwhelming. Kate explained that the focus would be on supporting third party organisations. It was not envisaged that FTC would become a direct service provider.

Hannah and Jess's posts were part funded by MDC and SCC who were very happy with progress so far. Kate would also be exploring additional funding support. She was hoping to share the findings and practices with other towns discussing linkages with Mendip Health Connections. Kate emphasized the importance of providing accurate information in the one place and she expected that FTC's own website was probably the medium for this.

Mark Dorrington asked what the process for measuring success would be? Kate said it would mainly be anecdotal evidence such as hearing from schools that there were not so many issues with students and demands for mental health services had decreased. She noted that it would be different measures for each action.

Maxine Crawley congratulated Hannah, Jess and Kate for the work they had achieved already. She asked if Jess thought that by encouraging Playing Out at the street level there would be a domino effect. Jess hoped if one street ran a successful event neighbouring streets might follow. She noted the planned training would support

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

	<p>groups to take ownership of schemes like this. The hope was the pilot would inspire others in the community.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the action table</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Identified need</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Proposed Actions</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>'Assistance-before-crisis' support</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family volunteering scheme • Community training • 'Parenting' courses </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access to information</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update FTC web information </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improved access to sport and active play</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Out • Play Rangers • Delivery of play training in Frome </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access to play provision for children with additional needs</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new targeted play provision • Specialist training </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Access to play provision for low income families</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Rangers • Promotion of sports and other clubs and groups </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Increase in awareness, knowledge and skills to support and signposting by the whole community.</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Training Scheme • Signposting training • Family Connector initiative </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Improved provision and activities for the 13 – 18 year old group</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of VRU project • Procurement of PB Youth Project • Delivery of Make it happen conference </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Proposed by Maxine Crawley, seconded by Anita Collier, agreed unanimously.</p>	Identified need	Proposed Actions	'Assistance-before-crisis' support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family volunteering scheme • Community training • 'Parenting' courses 	Access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update FTC web information 	Improved access to sport and active play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Out • Play Rangers • Delivery of play training in Frome 	Access to play provision for children with additional needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new targeted play provision • Specialist training 	Access to play provision for low income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Rangers • Promotion of sports and other clubs and groups 	Increase in awareness, knowledge and skills to support and signposting by the whole community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Training Scheme • Signposting training • Family Connector initiative 	Improved provision and activities for the 13 – 18 year old group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of VRU project • Procurement of PB Youth Project • Delivery of Make it happen conference 	
Identified need	Proposed Actions																	
'Assistance-before-crisis' support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family volunteering scheme • Community training • 'Parenting' courses 																	
Access to information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update FTC web information 																	
Improved access to sport and active play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing Out • Play Rangers • Delivery of play training in Frome 																	
Access to play provision for children with additional needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new targeted play provision • Specialist training 																	
Access to play provision for low income families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Rangers • Promotion of sports and other clubs and groups 																	
Increase in awareness, knowledge and skills to support and signposting by the whole community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Training Scheme • Signposting training • Family Connector initiative 																	
Improved provision and activities for the 13 – 18 year old group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of VRU project • Procurement of PB Youth Project • Delivery of Make it happen conference 																	
2019/23/TM	<p>4. For information – an update on the role of events at Frome Town Council</p> <p>Paul Wynne presented the report on behalf of Rachel Griffin. Paul explained that the aim of the report was to inform Cllrs of the range of events the staff body had organised or been a part of in 2019 as well as the complexity of producing these. He explained that events were really important to the work FTC does and staff were committed but to do them to a high standard meant an increased need for resources and time to plan.</p> <p>Rob Collett asked how staff evaluate what to prioritise? He noted in the future he wouldn't be in favour of doing fireworks again. Paul</p>																	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

	<p>explained Cllrs would have an opportunity to agree whether or not to fund fireworks in the next year’s budget. Kate Hellard explained that evaluating what to prioritise was discovered by talking to people, being present at an event to understand its importance as well as how well an event was received by conversations on social media. Sometimes the event could be necessary to promote an area of work or an opportunity to share information. Peter Wheelhouse gave the example Frome Busks. The key objectives were to support young musicians, create a feel good vibe in the town centre and to encourage footfall. Positive feedback was received from the musicians and retailers and the hope was to do the event again next year.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd and other Cllrs agreed felt FTC needed to be careful not to be responsible for organising and delivering all events; they should be more an enabler than a deliverer.</p> <p>Paul noted that Cllrs needed to be clear, when agreeing the work programme, only to include events they would want the Marketing and Communications team or other staff members to deliver.</p>	
2019/24/TM	<p>5. For decision – Update on The People’s Budget: Town Vote, our work with Public Square and how to proceed in future Paul Wynne gave an overview of the report.</p> <p>Rich Ackroyd said the proposal to consider carefully the format of the current Town Vote made sense and encouraged Cllrs to delay the project until the right idea was found.</p> <p>Sheila Gore felt that the principle of Participatory Budgeting should not be lost. She said it was not just about enabling others to vote, it was to have more people involved in a democratic process.</p> <p>Rob Collett agreed and said was the most important element was participatory democracy and engaging people.</p> <p>Anita Collier suggested it could be an opportunity to put the decision out to the town and ask them whether to change the town vote element.</p> <p>The recommendation was to hold back on launching another People’s Budget: Town Vote until an opportunity for a meaningful vote is identified. <i>Following a review to come back to a Town Matters meeting in the summer.</i></p> <p>Sara Butler proposed the amendment to the recommendation in italics above. Seconded by Sheila Gore, agreed unanimously.</p>	RG

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

	The recommendation was proposed Anita Collier, seconded by Sara Butler, agreed unanimously.	
2019/25/TM	<p>6. For information – Update on Planning consultations and responses</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse provided an overview of each planning application noted in the report.</p> <p>As this was the first time Jane Llewellyn, Planning and Development Manager, had put together a summary paper of the most significant recent planning applications. Cllrs discussed whether they would want to continue this for future meetings.</p> <p>It was agreed for Jane to write more of a summary report for the meeting in February.</p>	JL
2019/26/TM	The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at Frome Town Hall	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.56pm