



## **Clerks Report – Item 107**

### **107.1 - TLC Connectors**

A new health & wellbeing related funding stream was launched 29/04/2024 as part of the VCSE Grants (Supportive Communities and Better Health Staffordshire) scheme.

The funds are intended to help organisations to:

- a) Support, sustain and/or build on Supportive Communities outcomes (thematic)
- b) Support, sustain and/or build on Better Health Staffordshire outcomes (thematic)
- c) Initiatives which promote mental health and wellbeing through at least 2 of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- d) Building skills, knowledge, and confidence around self-help or in finding help with mental and emotional wellbeing
- e) To support costs that are associated with the above outcomes but not limited to: training, equipment, promotional activity, venue hire, staffing or volunteer expenses

Funders are looking for projects that:

- Enable mental wellbeing and the promotion of healthy lifestyles as the norm
- Prevent ill health & promote self-care to enable individuals to be independent and live in their own homes for as long as possible
- Reduce loneliness and social isolation
- Increase access to affordable healthy, nutritious food
- Increase access to opportunities for people to 'move more'
- Supporting healthy aging

This programme is for over 18's and families with funding from £3,000 to £50,000. We have missed the first round which means any applications need to go into the second and final round by 02/09/2024 where the remaining money must be used up.

### **CLRs to discuss with public any ideas and get back to Mel**

### **107.2 - CCDC Funding**

In regard to the Pizza Oven and Cocktail Machine assets, Cannock District Council has agreed for the pizza oven, cocktail machine and other sundry items that were brought with them to be donated the Café Hub at Victory Church. Victory Church supports many families and also trains volunteer to help improve their CV to ultimately secure permanent paid employment. I hoping to sort this transfer of assets asap, unfortunately they are behind a locked door we currently can't open. Cllr Miller is supporting us to get the door open.

The current years funding of £32,436.29 needs to be planned out and by Friday 14 June 2024 we need to submit at least part of the plan to CCDC. Therefore, I need support and would like councillors to take on portfolios so we can budget the different ideas. See attached documentation for reference.

We need to hold an extraordinary meeting to appoint Town Clerk after interviews on 6<sup>th</sup> June, so we can also at this meeting decide what is going to be put forward to CCDC.

### **Councillors to decide who is going to head portfolio/ get quotes for the following projections:**

- a) **Bike storage**

- b) **Band stand**
- c) **Community hub at offices**
- d) **Hydro tunnels/ Hagley caves – will need to lease with District Cllr Lyons on the legal aspects**
- e) **Saturday market**

### **CLRs to decide a date for Extraordinary Full Council**

#### **107.3 - Mindfulness Garden**

Member of public has brought to my attention the upkeep of Mindfulness Garden, I don't know of any maintenance plan or gardening group that are dealing with it.

#### **CLRs to decide:**

- a) **To form a gardening group organised by a councillor**
- b) **To contract a gardener on the upkeep**
- c) **Put it out to public if they want to make a group and be supplied PPE from council**

#### **107.4 - Artisan Market**

As you will be aware Artisan market for June has been cancelled due to no traders licence being obtained. Bescot have also asked for the Artisan Market to be moved to 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. After asking the following questions:

1. What are the benefits we can 'sell' to the residents of Rugeley for moving market from beginning to end of month or is it just allow stallholders to attend other (more lucrative) markets?
2. Wouldn't markets immediately following "pay day" would be more successful than ones towards the end of month?
3. Will the number/quality of stalls increase/decrease?

The following was received:

We are proposing to move the market to the 4th Saturday, which conveniently aligns with the end-of-the-month Friday payday for most months. This strategic move aims to attract more traders, as we have already consulted with potential traders who are currently committed to other markets on the 1st Saturday of the month. Also, with Hednesford market transitioning to the 1st Saturday, this shift has introduced more competition that we aim to circumvent by moving our market to the 4th Saturday.

Our primary motivation for considering this change is to enhance the market's appeal and increase the number of stalls. As the current setup is not attracting enough traders, we believe that a move to the end of the month may provide the necessary boost needed. Additionally, we are willing to provide the necessary equipment such as gazebos and tables, as we do for other councils, if you would prefer to retake control of the artisan market.

Since this, I have met up with Bescot and found the following:

- a) Thursday market is run by Bescot but through Cannock District Council. Their contract and traders licence is with CCDC.
- b) We have no contract with Bescot for Artisan Market, we are still in the trial basis period.
- c) If we keep to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, then Bescot will likely drop the market as it makes them a loss and they already have a profitable market on this weekend

**Cllrs to decide one from each section:**

- a) **To move to 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month**
- b) **To keep to 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month**

**107.5 - Internal Audit and AGAR**

Please see attached internal audit report and AGAR forms.

**Cllrs to agree to accept AGAR documents, commence exercise of public rights on 6/5/24 and send to external auditors**

**Cllrs to vote**

- a) **The internal auditor to attend next full council for any questions regarding her report**
- b) **The internal auditor does not need to attend next full council**

**107.6 Banking**

Clerk to update at meeting

**107.7 Clerks Annual Leave**

I am on annual leave 19<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, therefore missing Finance & Management and Full Council. I may get to Full Council but we need to plan encase I don't manage to.

**Cllrs to decide**

- a) **To move meetings**
- b) **To keep meetings and Interim Clerk will write minutes from recording**
- c) **To keep meetings and Cllr to minute the meeting**

**107.8 - HR Organisation**

To update at the meeting

**107.9 - Away Day**

I am not getting much response for the away day and believe that the date that was set will not have enough attendance. Therefore, as we are in purdah we will look to reorganise after the elections.

Source: Melanie Matthew, Interim Town Clerk