



## **Development/Theatre Director's Report**

**November 2023**

**NB. This report has been written on 27/10 due to annual leave – any additional information will be given verbally.**

### **Artisan Market**

- Artisan Market was last Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November – update in person

### **Thursday Market**

- The Thursday Market continues to go from strength to strength, with more stalls each week. The butcher has told me that he almost can't meet demand in Rugeley and is selling out of most of his stock each week, which illustrates the need for a good local butcher. All of the stallholders are welcoming and friendly and establishing relationships with the community.
- The initial hiccups that come with a new market all seem to have been resolved, and the guys from Bescot are on site each week with a dedicated manager on Thursdays looking after Rugeley.
- We have had clarification from CCDC that they do not offer any dispensation to the traders in Cannock for Car Parking, however, there is car parking in Bees Lane which was utilised by the old market traders, which is still available on a first come first served basis.
- Bescot have also been able to access a toilet just off Market Square which is owned by CCDC for the traders to use and for Bescot to maintain.

### **Theatre Bookings**

\*Another comment on this - Bookings for the Rose Theatre are incredibly healthy. We are now booking well into 2025 and are considerably busier than we have been in previous years.

Our growing profile in the community is bringing more enquiries and bookings from existing and new users.

Laurie has been working incredibly hard to secure these reservations and is maximising on the space we have to offer and the staff we use to accommodate bookings to keep

overheads as low as possible. \*We are now receiving enquiries from as far away as Scotland from organisations looking for a central space to use in the UK for conferences and meetings, which is fantastic.

### **Additions to the Theatre through Grant Money**

Our Coffee Machine, Pizza Oven and Cocktail Maker purchased through the Cannock Grant have all now been delivered and training is commencing! These will be operational in time for 'silly season'!

### **Christmas Lights Event**

All elements of the Christmas Lights event are under control – but we will need as much support on the evening from councillors as possible. If councillors are pushed for time, they are most needed between 4.30pm and 7.30pm to act as marshalls for Santa and for the closing of the roads for the fireworks.

Please let the office know asap if you are able to help on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

I will give a verbal update of any additional information.

### **Town Team**

Following the discussion at the last CEC meeting where it was suggested that we ask other retailers in town, rather than councillors who already offer their support, to join a Town Team, I have invited :

Dave Allen from Brewery Street Arcade

Neil Phillips from Crumbs

Cllr Olivia Lyons – From and Town and District perspective

Peter

A representative from the local policing team

\*We are awaiting candidate suggestions from CCDC Economic Development Team

## **Pop Up Cinemas**

Pop Up Cinemas will be happening over Half Term – a verbal update will be given.

All Primary Schools have been 'flyered' to go out to all kids.

## **AOB**

Any other updates will be shared verbally.

Sam Bird

Development and Theatre Director Report

25/10/2023