

Minutes of Community Services Committee Held Wednesday 7th June 2023 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr R Ferguson

Councillors : Cllr L Birchall, Cllr G Birchall, Cllr P Darlington, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr D
Leatherbarrow, Cllr C Parker, Cllr C Purcell

Officers : P Dillon, D Healey, S Larking

1 Welcome

The Chair thanked members for attending the meeting and introduced officers. It was noted that this was the first business meeting since Annual Council. He asked Members to put phones on silent, to address any issues through the Chair and to be polite and courteous at all times - in particular no talking over others. He said that the purpose of the Committee was to oversee services and activities for the community e.g. Maghullfest. The Committee may want to improve and expand the offer.

2 Election of Vice Chair

It was noted that it had been decided that Vice Chairs would not be elected for Community Services and Amenities Committees. If the Chair was not available, the Committee would elect a Chair at the meeting.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr S May and Cllr P Mc Kinley.

4 Declarations of Interest

None received.

5 Public Participation.

None notified. It was noted that Members of the Public need to make a prior request to speak at meetings. However, they are welcome to attend and observe meetings.

6 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Only Cllr Ferguson in attendance from last meeting due to changes in Committee membership following local elections on 4th May 2023.

Questions about Christmas Tree, Christmas events and Cosy Club to be picked up in Agenda Item 7 (Work Programme).

Radiothon did not happen as Smith Brothers Foundation are no longer working with Maghull Radio.

RESOLVED that minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

7 Work Programme 2023/24

The Community Services Manager explained, for new members, that he provides a short summary of the key elements of the work programme. The Finance Officer was attending the first meeting in case Members had any questions about finance. Any finance issues are raised at Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP).

Cosy Club



- Sefton CVS grant awarded to Friends of Maghull and District (FOMD) to run a warm hub - Cosy Club - until end of March 2023. Community Services agreed to extend Club to end of July 2023. 40+ people attending each week. Will be closing for 2 weeks at end of June/beginning of July due to staffing issues. Will see if funding available to support the cosy club going forward
- Focus of club is about reducing isolation and improving social interaction rather than providing a warm hub
- Cold food (sandwiches) now provided
- Resource intensive for MTC staff even with a great team of volunteers
- Spoken to Sefton CVS about Community Connector taking over

Theatre in Park

- Work with Gamboling Arena Theatre Company. Performances of Frozen in Summer 2022 very popular. They presented Pat the Painting Pig on 6th April. This was an experimental show which was much less popular. Also, weather was inclement. Lesson learnt that its better to stick with performances that audience are familiar with.

Sharlands Fun Fair

- Visited in May and would like to return in September. One incident on a ride dealt with by Sharlands/ride owner. Insurance provided.

Maghull Foodbank

- Foodbank continue to be busy. They receive generous donations. £500 MTC community grant available, if required.

Maghull Community Press

- Aim is to produce 3 times a year as a way of informing residents about events/activities; mix of articles and adverts.
- Two editions so far. Delivered to households in Maghull and available online; distribution worked better for second edition with new provider
- Editorial Team of Officers and Cllrs
- Not quite self financing
- Would like to continue if the Committee agree and need nominations for the editorial team. Dr Frank Sharp (FOMD) keen to be involved, Cllr McKinley may want to be involved given role in previous editions.

Maghull Advice Centre

- Advice Centre opened in February 2023. Over 200 clients so far including some with complex benefit cases, Agencies (Big Help, Sefton CVS, Vauxhall Law Centre) collating data for a report for Full Council. Sefton CVS' Social Prescriber to start working from MAC.
- MTC and Maghull Community Enterprise (MCE) Volunteers have been instrumental in success
- Phone line due to installed on 23 June which is likely to increase demand for the service

- Planning a website to support the service
- Digital Hub to get up and running once broadband connected. Some volunteers trained to offer digital support
- Liverpool Central Credit Union looking to expand into Sefton. Linking into Hudson Children's Centre
- Looking at grant funding options to help with costs

Maghullfest23

- On KGV Park on Saturday 12th August 2023 from 11am - 4pm
- Central attraction will be a display of vintage cars
- Marquee and face painter booked
- Merseycats providing music
- Looking at options for Children's entertainment
- Schofield's Lemonade van and IBOX returning
- Community groups attending include Maghull in Bloom (MiB) and FOMD
- Volunteers from MAC and Cosy Club have offered to help
- Would welcome support from Cllrs to help with stewarding

Room Hire

- Council offers free room hire for local community groups. There is criteria and some requests are presented to Community Services Committee for consideration.

Christmas

MTC Christmas offer is:

1. Shop Window Competition
2. Hampers.
3. Christmas Tree at entrance to KGV Park

- Evolve considering reinstating Christmas Tree at Square and may look to MTC to make a contribution.
- Living tree planted on KGV Park failed. Could look at a replacement and seek advice from FOMD about an underground irrigation system

Key comments from Cllrs

- Would like to extend Cosy Club as can see benefits
- Would like to work with Foodbank to liaise with local schools. Concerns that families not receiving benefits are missing out. Noted that Foodbank have reached out to local schools and are working with Northway. Would like to promote further
- Maghull Press good for people without IT; last edition included an obituary about Dr John Rowland who had served the community for many years
- Would like to continue with Maghull Press. Editorial team to include Cllr Lock and Dr Frank Sharp (FOMD)
- Consider an online service/mail box for MAC
- Noted that a directional sign on Costa Coffee's wall would help people find the MAC as its slightly hidden to pedestrians
- Cllr G Birchall to explore if DWP Work coaches might be able to do some outreach in Maghull

- Looking at rota for Sefton Boroughs Cllrs and MTC Cllrs to host surgeries on Saturday mornings. Rota to be developed
- Common question about MAC is making toilet available to those in desperate need. Noted that it was not practical to open toilets other than for agencies and volunteers working at MAC. Would require a specific cleaning regime which was not affordable
- Noted that £800 of s106 was made available for Maghull Press. Would this be available for Edition 3. The Finance Officer reported that this was from the balance of s106 money that MTC received from Sefton. F&GP Committee consider how money is allocated and could allocate funds to Maghull Press
- Noted that MAC rent due to increase and that no current charges for phones and utilities (issues with Evolve about Utilities as not able to provide MPANs). Keen to explore contingency including free services
- Noted that Asset Maintenance expenditure included works to convert building from a toilet block to advice centre, fire alarm, soil pipe and drain repairs. Costs should reduce for 2023/24
- Noted that insurance covered within Town Hall policy for 2022/23 as only part year.
- There should be no authorised/unapproved usage of MAC. All usage to be approved by a working group to include the Leader of the Council. Noted that a meeting with MCE to be set up to discuss moving forward
- Look at affordable food options for Maghullfest as not many choices last year
- Evolve should provide Christmas tree at square
- Officers to consider options for a Christmas Tree for KGV Park including a tree in a pot

RESOLVED that

- 1. Work Programme agreed**
- 2. Cosy Club to continue**
- 3. Work with Maghull Foodbank to promote service to schools**
- 4. Maghull Press to continue and Leader of Council to confirm editorial board**
- 5. Rota to be agreed for use of MAC**
- 6. Requests for usage of MAC to be agreed by Leader of Council**
- 7. The report be noted**

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Maghull Youth Activity Network

The Community Services Manager introduced the report on Maghull Youth Activity Network (MYAN) which had been developed and prepared by Cllr Darlington.

- MYAN endorsed by previous Council
- Budget of up to £8,000 approved for youth activities
- Discussions with organisations across Town to provide activities for young people.
- Support from Paradigm Martial Arts, Hamilton Dance, Maghull Ladies Football Team and Maghull Tennis Club
- Proposing one event each Wednesday over the summer holidays. Two sessions per day : 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm. Could build on this going forward
- Events in Activity Room at Town Hall as its free to use and close to KGV Park
- MTC insurance covers events; organisations will do risk assessments
- Will need copies of management documents/ insurance etc from organisations
- Most organisations are providing services for free. Need guidance about paying organisations

Cllr Darlington made the following key points:

- Working on proposals for a year; ambitious; would like a permanent youth club embracing education, careers and well being and mental health
- Received feedback via Facebook, email and phone. Contacted Schools; Maghull High responded - met Student Council; spoken to Scout groups
- Support from an ex teacher (Nicola Heldt) who offers yoga, dance, drama and art and is exploring the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. Nicola charges £70 an hour, £280 for 1 day
- Ste Nicholls who runs a Veterans Charity also keen to be involved
- Providers have DBS clearance and insurance
- 20 per session. No charge for attendance.
- Seeking donations for equipment etc from local businesses. Will look for sponsorship/donations/funding
- Outlay for Tuck shop is £500. MTC Officers to get items from Costco. Profits to be invested back into youth budget

Cllr Leatherbarrow suggested a local Astronomy group may be able to help and provide equipment. He will provide contact details.

proposed activities for Summer 2023:

- Paradigm Martial Arts x 1 day
- Football (Mixed) x 1day
- Yoga/Dance/ Art x 2 days (£560)
- Gardening TBC x 1 day
- Astronomy TBC x 1 day

It was noted that Maghull Tennis Club raised issues about the upkeep of courts. In response the Finance Officer reported that MTC had paid for the courts to be sprayed. However, there is an ongoing issue with moss on the courts due to sap from the trees. Once new lease with Tennis Club agreed they will be responsible for maintenance of the courts.


Note Cllr Hughes left the meeting at 7.20pm

Key points from Cllrs:

- Really good idea
- Interested in offering Duke of Edinburgh
- Recognise that sponsorship an issue. May be opportunities through an enterprise networking group in Liverpool to provide support
- Crowd funding an option and approaching charitable foundations
- Cllrs Parker and Leatherbarrow to offer support on Safeguarding, if needed
- Cllr Purcell to act as a contact with the local Autism Hub and can help signpost
- Funding agreed up to £520.00 for Nicola Heldt. Note: a new supplier form will be required

RESOLVED that:

1. MYAN plans for summer 2023 agreed including funding up to £520.00 for Nicola Heldt



2. Cllrs Parker and Leatherbarrow to offer support on Safeguarding

3. The report be noted

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Heritage Trail

Members considered the proposal to revisit a heritage trail in Maghull. Earlier work to link blue plaques, green spaces and parks did not progress as National Lottery funding was withdrawn due to Covid. Planned to work with schools to encourage engagement in parks rather than ASB. Heritage Lottery funding now available; themes include digital heritage, protecting the environment and preservation of heritage (e.g. pond and grotto at Poppy Fields). Propose a working group to reach out to schools.

Noted that as end of term approaching for GCSE and A Level students the Community Services Manager has written to schools asking for assistance to reduce ASB/litter/Vandalism. Maghull High proactive. No response from Maricourt. Council to consider distraction activities in future

The Chair reported that the Leader, Deputy Leader and Chair of Community Services Committee would contact Merseyrail to explore installation of panels by statue at Maghull North station.

Key points from Cllrs

- Happy to help. Yr 7s learn about local history could use this to build digital
- Consider an art trail in shop windows linked to local parks
- Treasure Trail for younger children

RESOLVED that the report be noted

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Chair's Report

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and their contributions to the meeting.

CHAIR