

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 29 January 2024

Title: Community Engagement Report

Contact Officer: Communications & Community Engagement Officer

Background

This report is intended to inform Members of any community initiatives which the Council may wish to support.

Current Situation

Satisfaction Survey

The Annual Residents' Survey will go out in our newsletter as reported in the Communications report (last years is attached as **Appendix 1**). It has no particular focus this year but will ask for feedback on all town council services. Changes based on feedback from last year's survey results are reflected in the layout, the way in which some of the data is gathered and the explanatory notes that accompany the questions.

The survey is a key community engagement platform which enables the Council to understand and inform future decisions on services and what residents may or may not be satisfied with. As it is delivered to all households it also effectively reaches all residents while also being available online. The Council still intends to apply for National Association of Local Council's (accreditation) and engagement is one of the key criteria for award.

Witney Town Council presence at Witney Carnival.

Along with Schools in Bloom judging and a side activity (last year it was rock painting) there is an opportunity here for the Town Council to take part in the parade. The Council has a flatbed truck, but if insurances and resources (a driver) do not allow for this being an easy option, the Council could enter as one of the many walking groups as it is free to enter. The theme this year is Children's TV programmes, and a member has suggested Trumpton and Camberwick Green as being perfect representations of a Town and its residents! It would tie in perfectly with the Council's 50th Anniversary. **Appendix 2** is the application form to take part in the parade.

The Carnival is also the perfect opportunity for a Councillors in the Café engagement activity with a change of scene and quite possibly a very different audience. Council might have to hire a second stall in order to make space for this and this could have information about all of our services displayed there.

Verbal Updates

The Committee will also receive a verbal update from the D-Day 80th Anniversary task and finish group, notes from the most recent Youth Council task and finish group meeting and 50th Anniversary.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates. Benefits provided by the above items are:

- Further opportunities to engage with a greater cross section of Witney's demographic.

Financial implication

The Council has a free stall at the Carnival each year for Schools in Bloom judging because the Council gives a grant to the carnival, however if it requires a second stand or wish to take part in the parade there may be associated costs for this.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. The content of the annual satisfaction survey
2. That the Council registers to take part in the Carnival Parade
3. That members decide on the TV programme the Council will represent
4. That members wish to have a space where they can talk to Carnival visitors about Council Business
5. The verbal update regarding the 50th Anniversary of Witney Town Council