

STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 15 November 2021

Title: Communications & Community Engagement Report

Contact Officer: Communications & Community Engagement Officer - Polly Inness

Background

The Communications and Community Engagement Officer has been looking at simple ways of supporting Councillors and Community groups as an additional way to exchange news and gather feedback.

Current Situation

With the proliferation of yet more coffee outlets these ideas have the potential to boost sales at 1863 and offer a USP for the Corn Exchange experience.

Crafty Coffee Morning

Invite people who enjoy crafting in, once a month to get together over a coffee and show off what they are working on. The poppy making frenzy in 2018 occasionally offered refreshments in the foyer of the Corn Exchange and this was really popular for a group of like-minded individuals. A corner of the coffee bar could be given over to this use, depending on how big the group gets.

Councillor Coffee Mornings

The timing of the suggestion is not intended to be insensitive, given recent events. This item had been discussed a few months ago and was always going to come up for consideration. Again, this could run as regularly as required – once a quarter or once a month being adequate. Councillors could arrange to attend in pairs or threes so that they are not using all the tables in the foyer. This would only be able to run on days when 1863 is open for business which currently precludes weekends, and is therefore, unfortunately, not practical for all councillors, but a useful asset for those that could avail themselves of it.

Promotion of the Coffee Mornings

This could be via small flyers or cards with a list of the event dates on the tables in 1863, that are reused as often as possible to save paper. The events could also be advertised on Social Media and our noticeboards.

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.

Paper flyers would be small but not laminated so that although they have a finite life they will not be taking years to break down as single use plastic.

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

There are no cost implications to running a coffee morning on days when the café is already operating, providing it does not become so popular and crowded as to be turning other regular business away.

Recommendations

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

1. Approval to run community coffee mornings and in particular the Crafting Coffee morning in 1863.
2. Whether members would like the option of hosting Councillor coffee mornings in 1863