

Notes

Monday 8th March 2021 (16.15)– Virtual Meeting

- Attendees:** Cllr Johnson, Cllr Gillis, Cllr Bowler, Rev Fiona Kouble, David Winnard, Lisa Hammond, Robert Stendall, Laura Dixon, Sarah Davey
- Apologies for Absence:** Ann Hart, Sian Pearson
- Introductions:** Cllr Johnson welcomed Laura who is the Neighbourhood Engagement Officer for the Central Area Council. Ward Alliance members introduced themselves and what they are currently doing in the communities within the Stairfoot Ward.
- Declarations of Pecuniary & None Pecuniary Interest:** None, though it was noted that Robert would not vote on the WAF bid
- Notes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising:** there was nothing arising from the last minutes that was not covered on the agenda
- Neighbourhood Engagement Officer Report:** Laura introduced her role and explained how she was involved with the rolling out of the Covid agenda across the Central Area Council wards, ensuring that businesses are Covid- compliant and supporting them in getting ready for re-opening safely. She has been supporting supermarkets and there have been no problems with shops in the Stairfoot Ward. She is currently also working with licenced premises who have been very hard hit and has been signposting them to other services as needed, e.g. mental health. When licenced premises re-open, she will be ensuring they are Covid -compliant. Licenced premises can only open areas which are covered by their licence so can serve outside only if this area is covered. The Neighbourhood Engagement Officers are still waiting for the finer details from the Government with regards to re-opening.

Laura is also working with the Central Area commissioned youth partners and a calendar of events for outdoors has been created. Youth teams are now going out into the areas to work with young people in a covid-compliant way. If there are any issues with young people not complying with regulations in any areas, Laura asked that people contact her as things can then be put in place.

Enterprise Barnsley has been running workshops about getting businesses back up and running and Laura has been attending these. A later stage will be encouraging people to go back onto the high street.

The group asked if there would be any restrictions for July events and Laura explained that at the moment it did not look like there would be, though it would depend on the how things progressed.

Although Laura is not involved with the schools, she explained that her colleagues were working with Public Health re the home testing for children and that masks were being delivered to parents.

Laura said she would be happy to answer any questions at any time and that she would be happy to come to any future meetings to give an update.

7. Ward Alliance Fund – Remaining balance:

Main budget: £15,794.74
Environmental Working Budget: £1164.45
Events Working Budget: £0

8. **WAF bids:** The group considered the bid put in for Ardsley Welfare and felt it would be a good project to support people as restrictions are lifted. There will be two metal benches in the garden area of Ardsley Park where people would be able to sit socially distanced. The CDO said that the Parks Department had approved the types of benches and are happy with the company that would be installing them. These would then be insured by the Council. The Ward Alliance were happy to say yes to this proposal.

Environmental transfer: Cllr Johnson explained that we had in effect spent some of the money we had transferred to the Environmental Budget for the hanging baskets as we had needed to pay for the litter picking equipment that had been agreed and the fruit baskets for Healthy Holidays. Cllr Johnson had also had such a good response re hanging baskets it was felt we might need some extra money towards this and towards any other future environmental costs. It was suggested that £2000 be transferred into the Environment pot which would ensure we have enough money for everything we currently need. This was approved.

ACTION: CDO to send applications to Lisa/ Sarah for approval

9. **Ward Alliance Priorities and Action Plan – 2020/2021**

a. **Environment**

Cllr Johnson explained how litter picking had accelerated recently and everyone agreed that it was much better value for money to purchase equipment for the community to use than paying someone to do the work. Lisa and John who had received the trolleys were finding these invaluable. Also, litter picking is getting people out and about and encouraging communities to take ownership of their community.

Cllr Gillis raised the question about whether we should re-order litter picking equipment when we got below a certain level and this was thought to be a good idea.

Fiona asked about equipment being available on loan for events, as well as equipment being given out for those involved in regular activity as she has some young people who might want to do something. People felt some of the equipment could be put to one side for this kind of thing.

Cllr Johnson said he regularly checks that equipment is still being used and if not asks people to return it for use elsewhere.

Another trolley is available which is not collapsible and needs to be taken out from where it is currently being stored. It was agreed to send to an elderly man who was doing some litter picking and needs it to carry equipment/ bags etc

b. **Healthy Holidays Project**

Healthy Holidays February half-term: This went well with families really appreciating the project and volunteers working hard on the day to make it a success.

The Future of Healthy Holidays: Cllr Johnson felt disappointed about the new way that Healthy Holidays was going to be administered as it felt like it had been taken away from the local area. He thanked the CDO's and volunteers for the great work that has been done so far which has been so well received by families and has built positive relationships with the community, including residents, schools and local businesses.

The new approach is being administered centrally and aims at providing food for those on Free School Meals only, though the CDO said that physical activities that would be offered in the future will be for all children and young people and delivered by local providers where possible.

It was felt by the group that they still wanted to do something for those families who were in need who were not necessarily on free school meals but maybe had lost jobs, been furloughed or were generally struggling. The group agreed that they would try to do something, though Easter was rapidly approaching and so things might need to be organised online

ACTION: CDO to report back to WA after the team meeting about what might be done

- c. **Stairfoot Art project / Principal Towns:** There was no update on the project, except that Cllr Johnson had been asked to measure the posts

d. **Hanging Baskets**

Cllr Johnson explained he had put the posters on Facebook and had received an excellent response so far with around 25 expressions of interest and 6-8 firm requests.

The next stage to think about is how to firm it up and get deposits from people- the hanging baskets company need numbers for the end of April. Cllr Johnson explained that Worsbrough Ward Alliance had paid for the hanging baskets initially and then as people paid for them, this went back into the pot. Cllr Johnson will look into this a bit more.

It was agreed that the hanging baskets would be in specific areas to create the effect of 'an arcade of flowers' radiating out from Stairfoot. People felt it would look lovely. Cllr Gillis asked about whether people could pick their lamppost from the ones that were highlighted and Cllr Johnson showed the lamppost map he had done. It was agreed that people could pick a lamppost that was on the map.

ACTION: Cllr Johnson to check out the finer details with Worsbrough WA re the collecting of money

10. **Events 2021:** The group discussed briefly whether events would likely be able to go ahead. As far as the picnic in the park goes, Robert said that it had been decided that it would be the 11th July or not at all this year as everything was in place for that date. It was felt by the group that no other events would currently be planned until we see how things go with Covid and restrictions, but that we could come back to this at a later date if things progressed in a positive direction.

11. **Ward Alliance Priorities 2021-2022**

It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting when it is clearer what is happening re Covid/ lockdown and when there is a longer period of time to do it justice.

12. **Awards Ceremony for Volunteers:** The CDO explained that she was unsure about whether this would go ahead this year but that it was being discussed at a team meeting this week. The WA felt it was really important to do something to say thank you to volunteers and show they were appreciated, whether or not the formal event goes ahead. Lisa asked about those who had been nominated last year but had not had any formal recognition due the event being cancelled and Cllr Johnson suggested that we could offer some sort of gesture towards them as part of what we do. All agreed this would be good to do.

ACTION: CDO to report back to WA with regards to the Awards Ceremony

13. Any other business

The people who had supplied the defibrillators were offering training for communities on how to use the equipment. It would be for one hour on -line and Ward Alliances have been asked to select a few possible dates to send to them and they would see if they could offer training then. It could be evenings, weekends or day times. Otherwise, they aim to offer face to face training at a later date when restrictions are lifted.

This was felt to be a good idea and Cllr Johnson asked if he could have some information so that he could post it on Facebook to see what the response is.

ACTION: CDO to send Cllr Johnson the info

14. Date and time of next meeting: 12th April at 10.00 am