

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 20 September 2021

Title: Community Engagement 2022

Contact Officer: Communications & Community Engagement Officer - Polly Inness

Background

Along with the regular calendar of events, looking ahead to 2022 there are several events that sit well with what Witney Town Council already does or aspires to.

Current Situation

While some of these will not require a budget as they will be low key social media messaging events others should be considered for Budget setting in November:

8 Mar 2022 – International Women’s Day – will discover theme when announced. No Cost
Social media campaign

18 April 2022 -World Heritage Day – perhaps our Museum rep would like to approach the Witney Museum to see if they would like to use the Corn Exchange for a display of some kind.
Cost – subsidised hall hire

May 2-8, 2022- Screen Free Week Highlighting green spaces and sports facilities – encouraging time away from the screen- no cost –a Social Media Campaign promotion.

May 7, 2022 – Fairtrade Day- perhaps the Town Council’s fair-Trade representative could offer use of Corn Exchange for them to stage an event - Cost subsidised hall hire

May 16-22, 2022, Dementia Awareness Week- The Council has been approached about supporting this as it has done in the past. They want to move away from the Turn Witney Blue Day and look at other activities. They may want to repeat some Dementia Friends training and Dementia Friends Champions training. Dementia Friends Champions are trained volunteers who encourage others to learn a little bit about dementia. Champions run Information Sessions in their community and inspire others to help those living with dementia live well.

There are also plans for an Older People’s day on dementia awareness day next year, in the Corn Exchange with stalls and entertainment.

There is a possibility the Town Council could invite them to garden with clients as part of In Bloom, in a safe space (if In Bloom continues). Budget for Dementia Awareness is usually £1000

May 20, 2022 – World bee day and May 22, 2022 – Biodiversity Day

These two are a good fit together with No Mow May and perhaps an element of In Bloom. The Council could put up some bee/insect boxes in places such as Tiny Forest, Cemeteries and Allotments. Cost – small budget -to cover cost of insect houses.

5 June 2022 World Environment Day – Cost to be considered according to event

24 June 2022– World Refill Day – The Maintenance & Environmental Services Officer aspires for a bottle refilling station on The Leys that would fit perfectly with this. Cost would be the cost of a bottle refill station £500-£3000 plus installation and any ongoing costs such as a water bill.

19 November 2022 -International Men’s Day -addresses the high suicide rate among men, underperformance of boys in schools and men’s poor mental health. Theme will be announced. No Cost Social Media campaign

26 November 2022 - Indoor (Corn Exchange) Christmas Community Market- For local existing charities and community organisations – a tabletop sale for them to use as a fundraiser. Will also benefit the coffee shop in 1863. Cost – covering the hall hire.

Environmental impact

There is no significant environmental impact, other than a positive one with the Biodiversity day and Bee day activities

Risk

There is no significant risk to the Council

Financial implications

As stated above.

Members are asked to consider these events (along with any others) so that a budget and work programme can be developed by the Communications & Community Engagement Officer.

Recommendations

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

1. Setting a Community Engagement budget for 2022/23 for agreed events and any others suggested by members at the next meeting of this committee.