

Village Forum

Notes from the meeting on 23/10/19

Please note these are not minutes, but my recollection of things that were mentioned, drawn mainly on my notes of what I was going to say, so may not be comprehensive... SB

There were around 32 people present representing 19 Village groups. We began with introductions.

Clerk then explained a little to the PC role – staffing, desire to work for Village not just PC. PCs can use section 137 funding to give grants to local groups (not individuals). A list was available of all such for previous six years – at least five groups present had benefited from this. Need to have accounts/minutes and a specific plan to be funded – current budget is around £1,200pa. Clerk receives info on external grants – suggested groups let him know if they would like copies of this info forwarded. Several groups had used Tesco/Co-op funding – a relatively easy way of getting finance for projects.

Suggested a Village diary – all in one place, regularly updates with as much contact detail/info as possible – similar to one-liners in TORC but as rolling document will be useful for longer. Sheets available to fill in or take away. Popular idea. Will be on PC website, updated regularly. Could have a section for regular events as well as specific ones.

Other ways PC could help – printer costs very reasonable. Several groups had used. Contact details sheet (GDPR compliant) available to keep updates from PC and also to provide info to enquiries at the Office. Use PC meetings to pass on info – send to Clerk. Also Annual Parish Meeting (maybe combined with next forum) a good time to present info the Public.

PC timetable is set by rules, so always best to ask for help/advice very early on – cannot do things in much less than six weeks.

IT – groups must have email nowadays – go for generic (e.g. "snettishamclub@gmail" etc.) one not personal – allows a group to keep an address through change of personnel and easier to keep info protected. Increasingly common now that people will not contact if there is no email address.

Committees – how to involve more. Shared treasurers etc. Accounts. Difficulty of keeping up with Governance matters (H&S, safeguarding etc.). Office happy to help – spreadsheets etc.

Distinction between volunteers and committee - Vital only to ask people to do what they are happy with otherwise you may lose them. Distinguish between physical and administrative volunteers.



GDPR – importance of having a little understanding of data protection, not giving out info without permission (can supply generic form). Keep updated.

Insurance. Public liability for meetings, produce – not usually included in the general insurance for major events.

What do we need in the Village? Post Office was mentioned – unlikely to return to old system – mobile now in Mkt Sq. Public loos – could make use of current ones; maybe at Church/MH.

Meeting rooms – IT connectivity? AV equipment available at SA Hall, and FoSM have projector and screen for films which can be hired.

Next year – WWI anniversaries – Council co-ordinate, and maybe produce a leaflet summarising all the activities, but individual group(s) do separate events; put together an overall plan. Dance, concerts, fete, exhibitions mentioned. All encourage to think now and put ideas forward for inclusion in plan and diary.

Christmas events – new SVEC? Peter Everingham summarised the position regarding the Events Committee. There had been much in the way of expressions of intent to help on facebook, but this was v much to do with help on the day. There had more recently been suggestions of a new group being formed, so watch this space. Currently John Bailey and friend were planning the lights, switch on and Carols on 29/11. Most of previous SVEC had been on for up to 21 years, but no new people coming along had caused the problem. [NB apologies to Peter if my memory of everything said not accurate...]

After this there was a general discussion of how to encourage new members. Difficult with the changing lifestyles and priorities of families – youngsters needing more supervision/lifts to events etc. Parents commuting more and more having both parents working. Possibility of encouraging younger people to have more of a role in organising things that they benefit from, focussing tasks more effectively (people trying to avoid commitment that might be open-ended or out of comfort zone). How groups can work together. Remembering that how people have come to groups in the past may not be the way in 2019, and being prepared to experiment.

After this there was an opportunity for people to chat over light refreshments, which they did for around an hour.

As above these are reminiscences of many things that were discussed, as an aide-memoire of the evening. Everyone was encouraged to leave contact details and diary items – either at the time, or to send along later.

SB, Clerk, 24/10/2019

