

Agenda item: SC 112/20

**WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Services & Communities Committee**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To update the committee on actions relating to fly-tipping within the parish.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the committee notes the updated information.**

**MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

At the previous Services Committee meeting, information was requested regarding the levels of reporting around fly-tipping, alongside the responses from the enforcement officers.

During September, the figures were:

- Total number of reports	110
No of these for Dumped Rubbish	90
No of Sept reports completed	81*
Of which Dumped Rubbish	69*
- Number of completion reports	37**
No for Dumped Rubbish	28**

\* As at 9th October

\*\*Received during Sept but not necessarily relating to reports put in during September.

There were additional reports submitted / received and addressed relating to hazardous waste, environmental crimes, abandoned vehicles, street lighting, etc.

These figures are felt to be reflective of an average month, which suggests upwards of 25 per week / 5 per day (around 1200 per year).

We have yet to receive clarity from MKC with regard to any enforcement action that has been taken within the parish – the committee will be updated as and when this is known.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None at this time.

**STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:**

These figures come from the two officers, one with a remit that covers this more than the other, but reflects the demands on this team.

**OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

This level of reporting and managing fly-tipping and related issues shows the value of having the environment team, whilst also showing that encouraging more reporting from residents is an essential part of this role.

It also shows the need for a clearer, more comprehensive reporting 'log' that is shared across the organisation – this is something that is being addressed through the work being undertaken around a database for all services, which will enable all parties to contribute to the reporting. We know that there are times when officers who are NOT part of the environment team report or take actions and these are sometimes missed from the reporting process.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None.

**AUTHOR**

Steve McNay – Council Manager

**Agenda item: SC 114/20**

**WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Services & Communities Committee**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To update the committee on activities for the Autumn / Winter period.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. That the committee notes the report.**
- 2. That the committee considers the role that members may take with activities.**
- 3. That the committee receives updates after activities take place, alongside updates as / when things change.**

**MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

Following the successful summer, despite the challenges that Covid-19 provided, we have now developed a programme for Autumn / Winter, with proviso that these activities may be impacted by any change to the restrictions or safety measures in place due to the pandemic.

*Community Fridge:*

The Community Fridge will continue to be delivered. Opening hours and changes to the way things work have brought considerable benefits and we have seen an increase in the amount of food that is being processed by the fridge – up to a tonne per week at times. The intention is that this will continue to be open throughout, although changes may be needed if there is a ‘circuit break’ or similar – this would mean stopping the use of volunteers, a small team (or ‘bubble’) of staff providing the fridge service and continuation of the safety measures:

Community Fridge Covid 19 Measures:

- Longer opening hours to prevent queuing/gathering
- Fridge users not allowed inside building
- 2 metre social distancing in place via floor markings & signage
- Hand sanitizer dispensers accessible to fridge users and volunteers/staff
- Disposable and reusable masks available to fridge users
- Disposable and reusable masks, face shields and disposable gloves available to volunteers/staff
- Volunteers/staff do all food handling, weighing and bagging
- QR code poster in place for checking in users through NHS Covid 19 app
- Contact tracing sheet in place for manually checking in users

### *Landscaping:*

Will continue as usual – there is a plan in place for covering the winter programme, focusing on individual estates, whilst also ensuring a responsive service where necessary. There are some issues with staff absences that are being managed by the HR / management function. It is unlikely that any further restrictions will be put in place that prevent the delivery of this service, but in the event that there are, we will pause delivery during this period, utilising the Landscape Team in alternative ways

### *Environment:*

There is a paper being presented at this meeting that covers the issues of fly-tipping and reporting that shows the level of work that is happening in this area. Alongside this, the Environment Officers continue to support other aspects of delivery, including some youth activities, growing and development of other spaces, the creation the community garden projects, notice boards, education and similar.

### *Advice and Wellbeing:*

The Advice Worker has started delivering face-to-face sessions on a weekly basis, where virtual support is insufficient. This will continue, making use of the Wellbeing Room to promote social distancing, etc. This has had a beneficial impact on the Advice Worker, who has been isolated from the team and the organisation during the last few months. This will continue for as long as is possible, but in the event of further restrictions will return to online only.

The Wellbeing service is the one most impacted by the current situation, with the officer needing to remain distanced and online / phone support being the only offer currently. This is having a positive outcome, with people being contacted regularly and staying involved and informed. The weekly support group is useful, and the officer continues to provide both 1:1 and group approaches, supports the advice service and plays a role in the liaison and partnership work needed.

### *Youth:*

Is continuing to work in the ways that were previously explained – reduced numbers, use of outdoor spaces where possible, online delivery where appropriate and activities provided for collection (using ‘packs’ delivered via the fridge, family centres, etc.) where possible. This includes the Autumn Activity pack this was distributed from 20<sup>th</sup> October (including Halloween activities, leaf tracing, etc.) and will be followed up with further activity packs over the coming months.

In the event of any further restrictions, the service will be reduced further and face to face sessions paused. This will happen naturally during half term, but currently planned to restart in November after that break.

### *Events:*

There are some events planned, that work within the restrictions imposed. This includes:

- Remembrance, which will provide a series of online activities and videos in the run up, a streamed programme on the day itself, including the laying of wreaths, speeches, etc. and encouragement for people within the parish to commemorate in different ways. There are ongoing discussions with RBL and CHRA around how the event itself will be managed
- Halloween will be covered by the activity packs and other events that are being planned by RA's and community groups. It is advised that these are managed in line with guidance and that any trick and treating is distanced. We will also be distributing pumpkins via the fridge and are looking to carve and place pumpkins across the parish.
- Diwali will be held in a similar way, with packs that include lantern kits and similar to promote involvement in a distanced way. A similar approach will be taken with Christmas, where we will be working with partners to provide hampers and presents for those most in need, with other activity packs for those that want them.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

All activities noted above are covered within existing budgets and no further financial resources are necessary. There will be a cost to the activity packs, covered by Youth / Community budgets, and any costs for other elements fall within staffing resource only.

### **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:**

Covered within existing staffing models. With the exception of remembrance, all within usual working hours and time off in lieu will be provided for covering the Sunday event.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

As with everything currently, the plans are based upon information available at time of writing. The situation with restrictions and possible lockdowns are unclear at this time and contingencies are in place to reduce / alter provision, should that be needed.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None.

### **AUTHOR**

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: SC 115/20

**WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Services & Communities Committee**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To inform the committee of a proposal from the Open University regarding a pilot scheme to investigate use of technology to support older people within the parish.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. That the committee note the report and attached document.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to the Council Manager and Community Team to work with this project, once the situation with safety has been resolved (likely to be 2021 onwards).**
- 3. That the project is self funding, via either support from the Open University or, through grants and other funding.**
- 4. That the Committee receives updates once the project is clearer in terms of timescales, etc.**

**MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

Early in 2020, the Council Manager started discussions with the Open University around the possibility of some joint work to support older people through use of technology. This was part of a wider piece of work through European Union funding that involves partners from across Europe and included a presentation about the council to academics from Italy, technology partners (Samsung, etc.) and some workshops that began to explore options.

Coronavirus then halted all work in this area, due to concerns around safety and especially around working with older people.

This paper is intended to provide an overview of the project in preparation for the end of the current restrictions and to be ready to recommence once able to.

The following was provided by the Open University:

**“The main objective of the Project is to bring together Woughton Community Council’s residents, local organisations, the researchers of The Open University and associated technology providers to identify social challenges concerning wellbeing and life in the community and to co-create research, innovation and solutions of tomorrow for the UK.”**

The Collaboratory will:

- foster collaboration and synergy between the OU and MK to create a direct connection between local needs and issues and the OU's impact-oriented research.
- seek opportunities to bring research-related innovation to the community
- provide opportunities for mutual training, learning and support between Woughton CC and the OU.

As you can see, this is academic language, but in essence sets the scene for the joint approach.

The overall aims of the project are to work with around 50 older people within the parish, alongside others from Simpson and Ashland, to explore use of a variety of technologies to see what works. This could include provision of 'robots' to support independence (e.g. to ensure clear paths, switch off ovens /lights etc), remote monitoring, use of transport and online communications to promote contact and social interactions and other, emerging technologies that may bring benefit.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

At this time, the financial implications are unclear, but discussions have included the proposal that WCC is paid for each person that we engage with. This is up to around £6,000 and would include both 1:1 meetings and group approaches, once this is possible.

#### **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:**

This project would be covered by existing staffing models.

#### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

This is potentially something that would link into longer term collaboration with the Open University, providing us with an academic partner. This may bring additional benefits longer term and have a good PR impact.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Collaborative Vision v3 (this may not be the final document).

#### **AUTHOR**

Steve McNay – Council Manager



# The Collaboratory Initiative

A vision for a long-term collaboration between the OU and Community Organisations

The Open University (OU) is a pillar of Milton Keynes (MK). The OU Campus was one of the first areas to be developed, and also one of the first communities in MK. As the “University of the Air”, the OU’s focus is naturally at national and international scale. On the other hand, the OU had been engaged in multiple initiatives involving local communities as well infrastructure development and strategic planning with MK.

Against this background, the Collaboratory Initiative aims to increase the role and impact of the OU in Milton Keynes’ local communities, through a long-term collaboration with local organisations, initially with a focus on local Parish/Community Councils. The overall goal of the Collaboratory is to foster collaboration and synergy between the OU and MK to create a direct connection between local needs and issues and the OU’s impact-oriented research.

The Collaboratory framework has three main targets:

- Support people-centred research connecting research initiatives with communities
- Transform research into joint research-community opportunities for interventions
- Support innovation that achieves positive impact on local communities.

The Collaboratory is an open-ended voluntary collaboration agreement based on shared principles and a collaboration protocol. Thus, we will invite all local organisations and research groups to join the framework at any time.

The OU will take responsibility for organising periodical networking events between researchers and community partners and manage a common mailing list and website. All partners take responsibility to promote the Collaboratory and its initiatives.



## Collaboration Principles

The collaboration is:

1. voluntary and open-ended. Each partner can end the collaboration unilaterally and without justification
2. people oriented. Each partner has the responsibility to act in the best interest of the people involved in the joint initiatives, which involve risk and safety assessment of events and ethical assessment of the research initiatives
3. proactive. Each partner has the responsibility to engage with the other, fostering the definition of new initiatives and addressing emerging issues
4. based on information sharing. Each partner takes responsibility for making timely communications concerning opportunities and relevant initiatives
5. based on mutual support.

## Collaboration Responsibilities

The research partner (OU) shall:

- Coordinate the creation of a common agenda of research initiatives
- Periodically engage with local partners to define a vision and strategy to inform the creation of a research agenda
- Facilitate the connection between local communities and a range of research groups for the purpose of bidding for funding.

The community partners shall:

- Support the organisation, communication and recruitment of participants for joint research initiatives that may arise.

## Joining the Collaboratory

Researchers shall join the OU Collaboratory network and attend an induction about the collaboration framework, principles, partners and planned initiatives. Each researcher takes the responsibility to coordinate the network, providing all necessary information about their initiatives (see Annex 1 – Initiative Brief).

Community partners shall 1) sign the collaboration agreement with the OU (see Annex 2 – Template of the long-term collaboration agreement), and 2) attend an induction about the Collaboratory framework, principles, partners and planned initiatives.

**Agenda item: SC 116/20**

**WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Services & Communities Committee**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

To inform the committee of a proposal for a new project, 'Keeping Woughton Warm' and to gather views / agreement to proceed.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. That the committee notes the report and proposal.**
- 2. That the committee agrees to delegate progression of the project to Community Team to develop and deliver.**
- 3. That there is a small budget (£500) allocated to this project in case of need.**
- 4. That updates are provided to the committee when project is finalised and when completed.**

**MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:**

Following a discussion with Louise Nash on Beanhill, a proposal for an initiative that tries to ensure that people across the parish are supported to stay warm this winter has been made.

We know that the past few months has been tough on people and, with a potential 'second wave' coming, with the possible restrictions this enforces, the colder weather will bring more challenges. People should not be in the position where they are cold or have to choose between staying warm or eating. For those most in need, a helping hand may be all that is needed.

We know our communities look after each other and this project aims to help.

**Initial idea**

- Provision of warm clothes (costs, gloves, hats, etc.) for people who would benefit. This can include donations from companies, but also by using items that people no longer use. These can then be shared with people who WILL use them, reducing waste and providing help.
- Advice regarding ways to reduce heat loss within homes in the parish. There are several housing designs within Woughton that, with some reasonably small additions, can be massively improved in terms of keeping heat within the property. This might include putting additional film on windows, blocking holes / gaps, provision of draught excluders (with the potential for local crafters to create some of these) and similar.
- Recipe cards for warming meals, using regular supplies via the Community Fridge. This might include soups and stews, 'one-pot' options that can be

placed in the oven / on a hob and so on. This could be backed up with some online videos to show how to prepare these.

- Other ideas included provision of hot water bottles (could we get some donated?) and energy efficiency measures, such as the window film / foam for window frames / etc. (again, donations from DIY stores, with help to fit where necessary?).

Potential for this scheme to be taken to different estates, using the trailer, but also using the Help the Homeless shop, community centres, family centres, etc.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Unlikely to be any significant impact on budgets, as the project will use donations, information sheets and similar, which can be provided using existing resources. A small budget of £500 is advised to cover any unforeseen circumstances and to ensure that any small financial issues are addressed.

### **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:**

This will be led by the Community Team, managed by Sean Perry and supported with volunteers, Help the Homeless, etc. This will fit within the existing staffing model and will not require any further staffing resource.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

This project is, at the current time, in proposal form. There will be a need to investigate a plan further, with a formal project plan provided.

This project, if agreed and formally worked through, will help address some of the issues around fuel poverty and, it is hoped, reduce the impact of winter on some of our more vulnerable residents.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None.

### **AUTHOR**

Steve McNay – Council Manager