

Mayors Report No 2 (16/07/2020)

1. Although I have now ceased my role of Coordinator with BECS, I have still been involved in the steering group as BECS begins to transition to the Good Neighbour's Scheme (GNS). This naturally involves more zoom meetings as we move forward with working with the Halesworth Volunteer Centre (HVS) and appointing a paid part-time coordinator. HVC will manage this process for the first six months as they already have the experience of running their own scheme. The GNS is even more important as we come through the current crises to help those who may have isolation or mental health issues. A number of volunteers have come forward to offer their services, and we will be assessing their needs for support and training.
2. I am still very involved with our Youth Project and working with ACT who are now able to move forward. To be clear, the target for the youth workers is to engage with those aged between 14 – 20-year olds, in fact those who appear to be the culprits regarding ASB.
3. I am still trying to put pressure on the police to maintain a better presence in the town. The success of this can be at best described as 'variable'. However, we are maintaining lines of communication, and Peter Aldous MP, has high level meetings planned to try to assist in our endeavors.
4. The NDP is still part of my life and we're hoping to see this draw nearer to the winning post as the year progresses. I am pleased to say that I have won a further grant from Locality and Groundworks for £5,450, which should be sufficient to take us through to the referendum.
5. Naturally, I must mention the 'assets' that are still coming our way, but slightly slower than we had hoped for, but John in particular has been doing a sterling job chasing both sets of solicitors. As one expects this exciting project still occupies a great deal of my mind. We have been trying to arrange a meeting between BTC and the Museum to discuss their future and how we can assist them when we have major works going on at the Town Hall. However, the Museum has decided that they will not meet until after their AGM which should have been in April, but now likely to be at the end of July.
6. The Bungay Community Green Space Project (Top Field) is reaching the stage when we are hoping for a decision in Sept, but there is still work to be done to ensure a successful bid. Once we know that this land is ours, we can immediately involve the rest of the community in its design, usage and development.
7. The Skate-park's 'temporary' repairs are now complete and open, although the official opening is on Sat 18th July, which is also the launch of the fundraising campaign to have a state-of-the-art park that will be the envy of other towns to be used by people of all ages and will draw the Skate-park tourists into the town. I hope other Councillors will come to the opening.
8. The Community Partnership grant application have been moving along slowly, and whilst we have already been awarded £3,250 for the Old Cemetery quiet space project, the money has yet

to arrive. We are currently bidding for our share of a £25,000 grant for other community projects. The grant ear-marked for summer activities, will be rolled over to next year.

9. A further zoom meeting was held between the County Council/District Councillors and John and myself. This was an initiative which began last year and is seen as a useful catch-up so we continue to get the support at County and District levels.

10. VJ Day (15th August) - Due to the nature of the commemoration, activities will be less celebratory and more reflective with no parades, church services etc. We have been very fortunate in that Bierton and Woods have kindly agreed to supply a newly engraved plaque, free of charge, to be positioned under the current plaque at the War Memorial! The ceremony will therefore be focused around the unveiling of the plaque (by the families of veterans from the conflict in the Far East) a few words by me, The Last Post etc. so a small group will gather around the War Memorial at approximately 10.45am to facilitate this.
It would be most appreciated if Councillors could attend and share this moment. The gathering will probably be small but including Peter Aldous and Joanna Spicer and social distancing measures will most likely still be in place so there might be the necessity to gather in St. Mary's Churchyard.

Bob Prior