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**MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**VIRTUAL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD 19<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020 BY ZOOM**

**PRESENT** - Councillor Carragher (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs) Desmond, Ferguson, T. Hughes and Mullen

**ALSO PRESENT** - A. McIntyre (Town Clerk), P. Dillon (Community Services Manager) and S. Larking (Minutes)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllrs Josh Burns, Doherty, Lloyd, Sharp, and Y. Sayers

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None received. Meeting being recorded and will be available for viewing. Note: due to technical issues only part of the meeting was recorded.

**4. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020**

**RESOLVED THAT:** The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved as an accurate record.

**5. COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK PROGRAMME**

The Community Services Manager reported on the impact of Covid 19 pandemic on events and activities agreed by the Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March:

1. Cinema Trip: Cancelled by Sefton CVS. Credit note from Maghull Coaches to be used when event is rescheduled
2. Mini Soccer: Postponed. Will run in September/October when schools return
3. Go Girl afterschool project: Postponed. Looking to start again when schools return
4. Green Trail; Lottery Funding directed to Emergency Covid Funding. Unclear when will be able to bid for funding
5. Family Fun Day: Cancelled. No current plans to re-arrange
6. Family Park events: Cancelled
7. Mini Olympics: Postponed.
8. Literary Festival: Postponed. Library has been closed.
9. Lantern Event: Unlikely to happen as no funding. Community Services budget reduced (by £16,000) due to Covid
10. Fun Fair: Postponed. Organisers keen to host an event in September 2020. This is unlikely. Looking at one or two fairs in 2021.

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11. Circus: Offered dates for 2021. Will invite back on same terms
12. Toy Fair/Kite event: To revisit in 2021

Views from Cllrs welcome about other events.

On a more positive note, the Community Services Manager ran through what had been delivered in recent months:

1. Calls to vulnerable residents. 50 people contacted and offered support. List may increase as other residents identified who need support due to isolation
2. Sefton CVS Volunteer Shopping: 200 deliveries. Scheme closed on 14th August. Some shopping continuing for most vulnerable residents. Unfortunately, The Community Connector for Maghull is moving on. In the short term there will be a shared service, with Southport, which will create a gap
3. Maghull Food Bank: Working with Morrison's Community Champion to support the Food Bank. Funding secured via Cllr McKinley. Some money still available. Generous donations from Maghull residents; sometimes food gets reallocated to other parts of the borough. Numbers attending the food bank range from 2 to 31. Includes single people and families. Most users are from Maghull and Lydiate.
  - a. Points raised by Cllrs:
    - i. Local churches all offer Food Banks
    - ii. Trussle Trust has strict rules about referral (via GP or Cllr) and there is a maximum number of visits (3 per year)
    - iii. Some people are embarrassed by using a Food Bank and will go out of area to avoid being seen by people they know
4. Social Media: Promoting and signposting advice and assistance e.g. information about Citizens Advice services. Increased number of likes. More work to do to drive users
5. Bobby's Wood: Good response on survey monkey. Support for "Friends Of" group. Draft guide for "Friends Of" groups which will be used for Bobby's Wood and Glen Park
6. Land East of Maghull: Over 100 responses sent to direct to MTC in support of Option 6.
7. Tesco Bags of Help: funding received for Volunteer Expenses. Forwarded to Sefton CVS as the volunteer co-ordinator. Some money still available to support volunteers
8. Sefton's Community Response Cell: Community Services Manager has been liaising with support officer and circulating minutes to councillors. Helpful to have a co-ordinated approach across Sefton. Three cells being merged. Meetings moving to bi-monthly.
9. Community Groups in Maghull: Officers have had regular contact with Community Groups and hirers. Outdoor bowlers are back bowling at KGV Park. It was noted that Maghull in Bloom had been in contact about social distancing for volunteers. Government Guidance about social distancing applies to all activities.

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**RESOLVED THAT: The report be noted.**

## **6. TACKLING SOCIAL ISOLATION**

The Community Services Manager reported that he has spoken to the Chair about loneliness and how to tackle it. He attended a virtual conference which had some good ideas. There is lots going on in Maghull; work is needed to map services to identify gaps. A second wave of Covid over Autumn/Winter could increase isolation. Need to think how to communicate and reach out to elderly residents who are not on social media. There was a pool of volunteers (8) who provided the shopping services. The plan is to try and retain services for Maghull and increase the numbers.

Looking at options for Christmas. Will be able to provide Hampers but there is no social contact. Unlikely will be able to host a Christmas Lunch but will keep under review. Will maintain contact with vulnerable residents to identify who needs help.

Partnership arrangements to be reviewed. Will host a virtual partnership/volunteer event.

Maghull Radio exploring digital inclusion and digital champions. Maghull not a priority for digital inclusion scheme run by Sefton CVS

Key points from Cllrs:

- Link up young children and elderly residents e.g. pen pals. Evidence has shown this lifts the spirits of all involved. Could set up with schools when they return from summer holiday
- Details of people wanting to volunteer to be passed to MTC Officers to forward to Sefton CVS
- Remote buddying, good neighbour schemes
- Funding available from IT/Media companies to encourage digital inclusion and access to Social Media
- Issues about Zoom/Skype for some people e.g. those with learning disabilities, not just the elderly. The preference is for 121 contact

**RESOLVED THAT: The report be noted**

## **7. COMMUNITY YOUTH SUPPORT NETWORK**

Cllr Mullen gave an update on proposals to support families with a child living with neurodevelopmental conditions including Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD. She is in contact with ADDvanced Solutions who have been supporting families who have been under pressure due to isolation/withdrawal. Meeting space is urgently needed to engage

with those who want to meet in person. Looking at Zoom meetings for those families who are struggling. It was noted that issues include anxiety and separation.

Concerns about availability of A Level courses in local schools. Schools supporting students but more support may be needed.

In response the Community Services Manager reported that as the Town Hall was currently closed to the Public it could signpost to services and support. It was suggested that a working group be set up to look at issues and how to support children and young people

**RESOLVED THAT: The report be noted.**

## **8. CHAIRS REPORT**

The Town Clerk gave a short update on the consultation about Land East of Maghull.

- Around 4,00 individual view had been recorded
- 1,300 responses received
- 94% of respondents voted for Option 6 for a haul road route through the northern part of the site
- This was a very good response
- Social media worked
- Thank you to all Cllrs who delivered posters etc. in a short timescale
- An email would follow to all Cllrs about the latest developments with the planning application

The Chair thanked everyone for staying at/working from home to help keep everyone safe. Priorities for the Committee would be tackling social isolation of the elderly and supporting young people. Her final message was stay safe.

**RESOLVED THAT: The report be noted.**



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**CHAIRMAN**