

Holmes Chapel Partnership Meeting

Wednesday 20th March 2013 at 7.00pm at the Victoria Club, Holmes Chapel

1 Attendees

1.1 Present:

Jacqui Barton, Glyn Chambers, Harry Brooks, Dorothy Davidson, Stuart Gammon, Les Gilbert, Phil Hargreaves, Heather Jones, Steve Ranger, Hazel Sutcliffe, Bethan Wiggett

2 Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2013 were approved.

3 Actions Arising

- Hazel/Harry to liaise with Fine Decor and Northern Rail regarding access to the station platform from Eastgate Road Outstanding
- Arrange celebratory picnic and dog show in the Meadow (All) Outstanding

4 Correspondence

- St John's Ambulance: Stuart has finally had a response from Graham Ellis who believed the matter was settled, and said no charge would be made
- Village Fair 5th May: Stuart has booked the pitch and Hazel has arranged loan of the gazebo

5 Project Updates

5.1 Dane Meadow

- Hazel is now chair of the Friends of Dane Meadow group
- Construction of the bird feeding area is making progress
- Funding for the shrubs, from the Partnership and Parish Council has arrived. A team from Barclays will be helping with planting on 22nd March
- Marc Granville has spoken to Primary Schools re the educational value of the Dane Meadow, encouraging them to use it as part of their curriculum
- A planning application has been submitted for the Bridle Way and car park
- Tender specification for the access works is being prepared and will be issued in May (for work to commence July); the first part of the P4C grant has to be spent by August
- A new funding application is being made to WREN to set up a Nature Trail. This will involve setting up information boards/posts which will have QR codes linking smartphone users to additional information stored on a website. There will also be information boxes designed for children.
- **Action:** Glyn asked for emails supporting the Nature Trail concept, to be used to support the grant application (All)

5.2 Cycling Village

5.2.1 **SECAG**

- The £12000 funding requested for the network and town maps for the 5 towns has been agreed - £9000 from Cheshire East and £3000 from the Partnerships/towns
- The linking map will have town maps on the reverse
- Looking at how footpaths can be officially designated as permissive paths for cycling; this is a complicated process, but it is hoped this can be completed in time for the School Summer Holidays! Three paths have been identified for each town, with those for Holmes Chapel being:
 - Path linking Middlewich Road and Westway (adjacent to the playarea)
 - Path linking Portree Drive and London Road (adjacent to the railway embankment)
 - Path linking Moreton Drive and Sadler's Close

5.2.2 **Cycle Shelter**

- Work on the shelter is awaiting the results of the enquiry with Sainsburys; Hazel has emailed the solicitors, Turleys, but so far had no written response
- She has spoken to Turleys who had "no serious input"
- Decided to leave for the time being pending the development of the supermarket(s)

5.3 Playarea

- A specification for the tender process has been agreed; the name 'Croco Park' and the pirates/crocodiles theme have been dropped.
- Advert placed in Knutsford Guardian on 12th March and Sandbach Chronicle on 13th March inviting quotations. Preferred suppliers (PMD and 6 x Cheshire East list) have been invited to quote
- Quotations must be received by midday on 17th April, for evaluation 18th April and awarding of contract thereafter. Plan to start work by 10th June and complete by 19th July. Formal opening to be Saturday 27th July
- Courtesy note to be sent to local residents before work commences, and banner to be placed on fence indicating forthcoming changes / temporary closure of the play area
- **Action:** Display to be prepared for the Village Fair, showing the design from the winning quotation (Project Board)

6 Communications and Young People Representation

6.1 Communications Strategy

- Bethan is looking for volunteers to help us; taken up with Head of IT
- Hazel has also written to Jeff Sharpe (Head Teacher at the Comprehensive School) seeking volunteers

6.2 Young People Representation

- Bethan said that the default replacement for her would be the Head Boy or Girl (Upper 6th Form), assuming he/she lives in Holmes Chapel. Stuart asked whether, due to pressures of final A-level exams, a student from the Lower 6th Form might be better?

- **Action:** Bethan to investigate
- The Partnership has been invited by Oliver Dray (Head Boy) to a School Council Meeting on the 19th or 26th April, between 12:00 and 13:00, to tell them what we do and understand what young people's wishes are for the village. (*Later agreed date would be 19th April*)
 - **Action:** Let Bethan know if you can attend / meet her in the school Reception area at 12:00 sharp

7 Business Updates

7.1 Work Club

- Heather attended the Local Area Partnership Employment Group meeting (on 7th March) which was discussing the setting up of Work Clubs in the 5 towns (Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach) – and apply for grant funding
 - There are already work clubs up and running in Congleton and Alsager
- The running costs and requirements are significant, and the grant would not cover everything:
 - Computers
 - Phone and broadband costs
 - Materials
 - Contribution to attendee travel costs
 - Contribution towards Administrator costs (estimated at £213 per month)
- Fine Décor have kindly agreed to provide a free venue; however, there was a serious question of what format would be required – should it be predominantly a social club or business environment? The mechanics of how it would work are unclear and there is a fear that it would impact on other Fine Décor workers.
 - A team of volunteers who could commit enough resource would be required to man the club every week. This may not be easy!
- There ensued a discussion about what the work club would be trying to achieve, e.g. build self-esteem, acquire key skills, etc.. It was clear that we should not hurry into this before we know exactly what would be required and how it would be supported/funded.
- There is also a question of how many would attend; there are currently just 53 people on JobSeekers allowance in the whole CW4 postcode area, compared with circa 500 in Congleton
- It was agreed that Heather will continue to attend the Employment Group meetings and monitor progress, but that we will not be applying for funding or setting up a Work Club yet.
- **Actions:**
 - Glyn to analyse all available statistical information for unemployment in Holmes Chapel and the immediate area
 - Heather to report back to the Partnership later / investigate other Work Clubs and how they operate

- Stuart to advise Fine Décor of the change of plan

7.2 **Business Forum / PartnerShop / Love Local Life**

- Stuart leafleted all village centre businesses on 9th March and followed up on 19th March. Also emailed other businesses
- Meeting scheduled for Monday 25th March at Fine Décor.
 - Expect 10-12 business attendees
 - Speakers from Cheshire East, East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, Alsager Chamber of Trade
 - Looking for way forward
- Love Local Life scheme is changing – initial attempt not very successful outside Macclesfield (where it started)
- ParnterShop to be discussed at a future meeting
- **Action: Stuart to report back to next Partnership meeting**

8 **Events Updates**

8.1 **Village Fair**

- A double pitch with 4 tables has been booked and paid for (£50).
- Hazel has 'booked' the Gazebo with Dave Monks
- We require each 'project' to create their own displays and contribute to the manning of the pitch:
 - Playarea - Partnership/PC Project Board
 - Dane Meadow - Partnership/PC Programme Board
 - Cycling - Hazel / Harry
 - Business Forum - TBC
 - Christmas Market - Dorothy / Committee
 - General Partnership Information - Committee
 - U3A - Heather / U3A Committee
- We will require 8 x 3-pane display boards
 - **Action: Glyn to investigate sourcing boards from LAP (Alan Lawson) or Sandbach Partnership (Dot Flint)**

8.2 **Christmas Market**

- The market will take place on 8th December 2013
- Paul Minger has been booked again to provide the lighting
- Financials
 - Made a theoretical loss last year (excluding the CEC grant)
 - No CEC grant expected 2013
 - Agreed not to increase charges this year
 - Look for sponsorship from local companies
- We will not have the 'rides' this year, but will keep the Fairground Organ as this attracted a lot of interest / funnelled people into the Market
- Need better arrangements for the Scout HQ
 - Signposting
 - Move of food/drink stall nearer to HQ road entrance

matches/supporters. The Committee Room is also not an ideal place for guests to visit. Although the main hall is often available it is too large and cold/draughty.

It was agreed we should look for an alternative venue, e.g. the small hall at the Methodist Church or the Tyson Room at St Luke's Church Hall.

Actions:

- Dorothy to investigate availability of the small hall at the Methodist Church, and book if available
- Stuart to cancel bookings with the Vic Club once the alternative venue is booked

11 Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 17th April 2013 7.00 pm – venue to be confirmed