# Forum News

**November 2026**

This copy of Forum News forms the notes of a meeting held at
The Academy School at 4.15pm on 18th November 2026
If you would like to know more about any of the items, please contact us at:
mail@selseycommunityforum.uk.

**Present:** Karen Pirks SCF, Keith Batchelor Selsey Pavilion, Richard Turley RNLI, Philip Grocott STC, Ali Archer STC, Linda Edwards SCF Secretary, Paul Sadler SCF Hidden Garden, Mike Beal Vice Chair SCF, Matt Tyman Academy

**Apologies:**
Mike Nicholls SCF, Nichola Collins SMP, Neil Kimber, Natalie Provost WSCC

Karen Pirks Chaired the meeting on behalf of Mike Nicholls and thanked everyone for coming. Natalie Provost was unable to attend, they have had a significant bereavement in their team leader Martin Fuller, which has hit them very hard. Karen, on behalf of the meeting sent condolences to the team.

- **Selsey Pavilion update**

Sadly, trustee Professor Pamela Howard suddenly died when she came back from a short stay in Rumania. The Pavilion owe her a great debt, being their first chair. There is a private funeral for family but celebrations will be organised for later next year to celebrate her life.

The Trustees will be holding two open mornings on Saturday 12th December running from 10am to midday. The December event will have a pantomime theme with Cloud 9 giving a performance of Cinderella. In 1967 Cinderella was the last panto performed in the Pavilion before it closed all those years ago. Another Open Morning is planned for Saturday 14th November.

The Studio at the back is now up and running and there is a half price booking offer for community groups until end December. People are welcome to come and look around. Thanks to everyone who have given their support. The first craft group was held in the studio recently with 13 people in attendance. The Selsey Folk Club have made a booking and there is room for 25 - 30 seated. There is use of a kitchen and people are requested to bring their own refreshments. Snacks and drinks may be purchased from Chaplains during the day. The venue is not currently licenced.. Call in on the open day. The small room can take a projector, the large Hall is not completed yet and is still undergoing repair.

- **RNLI - Dick Turley**

During the last few month the Shanty men were cancelled along with some other events through some difficulties but all is back to normal now and the Shanty Men gave a concert on 4th October and raised £400. Another event on 10th October for Open Lifeboat Station which was moved to 17th October that was held raised 50% more than last year, so that is positive.
Lots of support from RNLI and gearing up with plans for 2027. New boat arrived 10 years ago next June 2027, so a celebration will be held to commemorate that.

- **Academy - Matt Tyman**

Matt has always stated several times if there has been a problem with kids in the community, to let the school know. Recently, they have had some information sent from Door Bell Footage, and

some kids have been recognised and when this happens the school sanction them and the parents are contacted.

Remembrance Day it rained. The whole school grouped on the hard standing instead of the grassy area by the flag and other people joined them and the last post was played. It went very well and the students all bought in to the occasion. All the kids stood outside in the rain and it seemed to convey to them the whole meaning of what the Remembrance service meant.

Matt's teaches Business Studies and his Year 10 students have some course work on a local business. This year Matt is looking for business people to come in to the school to answer questions from the students for about one hour to an hour and a half so the kids can ask them questions about their businesses and do some research for their coursework. This year they have written to about 240 employees. They had a terrific turnout for their Business Fayre. If you know of anyone who would be willing to participate let Matt know and he will send all the information out to them.

Ali explained she does litter picking and has found nitrous oxide capsules around the area. Ali has picked up 21 in the last few weeks. She reports it to 101 and recycles them. Matt said the Head Teacher Jo will put an article in a newsletter. The one thing they did this year in the schools annual assembly was explain about nitrous oxide and that it is not pure it is recycled and includes waste radio activity. Helium ballons are banned at School events and agreed he will make sure its in the newsletter. Matt said several students do litter picking around the school site everyday.

Paul said since the netball courts have been lined out its great to see the kids playing on the courts rain or shine.

The pouches now used for locking away the students mobile phones when they come into school. The school donated these and the students are monitored every morning to lock them up. There are ways online of how to get them open. But it seems to be working very well. It takes away their anxieties during the day during school time. It just needs parents to manage their time at home. It has been an immense success.

Karen has noticed during her work with families, it seems to cause more problems as the children get older causing difficult behaviour through lack of parenting skills.

Karen asked if Jo would also include in her newsletter about a new Mental Health Welfare Group for 16-25, and current siblings. Please share about this new group.

Talking about dark nights people wearing dark clothes at night can't be seen them when they approach on their electric bikes and scooters.

- **Alzheimer's Society - Mike Beal**

Mike reconfirmed he is always more than happy to provide training to become a Dementia Friend and happy to train young groups or older groups. There are lots of people in Selsey living with Dementia and Carers/spouses are struggling. It is the biggest killer. Unfortunately it takes time to get a Dementia diagnosis. Once people have the training it changes their whole outlook and understanding.

- **Hidden Garden - Paul Sadler**

Paul and his team of volunteers are really proud of the award they received recently and is featured on the front page of the SCF Monthly Newsletter. It's an Award for "Its our Neighbourhood" presented by RHS Wisley. It's brilliant and he and the volunteers are very happy as it was the first time they had entered. They went to Wisley to receive the certificate and it is now proudly displayed. They are now thinking about next year's Open Gardens and planning that and what to do that's new - going forward.

- **STC - Philip Grocott**

Philip asked Karen if she had received a reply from Jenny when she wrote to her asking if STC were discussing with other teams about Emergency Planning so that things are not duplicated elsewhere. Philip confirmed that Jenny is on it and will respond to Karen shortly. Karen said she had also written to Zoe about the Survey results and wondered what came through from young

people about what they want in Selsey and the surrounding area. Karen would like young people to organise a survey in the future.

Christmas Lights - You've probably heard on social media there is no Christmas Event this year. The closures can take a lot of organisation with the rolling road closures etc. Having Volunteers come forward to help can be a problem. Sometimes, when an event doesn't happen it can bring more volunteers forward.

Karen asked about the recent Public Meeting. Philip confirmed there were over 350 attendees. LandLink gave a brief presentation to the STC planning committee STC and they were asked what information gathering they had done LandLink gave a short response said residents "Know what they want". They stated they did some online information gathering. Philip added LandLink are putting their Full Application in just before Christmas, when the client will be disclosed. Possibly on the last working day of the planning window. That means only 6 weeks for the application to be considered. They expect not to succeed and have a backup plan. The expect to be able to put spades in the ground by 2028. One of the members of the Town Council Planning is planning to step down so they can organise a protest group. KP is going to write to LandLink the outcome of the survey online they conducted and find out more.

KP a mention on Facebook about the verge which was damaged by the containers when they came ashore during the summer. Perhaps Paul would take a look and improve it next year.

- **STC - Ali Archer**

Ali is concerned about the affect the increased traffic will have on the roundabout by ASDA. Housing potential is zero potential. Ali's concern is about the roundabout and causing traffic problems getting out of Selsey. Ali mentioned Jenny was apologetic that she didn't see KP's email. Ali mentioned the Parkinsons group she is involved with and asked for volunteers who could help and support people singing in the group to encourage singing. Joanne Lainge in the Care Shop is organising group. Any volunteers please contact Joanne.

The Veterans group were recently funded for a coach by the Lions for a trip to visit the Chelsea Pensioners and it was incredible trip. They had a fantastic day. The Veterans group started 2 years ago and has 30-40 who meet on a regular basis.

- **Selsey Community Forum – Karen Pirks**

The Care Shop continues to be extremely busy supporting young people to adults up to 105. Hubs continue to be fairly active. Wittering's and Bracklesham Care Shop has opened and doing really well, and they are currently registering 40 people a week at the moment but this will obviously plateau in time. Lots of different problems coming through the door. Housing, Money Support worries about Energy and Food. Good partnerships are being made over the peninsula with UK Harvest, Sage House and they have also started their own Veterans Support Group.

- **AOB**

Matt made an appeal for some funding for their students who entered Dance Live competition again this year, when a total of 140 students took part, and their students got through to the national finals again. Our students were organised by Chris Williams, but the students were all involved with the dancing, lighting and sound. Last year we came 2nd. The Academy are through to the finals again this year and need sponsorship for the branding for T- shirts etc. The school have funded part of it. Karen suggested approaching Kevin Byrne at Thrive and Chris Butler at Selsey Arts Dream.

- **Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday 20th January 2027 at The Academy School 4.15pm