PROJECTS UPDATE - DECEMBER 2023

ADULT EDUCATION

The Service Level Agreement has now been agreed with Councillors and signed off by both parties.

The S106 paperwork has been completed and funds have been received from TMBC for both the Kent Adult Education and extra courses elements.

There has been another 'Cooking on a Budget' course which has been fully taken up again with 7 participants.

The weight management app started on 7/11 and has around 18 people attending weekly.

Also, there is a 'Craft and Stitch' course starting on 15/1/24 which has around 9 people booked on so far. There will then be a 3-week course starting on 22/1/24. This can continue depending on need.

Line Dancing has started (arranged by Cllr Yard). It is proving a great exercise class with 18-22 people attending weekly in the Village Hall. This is initially a funded 5-week course, which will be reviewed in January. The tutor is also running a separate course in the Community Centre which has around 30 people attending. However, this is not being funded by the S106, but we could look at supporting it in the New Year so that both groups are the same.

Final arrangements have been made for the Launch Celebration. This will be on Saturday 9th December from 10 -12. Kent Adult Ed have arranged for various tutors to do tasters and explain what is possible for next year to gauge interest and plan courses for next year. It would be great if Councillors could pop along to introduce themselves.

Minibus

The minibus has been delivered and is currently being kept at the Compaid site. This is due to the difficulty in getting insurance. It is currently under their insurance and permits. I contacted many companies who would not insure both WPC and Compaid drivers together, including Lion Insurance and Zurich. The only one that has responded has been a specialise broker who was recommended by Sheppey Wheels (who run a similar project). This has come back at £2269 which is £369 over budget. However, it does cover all our needs, so I would recommend proceeding with this.

RESOLUTION: to accept quote from Sharrock Insurance

We have now started to accept memberships and currently have 28 signed up, with 11 from Burham and 17 from Wouldham. Membership letters have been sent so that they can book from 4th December.

The first 'Shopper' trip will start on 11th December. However, general trips are delayed as the Section 19 Licence has not been received and the insurance not resolved.

I have completed (and passed) my Midas training and we have one other volunteer due to do the training in January. We still need more volunteers!

DISCUSSION: As members are only being offered 'Shopper' trips in December, should we give 1 month's free membership as an incentive? This would mean that full memberships start in January.

Youth and Communities Worker (YCW)

TMBC Members have approved the Service Level Agreement and funds have been received. I have been in contact with the Tonbridge Youth Hub to research a job description and hope to be able to go out to advert in January. It is expected that the new worker will also drive the minibus for trips out for the whole community.