

Minutes

Hythe Town Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Engagement Working Group, held on Monday 10 October 2022 at 1530HRS, Oaklands, Stade Street.

In attendance: Councillors P Graham and J Martin

Ms C Porter

Also in attendance: Plans and Facilities Officer.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors A Dickinson, J Hawkins, M Whybrow and, Ms S Chesters

2. Minutes

That the Minutes of the Community Engagement Working Group meeting held on Tuesday 30 August 2022 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

3. Events 2022 and Craft Fairs

It was noted that the working group did not have any additional events to be added for 2022.

World Kindness Day on Saturday 12 November 2022- Councillor P Graham and Ms C Porter would be responsible for this event. The Undercroft of the Town Hall has been booked and the event will run from 1100hrs -1400hrs. The caretaker will open the Town Hall at 1030hrs and lock up at 1400hrs. The screens and the tables will be required for the Undercroft.

Councillor P Graham agreed to write a blurb and circulate it to the schools to see if they wished to be involved. Ms C Porter noted that Seabrook School has achieved their Kindness Award. It was noted that maybe the school would like to show how they have achieved the award. It was suggested that maybe the schools would like to paint pebbles for people to take and place for people to find. Kind hands would be made available for members of the public to write a kind pledge on. Ms C Porter agreed to ask AGE UK for the books marks that were given out last year at this event.

The Plans and Facilities Officer was asked to clarify who is responsible for inviting the community groups to this event.

Craft Fair on Saturday 26 November 2022 -The Town Crier will be contacted to see if he would walk up the High Street in uniform to advertise the fair.

Ms C Porter would have a community table outside to show people eco-friendly wrapping and eco-friendly decorations. Three community tables would need to be invited for the Craft Fair.

It was noted that Councillor P Graham would not be in attendance at the Craft Fair however, Councillor J Hawkins and M Whybrow had previously agreed to attend.

4. The Great Big Green Week – 24 September 2022 – 02 October 2022

Feedback for the Eco-Fayre held on Saturday 24 September 2022 was provided. Councillor J Martin said the event was successful, with great information, stalls, and music. The event took a lot of hours to organise over a short period of time. Councillor J Martin said 'Well done and thank you to the Plans and Facilities Officer for her hard work.'

The working group discussed holding the event again next year, the following was noted:

- Longer lead times to organise and invite traders and information stalls.
- To apply for funding for the event, which tied us to the Government set days for the 'Great Big Green Week.' It may be possible to have the eco-fayre as an HTC initiative to move the date, but we could not apply for the funding.
- A more central location for the event, to consider the High Street or Oaklands.

5. Christmas 2022

Councillor J Martin informed the working group of the Mayor's lunch on Thursday, this is being used to discuss Christmas. This lunch is intended to bring different organisation together and discuss different community events and ideas. It was noted that HBTA will not be hosting late night shopping in 2022 and there will be no donation towards the Christmas lights. It was noted that the Churches are doing a combined toy appeal this year for Christmas presents. All the churches will be working together on this initiative.

It was noted that the working group will support Christmas 2022 where they can.

No further action needs to be taken by the working group at the moment.

6. Co-opting members to the Community Engagement Working Group

It was discussed that different member of the community should be invited to join the working group. This would allow the working group to work alongside the community with their initiatives.

The following community groups would be invited as a starting point:

- Rotary – John Wren
- The Churches –
- 101 – Laura Taylor

- Hythe Civic Society – Sally Chesters (Sally Chesters was invited to attend a previous working group).

These members will be invited to attend the next meeting of the working group.

The possibility of holding the meeting in 101 was discussed.

7. Delivery of Community Newsletter

The delivery of the Community Newsletter was discussed. Councillor P Graham proposed the idea of the Ward Councillors to gather volunteers to deliver a newsletter to each house by foot.

The cost of the printing needs to be covered, and this needs to be taken to Finance and General Purposes Committee for them to confirm the budget and spending.

The possibility of meals on wheels delivering the newsletter was discussed.

The cost of printing needs to be established before volunteers are asked to consider delivering.

8. Community Fridge

Hythe Pantry already offer a service like this. Hythe Pantry is working well, and the community engagement group will support this.

Councillor J Martin made a personal donation of £1,000.00 to Hythe Pantry to support the hard work and the service they offer.

The Pantry will be asked if they would like rails to hold a clothing swish for those needing clothing. A rail for school uniform could be provided for those to add items of uniform that no longer fit or are needed.

The Salvation Army offer the Food Bank service on a Wednesday morning.

No further action needs to be taken by the working group at the moment.

9. Eco Conference for Schools

It was noted by the working group that the schools are difficult to reach and there is not much progress with communication.

Ms C Porter noted that Seabrook School has achieved the Green Flag Award.

Ms C Porter and Councillor P Graham will discuss this further and feedback to working group.

10. Red Lion Square Phone Box

It was fed back to the working group that the Plans and Facilities Officer asked Councillor A Dickinson for her ideas for the use of the Phone Box. However, no response was received.

The committee noted that the phone box has recently been painted.

Attached to the agenda was a several ideas for new uses of the phone box, the working group selected the following idea to take for public consultation:

- Defibrillator
- Community Library

The option for residents to suggest other ideas should be included.

The consultation will take place on the website and social media, this would allow residents to express their opinions and choose what they would like to see the phone box used for.

The working group will need to consult with the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the cost of the defibrillator and the cabinet.

This will be presented to the F&GP committee after the results of the consultation.

11. Does Hythe's Heritage Matter / Conservations Area Workshops

It was noted that Hythe Civic Society will put together a formal proposal for a workshop on Hythe Heritage/ The Conservation Area and it will be available for consideration in the new year.

No further action is to be taken until the formal proposal is received from Hythe Civic Society.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 10 October 2022

Meeting Finished at 1655hrs.

Items for discussion at the next meeting:

1. Craft Fairs
2. Red Lion Phone Box Results
3. The Great Big Green Week
4. Delivery of Community Newsletter
5. Eco-Conference for Schools
6. Hythe's Heritage Matter / Conservation Area Workshops (New Year)

7. Christmas

Actions:

1. Allow for longer lead times on organising the events, as preparation takes longer.
2. To produce a blurb and contact the schools and community groups to participate in World Kindness Day on Saturday 12 November, Councillor P Graham.
3. To contact the Town Crier for the Craft Fair on Saturday 26 November 2022.
4. To contact the Community Tables for the Craft Fair on Saturday 26 November 2022.
5. To invite the suggested members to the next Community Engagement Meeting.
6. To conduct the Red Lion phone box consultation.
7. To find the cost of the printing for the newsletters for each home in Hythe.
8. To discuss the Eco-Conference for schools further between Councillor P Graham and Ms C Porter.