

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Tuesday 21st November.
The Trinity Centre
7pm

Present:

Cllrs Griffin, Mosson, Pocock, K Ward, Wood and Yip.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Jessica Johnson – Project Manager Communities.

One member of the public was present.

Marje Bridle asked if the Town Council would be responding to consultation on the Birmingham City Council's 'Creating an Active Birmingham' strategy.

The CEO replied that the Town Council would welcome the opportunity to submit a formal response to the consultation, particularly given its commitment to supporting residents Health and Wellbeing and the work of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

25 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Scott.

Resolved accept the apologies.

26 Declarations of Interest

None.

27 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee held on 12th September be signed as a true record of the meeting.

28 Matters arising

The CEO provided an update on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership reporting that the Town Council hosted a successful community event in October targeting those who may be vulnerable to falls, providing information, advice and guidance.

The CEO added that the Steering Group, to be formed to help move forward the falls and frailty workplan, was due to take place in the New Year. The Steering Group is supported by external members of the Partnership such as Birmingham City Council Public Health. It was also positive that the new Chief Executive of Good Hope Hospital had offered to host the first steering group meeting at the hospital.

The Chair asked for an update on the funding awarded to Sutton United Football Club.

The CEO replied that it has since transpired that there is outstanding planning matter with the football club looking to receive retrospective planning approval for their recent development. The Town Council were unaware of at the time the application was submitted. The Club will have to meet particular conditions to gain planning approval and the application will be reviewed at a subsequent Planning and Highways Committee meeting. Once this matter has been resolved, and an appropriate tender agreement are in place, the Town Council can look to release it's approved funding contribution. The CEO added that she is in regular contact with the club and BCC Offices and will update the committee further at further meetings.

The CEO reported that the Christmas Trees and Festive Lights had been installed and switched on across the town adding that Officers will tomorrow be going out to all locations to check they are all working and in good order.

29 Questions from Members

None.

30 Health and Wellbeing Partnership Minutes

The Project Manager Communities reported that over 300 people attended the 'Be Strong. Stay Independent' event at the Town Hall in October. They received practical information on reducing the risk of falls as well as general information, support and guidance from voluntary, community and faith organisations. The offer available on the day was intended to be holistic, allowing residents to receive health advice alongside peer and community wrap around support.

A selection of talks from health professionals were available on the day from Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust Falls Prevention Team including the importance of nutrition, how to reduce the risk of falling as well as the actions to take if you do. Activities on offer on the day, such as Seated Zumba and Walking Netball, proved popular with attendees wanting to continue with the activity following the event.

Positive feedback was received with residents commenting it was helpful to have so much information all in one place.

The Project Manager Communities reported that the Town Council will also be hosting a meeting in December inviting the town's voluntary, community and faith groups. The meeting will be a chance groups to share more about the work they do in supporting residents' health and wellbeing, any challenges they may currently be facing (as well as those of their service users) and to provide an update on local NHS changes and future opportunities.

Cllr Pocock asked if the meeting will highlight the Fairer Futures Fund to groups?

The CEO replied that in the meeting, the Town Council will highlight the fund detailing the intricacies of the North Locality which is made up of Sutton Coldfield and Erdington. The two have different demographics and therefore different health priorities which should be looked at separately. However, there will be occasions where it is important to come together under a common objective.

Cllr Pocock commented that rates of poor mental health, particularly amongst young people, is rising and has been discussed under the BCC'S Creating a Mentally Healthy City agenda. Cllr Pocock asked how the Town Council and it's Health and Wellbeing Partnership can support in this area and work across a different age bracket.

The CEO replied that it was important that the Health and Wellbeing Partnership does not lose sight of its commitment of supporting those who suffer with mental health conditions, and this could be added as a dedicated agenda item at the next Partnership meeting.

Resolved to note the minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Partnership held on 14th September 2023.

31 Community Grants

Committee considered the recommendations of the Community Grant Panel as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

Organisation	Project	Amount
St James's Church	Accessibility Improvement and Community Inclusion	£20,000
Friends of Newhall Valley Country Park	Boardwalk Renovation	£20,000

Resolved to recommend to Full Council the approval of a Community Grant of £20,000 to St James's Church from the Community Grant Budget.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council the approval of a Community Grant of £20,000 to Friends of Newhall Valley Country Park from the Community Grant Budget.

Organisation	Project	Amount
Sutton Coldfield Choral Society	May 2024 Concert	£3,760

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that a grant to Sutton Coldfield Choral Society is declined.

32 Warm Spaces

The Chair asked if funding was available to organisations who wanted to open up their venue as a Warm Space or support in the delivery of one?

The Project Manager Communities replied that there were 12 registered Warm Spaces in Sutton Coldfield and that organisations could apply for up to £3,000 from BCC'S Warm Welcome Grant Fund to cover the costs of things such as energy costs linked to delivery, food and refreshment costs and equipment and resource costs. She added that she would work with staff at venues to help promote the spaces and signpost residents.

Resolved to note the report.

33 Committee Budget 24/25

Committee reviewed the 2023/24 budget and 2024/5 indicative budget and discussed:

- The Festive Lights Budget is set at £100,000 per year which will cover the existing provision and builds in contingency for increased charges or any scheme changes. The CEO reported that she had received indicative costings for the scheme from Birmingham City Council (BCC) for the next three years and the budget allocated was adequate.
- It is proposed that the Community Awards budget will fund an event in March 2024.
- A total of £80,000 is proposed to be allocated for floral displays, based on the previous year's costs. The main portion of this, £65,000, would be to fund the Summer Floral scheme including hanging baskets, towers, planters and railings.
- Around £2,000 of the Britian in Bloom budget is proposed to be used for a community event to launch the hyperlocal 'In Your Neighbourhood' category.
- A total of £10,000 from the allotments budget was used to fund clearance and improvement works at Forge Farm Allotments. A tree survey also took place at Walmley Ash Allotment as well as a Health and Safety inspection at both Walmley Ash and Falcon Lodge Allotments. It has been previously agreed that any budget underspend would be held in the Earmarked Reserves for improvement.
- Two defibrillators have been funded from the Sutton Heartbeat budget this year, with Committee agreement for a further three.
- The Health and Wellbeing Budget had been used to fund some consultancy fees and to cover resources for events such as room hire and printing.
- The CEO reported that it was expected the Community Grants Budget would be fully spent by the end of the financial year.

The Chairman asked if there were sufficient funds in the current Community Grant Budget to fund the applications proposed to Committee as well as those who may apply in the next round in January.

The CEO replied that the 2023/2024 Community Grants Budget alongside Earmarked Reserves would cover the current applications proposed to Committee. The CEO added some projects may also be better funded from the Health and Wellbeing budget.

Cllr Pocock commented that with Sutton Coldfield, and across the city, there were several different funding sources all with their own requirements and priorities. Therefore, it may be helpful for all funders to come together to provide applicants with a clearer view of who to apply for and for what project.

Cllr Pocock asked what the Earmarked Reserves (EMR) allocated to Compass Support were for.

The CEO replied that the EMR were to cover the cost of Compass's future operating model at the Falcon Lodge Community Hub. The building lease with BCC is up for renewal and urgent roof repairs are needed for Compass to continue providing services. The allocated Town Council funding would give them reassurance that their running costs are covered for the next five years.

Resolved to note the 2023/24 spend against budget and commitments to date.

Resolved to recommend the future budget requirements of the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee to the Strategy and Resources Committee.

34 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 16th January 7pm, Trinity Centre.

The meeting ended at 19:45pm.

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Signed

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Date