

Forum News

July 2020



After nearly 6 months without being able to hold our forums in the usual manner, a 'mini-forum' with a small number of attendees was held by Zoom in July to share news and start thinking about the future; the following notes are from that meeting. If you wish to know more about any of the items, please contact us at: mail@selseycommunityforum.uk.

- ◆ The local councils had spent money in response to the Covid-19 crisis which had not been earmarked for that purpose and which has not been covered by emergency Government funding. It is inevitable that councils will have to take some hard financial decisions to recover the situation. Thanks were made to: WSCC for its work through the Community Hub, CDC for being the quickest in the country to distribute Business Rate grants and STC for making its premises available to regular users for 3 months free of charge. CDC is preparing a Covid-19 recovery plan which is expected to be presented to the full council for approval later this month. It was understood that WSCC were producing a similar plan.
- ◆ The Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid project had involved a partnership of local organisations which had aimed to alleviate some of the problems arising from the Covid-19 lockdown. Over the weekend before the lockdown commenced, more than 140 volunteers were recruited into a 'Buddy' system to help those in the local community who were in need of support. The project has made contact with local residents around 2,000 times each week to arrange shopping, collect prescriptions, deliver food, distribute information leaflets and newsletters, operate a lending library with books, DVDs and jigsaw puzzles, make supportive phone calls and address other matters as they arose. The project has been very successful but it now being run down and will end later this month. There is no doubt that Covid-19 has shone a light on hidden local needs which will shape the provision of Selsey's future community support. Work has already begun on identifying the services which are needed and on how they might be brought into being. The Buddy system, which has been widely admired, will be re-shaped and continue on into the future as 'Selsey Buddy Support'.
- ◆ East Beach and St Wilfrid's Churches had reopened and a new Methodist minister would take up his appointment in September; it is understood that the minister would be shared with another parish.
- ◆ The Selsey Care shop had played a major role in managing Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid and was now reopen to the public with Covid-19 measures in place. Although its events and activities had been suspended, they were now being restarted in a minor way with small numbers of individuals being invited to much-welcomed social gatherings in The SHOP's cafe environment. It had proved possible to maintain the counselling and advice services by telephone throughout the whole period of the lockdown.
- ◆ Having reopened in a limited way to host Selsey Care Shop's activities, The SHOP was planning to reopen to the public, again in a limited way and subject to a satisfactory risk

assessment.

- ◆ Selsey Money Support, a new partnership between Selsey Community Forum and the debt support charity Frontline, had now started. The service aims not only to advise those burdened by debt, but also to assist them throughout the process of eradicating that burden. In addition, work was ongoing to develop a Money Management Course.
- ◆ The Academy, Selsey has been open throughout the Covid-19 lockdown for a small number of key workers' children and is now planned to fully reopen in September with measures such as different entrances for each year group and two separate lunchtimes. The Bridge Youth Support Centre has continued to provide counselling for students throughout the lockdown and is developing a limited 3-week Summer Holiday Club programme and a limited activities programme to coincide with the reopening of the school. There would also be a week with Albion in the Community – the Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club charity which aims to deliver opportunities to improve health and wellbeing in the community.
- ◆ Grow Selsey had been active during the lockdown and had found volunteers in those referred by the Social Prescriber in Selsey Medical Practice.
- ◆ Men in Sheds had been renovating a building behind The Bridge as a new base for their activities.
- ◆ Progress was being made on the proposed cycle routes between Selsey and Chichester and Selsey and Bracklesham.
- ◆ A Facebook consultation had been held to determine the preferred play equipment for the proposed recreation ground in School Lane; its co-location with the cricket ground would require a robust risk assessment.
- ◆ Some local sports clubs were reopening and the Football and Cricket Clubs were hoping to raise a final amount of funding for a joint clubhouse.
- ◆ A National Lottery grant had funded a project to gather information about young peoples' needs in the Manhood Peninsula. A report had been submitted to the National Lottery and progress was being made with planning the implementation of some of the project's recommendations.
- ◆ Arts Dream were hoping to open art classes and to hold an exhibition in the near future.

The next meeting of the Selsey Community Forum is, subject to any 'lockdown' restrictions, planned to be held at 4.15pm on Wednesday 16th September 2020 at The Academy, Selsey.

The forum shares news of interest to local community groups and seeks to identify and implement solutions where the community would benefit from new or improved local services and activities; you can find out more at www.selseycommunityforum.uk .

All those interested are invited to attend.