

STONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: 16th November 2020
Title: Events Report
Contact Officer: Communications & Events Officer - Polly Inness

Background

The purpose of this report is to update councillors with the latest information about recent events and those planned for the next few months.

Current Situation

The **Civic Reception** Our only outstanding event –has now been postponed indefinitely. We are still looking at alternative ways to cover future events.

Remembrance

This was very different this year but has proved to be successful and we received no negative feedback when the video was released. We now have a YouTube channel as a result of uploading the video so that's an additional bonus to have come from it. Separately, across the town, it is pleasing to see that groups such as the Scouts and the Witney Vikings football club have marked it in their own ways.

Christmas

The **Christmas card competition**, best **Christmas house** decorations and the invitation for all to **switch on** their lights at 6pm on Friday 27 November have all been launched.

Online Advent Calendar

Officers were asked to consider other ways in which Christmas could be marked that would draw the community together and boost morale over the Christmas period.

An online Advent calendar is proposed. A new upload would happen each day across our social media platforms and where practical, copies placed on the noticeboard, so that most can be included in this.

The contents of each window can contain an activity, a story or poem, a recipe or Christmas Tradition explained etc. With the addition of our Yule Tube channel it is possible to go all out and actually

demonstrate how to make or cook something or dress up and tell a story or recite a poem a la jackanory.

There are 17 councillors so it is suggested that each councillor prepares one thing for a window and submits them in good time (we will assign you a date) so that they can be uploaded on a date between 1 and 24 December. The other 7 days will be covered by staff.

A few ideas

Encourage people to make and safely deliver a postcard to someone in their street – just to say hello

Tell some awful cracker jokes

Got a foolproof recipe? Maybe a no bake activity so that inexperienced or people with limited facilities can make it – a fridge cake for example

Demonstrate salt dough decorations

Teach people a simple card game

Explain a Christmas or Yuletide tradition, or something different about celebrations elsewhere – Befana in Italy, The Krampus in Germany and Austria etc.

A favourite family traditional game or activity

Covid-19 heroes Launch

Everything is ready to go on this and councillors are asked to consider an appropriate launch date.

ECO Green popup Event

This is an event planned for next year, proposed by our compliance officer, and is currently planned to be a standalone, unmanned, event consisting of exhibitions, activities and stands. The Youth Council has been invited to set up a display or activity. Looking at all things green from burial choices to greener energy and food option, gardening, food waste etc. More details will follow as plans progress. Could coincide with Recycle week.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind 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.

Financial implications

If the Eco event is given the go ahead – a small budget should be set for that. The intention is to invite green suppliers and provide some giveaways if we can.

Recommendations

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

- Do Councillors want to run an online advent calendar?
- Consider the possibility of hosting an Eco green popup event
- Launch date for the Covid-19 heroes.