

**CHATTERIS TOWN COUNCIL  
LEISURE AND GENERAL PURPOSES WORKING GROUP**

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Present:** L Ashley, J Carney and J Smith. Cllr F Newell joined via Zoom.

**L37 22/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs A Charrier, A Gowler and W Haggata sent apologies for absence.

**L38 22/23 Speaker: Kathy Cornell, Fenland Community Navigator Coordinator**

Ms Cornell was welcomed to the meeting and explained that she worked for the Care Network, Cambridgeshire, in a post funded by Cambridgeshire County Council. Her role was to signpost people to the right level of support. During her 8 years in post the role had changed and it had become the case that the voluntary sector was propping up health and social care.

Ms Cornell said she found herself supporting very vulnerable people with many needs, including isolation and financial.

Post Covid it had become apparent that Chatteris was not recovering as quickly as other market towns, Ms Cornell said. Working closely with Ms Mary Hutson, Social Prescriber Link Worker, and Miss Charlotte Wool, a volunteer, Ms Cornell said she was trying to find out what groups, etc., were still available in the town. Ms Cornell said she had found just four groups although Cllr Ashley assured her there were many more and a lot were based at the King Edward Centre. She listed some of the groups including the day centre, the Morning WI, diabetes groups and the falls prevention team. Cllr Smith said Fenland Arts ran creative sessions in the library, which was also open as a Warm Space. Ms Cornell said there were plans for Woodgreen to run outreach sessions in Furrowfields car park and the Emmanuel Church was also looking at becoming a Warm Space. In East Cambs and Huntingdonshire funding was in place for Warm Spaces but this was not the case in Fenland.

Ms Cornell said a community fridge was needed in all the market towns but there was a problem in finding suitable venues to host a fridge. She was also keen to see a MIND good mood café open in Chatteris.

Ms Cornell said she was aware of people in Chatteris who were “invisible” and would not attend groups such as U3A.

She was particularly concerned that the group which used to meet at Salem Court had moved to March and was now too expensive for many people to attend and the dementia group had not re-opened. Many carers were desperate for a break but the carers grant had been removed and they could not afford to send the people they were caring for to private care homes for a day.

Ms Cornell claimed there were 50 groups across Fenland which were dormant after Covid. Often the problem was that groups needed to have policies in place including safe guarding, health and safety, etc. before they could apply for funding and small groups did not have the expertise to ensure all these policies were in place.

Another problem Ms Cornell faced was finding practical help for people who needed support. It was difficult to find reliable gardeners, cleaners, handymen, home hairdressers, etc. who had capacity to take on more clients and the necessary public liability insurance.

It was agreed that if anyone had any information about reliable helpers they would pass the information to Ms Cornell, who was thanked for attending the meeting.

### **L39 22/23 Any Matters Arising from the Last Meeting of the Group**

All matters were on the agenda.

### **L40 22/23 FDC Update**

The Clerk had been contacted by a member of the public stating that FDC had put up barriers along the Bridle Close side of a green space/play area but not the Hunters Close side as a result at school run times cars parked on the grass. The resident pointed out this was dangerous as it was a play area and the grass would turn into a ploughed field.

The Clerk had passed the enquiry to Mr Simon Bell who said broken kick boards had been replaced by metal hoops but there was no budget to barrier off the rest of the area.

It was agreed the Clerk should contact Glebelands School and ask them to advise parents that they should not be parking on the grassed area for the reasons stated above.

### **L41 22/23 FACT Bus Services Update**

The Chatteris runner bus had been launched the previous Friday but had yet to attract a customer. It was agreed to ask Cllr Charrier to promote it again and it was hoped usage would pick up when Centrepont was published.

### **L42 22/23 Little Acre Fen Pocket Park & Old Railway Line Update**

The Clerk reported that work had begun on extending the made up surface of the Old Railway Line Footpath to the Little Acre Fen Pocket Park.

Unfortunately the contractors had suffered problems with people breaking down the fencing protecting the site which was closed to walkers while the work was being undertaken.

The contractors had also reported that a 4 x 4 vehicle had driven up to and ruined the fencing at the Pocket Park end of the site and they were concerned that the same vehicle might try and drive over the newly created footpath causing considerable damage. They had, therefore, proposed installing 4 bollards just past the Pocket Park entrance (on the way to Somersham) to stop vehicles but still allowing walkers and horse riders to use the footpath and bridleway.

The cost of the 4 bollards was £850 plus VAT. Cllr Ashley said the bollards should be positioned at a pinch-point so vehicles could not squeeze past.

The contractors had also advised putting a post and rail fence around a drainage pipe along the new part of the footpath as a safety precaution as the drop into the dyke was now quite considerable and the pathway was unlit. The cost of the fence was £600 plus VAT.

Members agreed to the quotes as the works proposed were necessary.

James offered to put a message on Facebook asking people to be patient and await the opening of the footpath and not remove the builders' fencing.

### **Any Other Business**

Furrowfields Car Park: Cllr Smith reported that it was correct some of the wheel stops (rubber strips) in Furrowfields Car Park had been removed. She had raised the issue with Fenland District Council who had confirmed new units had been ordered but would not be installed until January 2023.

Reservoir Consultation: The Clerk suggested putting forward ideas which would form part of the Council's response to the consultation on the new Reservoir. It was agreed to suggest the provision of the following:

- 1) Moorings on the Forty Foot so waterway users could use the facilities at the reservoir.
- 2) Fishing facilities
- 3) Safe access to the reservoir for cyclists and walkers bearing in mind the presence of a main road between Chatteris and the reservoir site.
- 4) The opening of the Horseway Lock to Welches Dam to open up the waterways.
- 5) Paddle boarding, sailing and wild swimming facilities.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023