

# Forum News

September 2020



After a long period 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 September 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](mailto:mail@selseycommunityforum.uk).

- ◆ All Selsey's churches are now open for services with Covid-19 safety measures in place and working well.
- ◆ Sadly, Father John Healey, the priest at St Wilfrid's Church unexpectedly passed away in June. Services at the church are being conducted by the local Bishop and Deacon with a temporary Parish Administrator expected by the end of September.
- ◆ East Beach Church had provided some online services and prayer sessions throughout the pandemic and would hold a Harvest service in October. Return to Sunday School will also begin again in small groups.
- ◆ Although the Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid project was put into hibernation at the end of July, a number of its services are being continued; the most significant is Selsey Buddy Support which is now in place and being managed through the Selsey Care Shop. A final report on the Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid project had been published and distributed widely to the partners involved and to local statutory and other organisations.
- ◆ Selsey Food Bank had remained open throughout the pandemic providing a delivery service on Fridays to people referred by local agencies.
- ◆ As part of Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid project, East Beach Church had helped in co-ordinating Harvest UK deliveries with the support of Bunn Leisure, Selsey Lions and the Buddy System. The church will also be supporting the Selsey Community Christmas Lunch this year with deliveries of 120 meals to people in their own homes, rather than being gathered together. Christmas gifts and hampers donated by local businesses and residents will also be delivered. Apetito, who have an expanding food delivery service in Selsey, are looking forward to supporting the Christmas lunch.
- ◆ Selsey Lions fundraising has suffered from the Covid-19 restrictions but they are continuing to supply mobility scooters and plan to provide a 'Letters to Santa' service at Christmas. Sadly, three Selsey Lions members have recently passed away.
- ◆ Selsey Care Shop has been busy and there has been a rise in referrals and requests for support which have included assistance with entitlement applications and signposting to statutory and health care agencies. Where possible, the events and activities arranged through the shop are restarting, albeit with fewer numbers attending in order to make them Covid-safe. The events include a variety of 'SHOPtalk' sessions, held in partnership with The SHOP, which have so far welcomed over a hundred guests who have been particularly isolated during the lockdown and have much enjoyed these social gatherings. 'Movies for Memories' has restarted, but again with limited numbers attending. 'Good Morning Selsey' telephones over 50 lonely and isolated people on a regular basis, most of them daily. Selsey Money Support, offering free debt advice and support has grown as a result of people having lost their jobs or having been furloughed.

- ◆ Selsey Community Forum has recently taken on additional office space in East Street so that, together with the Selsey Care Shop, it now has sufficient safe working space for all its staff, without having to involve working from home.
- ◆ Tom Garfield is leaving The Academy, Selsey and there will be a new Headmaster in post in January 2021. The Bridge Youth Support Centre has been running drop-in services covering bereavement, Covid-19 Mental Health and Covid-19 Education Catch-Up. The Bridge site is now home to Selsey Men in Sheds and the Hidden Garden Project, both of which benefit young people and adults with mental health needs. The National Lottery is providing £0.5M for a 3-year youth strategy across the Manhood Peninsula.
- ◆ The Community Warden has had a busy 6 months and has pushed hard for a police presence of three patrols a week to counter an increase in anti-social behaviour and problems involving electric scooters. The Selsey Speedwatch group is picking up again and Selsey has been involved in Operation Edward (European Day without a Road Death) which aims to prevent speeding in local towns and villages. Unfortunately, the project to install speed-awareness signage at the entrance to Selsey has stalled. As an alternative, funding is being sought for a slow-down matrix sign. Jess Giles has been appointed as the new PCSO for Selsey and is expected to attend the next forum meeting.
- ◆ Arts Dream Selsey are making preparations to commence art classes in a Covid-safe environment at the end of September. Planning is also in hand to produce a radio play in November and hold a Mask Workshop at the Selsey Centre. It is hoped to resume the Selsey Festival next year.
- ◆ Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester promotes and supports voluntary and community groups in the local area; its strong external partnerships and a wealth of experience mean it can offer a broad range of support. More information can be found at [www.vaac.org.uk](http://www.vaac.org.uk).
- ◆ West Sussex CC's Community Hubs have been successfully providing a range of services for residents young and old under one local roof. In addition, businesses continue to be supported with an excellent grant scheme.
- ◆ Chichester DC's economic recovery plan is focussing on the High Street and its footfall, together with visitor numbers.
- ◆ Selsey Town Council, as part of the 'Selsey Vision' project, continues to develop facilities at East Beach and in the town's parks.
- ◆ Selsey's Flood Action Plan is turning its attention to flood defences and long-term climate change effects.
- ◆ The cycle route between Selsey and Chichester continues to make progress with the publishing of a 280-page 'Ecological Impact Assessment'.
- ◆ Consideration is being given to taking advantage of the Government's Kick Start Project which offers job placements with local businesses to young people aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and in danger of becoming long-term unemployed.

The next meeting of the Selsey Community Forum is, subject to any 'lockdown' restrictions, planned to be held at 4.15pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 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](http://www.selseycommunityforum.uk) .

All those interested are invited to attend.