

Wombwell Ward Alliance

Notes from virtual meeting held 18th January 2021

Present: Cllr Frost, Cllr Eastwood, Carmel Seston, Keith Seston, Sabeena Chavan, Karen Whiting, Chelsey Rigby, Steve Whittingham, Amanda Bradshaw (BMBC)

Apologies: Margaret Morgan, Leanne Cooke (Berneslai Homes)

Cllr Frost chaired the meeting and welcomed members and introductions were made for the benefit of our new Ward Alliance member Steve Whittingham.

2 Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as a true record.

3. Matters arising - Cllr Frost informed the group that he had no updates on Principal Towns since last meeting. Still looking at buying back the old toilet building and negotiations still on going with the owners re the Burton Building.

Kay Tinkler or Neighbourhood Engagement Officer contact details had been passed on to community group members

4. Feedback from Healthy Holiday provision. AB informed the meeting that 78 vegetable boxes from Smiths and 76 Christmas dinner meat packs from potters had been given out to targeted vulnerable families. (the difference accounts for vegetarian requests). These families were identified by our 3 primary schools parent support advisors, Berneslai Homes housing officers, Children Centre Outreach workers and Lucy Raynor SAC Private Sector Housing Officer. This enabled the project to have a wider reach to identify those who have been financially affected by the restrictions brought on by the pandemic. Running alongside this we also did a facebook post promoting fruit & vegetable boxes asking residents to get in touch again if they had been financially affected. 30 families came forward and the boxes were again delivered by Smiths of Wombwell. Positive outcome was that a Yr7 support worker from Netherwood got in touch and she was able to redistribute 15 of these to local families. We now have a key worker in Netherwood who we should be able to work with on future projects. I am pleased to say that there was no duplication of families receiving both boxes

Running alongside the food provision we distributed 80 Christmas activity packs via the 3 local primary school. 100 packs which were purchased from Good Food Barnsley (fareshare) were distributed via volunteers from FOWP and FOWC from their venues on 21st December.

We now have £2754 remaining in our Healthy Holidays budget. AB will be liaising with the schools and other partners to reflect on the Christmas provision and to assess the type of support needed for future provision.

5. WA funding – we have a balance of £9758.29

6. Funding Applications – the following applications were approved by the WA

John St Allotment £673.54

Wombwell Station Community Group £1,000

Friends of Wombwell Park £244

7. Covid Vaccinations Centres Cllr Frost updated the group on the roll out of the programme in Barnsley. Currently 3 sites Priory Campus and Goldthorpe Medical Centre and Dodworth.

8. South Area Council update – Cllr Frost informed the meeting that the Tidy Team Contract was out to tender.

9. Discussion of future projects – Hanging baskets on the High St. agreed to try and get sponsorship for hanging baskets this year and the WA to subsidise the full cost. AB and KW from friends of Wombwell Cemetery to work on this.

If restrictions were to continue and community events are unable to go ahead a suggestion made to look at pulling together horticultural packs for the youngsters working with FOWP and the South Area Tidy Team. Action AB and CS to pursue this.

About further food provision the group discussed community pantry approach/ community fridges. The group were informed of a 'tier for tears' food project that was running out of the Prince of Wales pub. Action find out more and bring back to next meeting.

10. A.O.B – SW raised the issue of the Post office which is currently housed in Herons and is moving out by the end of January. Everyone agreed it is a great loss to the High St especially for older residents and local businesses for banking purposes particularly as we don't have a bank on the High St. SW informed the group that he had been talking to Ian Johnson the post office change manager who was keen to get a new location and retailer to take over the running of a post office. SW reiterated what our local Councillors have been saying this is not an easy process and to date no retailer had been identified but there may be a possibility of housing a pop-up post office in the library.

In the interim it was agreed to put a post on facebook identifying local pay points where residents can go and pay their bills. AB suggested that it could be a good time to promote alternative methods of paying energy bills and would contact warmer homes teams for promotional material and information.

11. Date of next meeting Monday 1st March via Microsoft teams.