

Forum News

January 2021



This copy of Forum News forms the notes of a meeting held by Zoom on 20th January 2021.
If you would like to know more about any of the items, please contact us at:
mail@selseycommunityforum.uk.

- ◆ 2020 had been an unusual or even unprecedented year which had stretched both statutory and voluntary sectors. Selsey's excellent community spirit made the Covid-19 Mutual Aid project not only very successful and widely admired, but also led to recognition of the need for new services. In addition, many aspects of the project were continuing in the form of Selsey Buddy Support.
 - ◆ The Covid-19 restrictions had uncovered a lot of poverty which had not been previously recognised and is now being addressed through Selsey Money Support.
 - ◆ Local businesses had introduced delivery, takeaway and other services which had contributed to the support of people isolated during the lockdowns.
 - ◆ After their part in providing the Christmas Community Lunch to people's homes, Apetito had increased their business locally and had now joined Selsey's Food Forum.
 - ◆ After wide consultation, VAAC were preparing a report on how the voluntary sector had performed over the last year. The report was intended to aid future planning of support for voluntary groups. Find out more about VAAC at: www.vaac.org.uk
 - ◆ In spite of Covid-19 restrictions creating difficulties in organising the normal Christmas collection, Selsey Lions had succeeded in raising near-record donations.
- ◆ In 2020, Selsey Town Council had introduced much-welcomed new playground facilities and the Destination Selsey website at: www.destinationseley.co.uk
- ◆ The Covid-19 Vaccination Centre was now operating in The Selsey Centre and the efforts involved by those setting it up were gratefully recognised.
- ◆ Antisocial behaviour problems in Selsey were now being handled by the police, allowing the Community Warden to concentrate on the community aspects of his job. In addition, a third PSO is being allocated to improve the police cover in Selsey.
 - ◆ The Community Warden was working with Selsey Town Council in a project aimed at countering speeding vehicles in the town.
- ◆ The Bridge had been working closely with The Academy to ensure all students are being supported and have access to home schooling equipment. In addition, a comprehensive action plan was now in place to establish a Youth Club as part of the wider Manhood Peninsula Youth Project. A lot of good ideas and suggestions had been received and young people were being consulted on which should be adopted. Funding for the Youth Club was being sought from the National Lottery and it was hoped to soon set a start date and begin recruitment.
- ◆ Selsey Town Council were developing a project to support local shops.
- ◆ As a pilot project, Chichester DC are one of five councils taking part in a Subsidised Tree Planting Scheme which aims to tackle climate change and boost biodiversity.
- ◆ West Sussex County Council had been developing their online training facilities and were

undertaking a number of projects which overlap with Selsey Community Forum's work:

- ◆ A Joint Dementia Strategy with the NHS was being developed and would address a wide range of issues including improving both community awareness of dementia and end of life care.
- ◆ Covid-19 lockdowns had demonstrated the value of being able to use the internet but had also unfortunately slowed Selsey's Age Fusion project involving young people helping their older friends to get online. Carers Support West Sussex and the WSCC Library Service also offer Digital Support and work is in hand to determine how to promote this scheme in Selsey.
- ◆ The West Sussex CC Care Manager's Forum provides a useful link with local care homes. Following the success of a similar event at Christmas, Arts Dream Selsey and Selsey Community Forum are funding a production by Amanda Waring entitled 'Let Love Bloom', a virtual review which will be streamed into local Care Homes on Valentines Day. The 45-minute heart-warming review will include an uplifting journey through the highs and lows of love in words, jokes, poetry and song aimed especially at care home residents and staff.
- ◆ Progress with Kickstart, the Government programme to get youngsters into employment, had been delayed by the holiday period and the new lockdown; it is hoped that the current deadline will be extended. Efforts to recruit more business sponsors were ongoing.
- ◆ The various partnerships involved in ensuring that nobody in Selsey has gone hungry for the lack of food during the Covid-19 had been very successful.
- ◆ The Selsey Care Shop, with appropriate Covid-19 safety measures, remains open and is providing a wide range of support, including that of bereavement counselling.
 - ◆ As well as social media and other electronic contact, around 800 telephone interactions each week are made with people being supported. Included in that number, Good Morning Selsey now phones 66 lonely older people for a friendly chat, most on a daily basis. In addition, small treats, mainly in the form of home-made cakes, have now been delivered to around 100 isolated people and have allowed many Covid-safe, door-step conversations.
 - ◆ Selsey Wellbeing Services had identified young males as being an 'at risk' group from mental health issues. Problems with addiction had also been identified as a result of the work by Selsey Money Support.
 - ◆ In response to domestic abuse issues, a support project is being planned in partnership with 'My Sister's House' in Bognor.
 - ◆ Work is also ongoing to counter the difficulties, including neighbourhood disputes, that can arise from hidden disabilities.
- ◆ The FLOW (Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands) Project, which started in 2015 to survey and improve the ditch network to prevent flooding and increase vital wildlife habitat, will now be completed in March. More at: www.mwhg.org.uk/projects-and-groups/flow-project/
- ◆ There was increasing consciousness of Climate Change and local thoughts were beginning to turn to this topic, particularly to the associated risks of flooding.
- ◆ It was hoped that the Selsey to Chichester Greenway Cycle Route issues involving land ownership in Sidlesham would soon be resolved and that WSCC will be persuaded to assume responsibility for construction.
- ◆ The closing date for Ferry Farm Community Grant Fund applications from community groups in Sidlesham and Selsey is 31st January. More at: www.selseycommunityforum.uk/Ferry-Farm/
- ◆ The next meeting of the Selsey Community Forum, subject to any lockdown restrictions, will at 4.15pm on Wednesday 17th March 2021 at The Academy, Selsey.