

BUCKFASTLEIGH MATTERS MEETING

Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters Meeting held in Room 3 at the Town Hall on Wednesday 2nd October 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Sue Clarke (Acting Chair), John Bailey, David Patrick, Huw Cox, Pamela Forbes, Ron Fox, Darren Greep, Kate Kayley, Sylvee Phillips and Judith Hart (Town Clerk).

In attendance: Ben Bryant, 1 member of the public

Press: No Press in attendance

19/57. Appointment of an Acting Chair:

In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair Cllr Sue Clarke was nominated by Cllr Fox, seconded by Cllr Bailey with all Members in favour.

19/58. Apologies: Cllrs Andy Stokes, Pam Barrett and Gwena Harman

19/59. Councillors invited to declare any interests: None

19/60. Introduction by Ben Bryant to The Active Well-Being Society and “Be Buckfastleigh” Initiative:

Ben is currently setting up and getting the community “Living Room” space ready at 55 Fore Street. He is developing ideas and looking for gaps in provision, with the intention of working with harder to reach groups and people in the community that do not engage as much. This is a pilot project initially for 12 months funded by The Active Well-Being Society which is based in Birmingham. Ben is canvassing, engaging and consulting about what activities are wanted or needed in the town and he gave examples of projects that could be introduced such as Active Streets, street parties, games and the Big Bikes project.

Ben is aware of the environmental agenda for Buckfastleigh. He would like support for the project, building on the town’s good community spirit. The launch event will be held on Saturday 12th October from 12 to 4 pm in the Living Room and will include music and food. Free sessions such as yoga and Tai Chi are being arranged at the Orchard Millennium Green. He is also working on the management of open spaces and the ‘Life on the Verge’ ‘Be Wild’ project initiated by the Town Council.

Cllr Clarke asked how the project is being promoted?

Ben: There are posts on social media, a press release, articles in the October Buckfastleigh Newssheet, November/December Around Buckfastleigh, The Moorlander and progress will be reported in the Mid Devon Advertiser in the weekly Buckfastleigh news column. He will promote the sessions, track and evaluate feedback. Ben is also looking at providing a membership card or QR code.

The Living Room is open Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 4.00pm but will also be open at weekends and in the evenings with trusted keyholders when the project is up and running. He is looking at funding bids to pay the session providers.

There are 5 steps to well-being; Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give. There are a wide variety of initiatives that can be developed from this such as; B Kind, B Mindful and B Crafty.

Cllr Phillips: Why is this happening in Buckfastleigh?

Ben: *The town has been identified as a place which has socio-economic problems and where issues could be addressed. This is a pilot model for South Devon and he is the Cluster Manager for this. It will address barriers, provide activities for free and give people a voice. The project is also linking to the Share Shed initiative.*

Cllr Patrick: How does the Community Fridge work?

Ben: *The fridge will provide in date, edible and sealed fresh leftover food for people in need. This will be linked to other sites and will be supported by Riverford. There are lots of ideas, but it will be up to people to choose and the Living Room is limited by space.*

Cllr Phillips: Will the project be working with the school?

Ben: *There are a lot of experts in the town and he is looking at linking the school with the Be Wild project e.g. tree planting and creating wildlife habitats. There is a lot of scope, but community support is needed.*

19/61. Questions and comments from the public: None

19/62. Minutes of the Buckfastleigh Matters meeting held on 4th September 2019 and review of actions:

Signed by Cllr Sue Clarke.

It was noted that there are no outstanding actions from the September meeting.

19/63. Planning Applications for commercial sites and areas of significant development or interest:

The amended Barn Park application will be discussed at the next Council Matters meeting. It was noted that the Clerk had been granted an extension by the planning authority until Thursday 31st October to allow Members the opportunity to examine amended plans.

19/64. Chair's Announcements:

Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) annual parking pass consultation. Members agreed that there is no benefit to local residents to purchase an annual pass as there is no guarantee of finding a space at the Haytor, Postbridge and Meldon car parks. The two most popular car parks at Newbridge and Dartmeet, which were included in the original consultation, have been excluded as these are privately owned. The Council does not support this proposal as the original proposal has been changed.

Action: Clerk to respond.

19/65. Councillors' updates regarding matters relevant to this meeting:

Cllr Patrick attended the Wildspace Garden meeting and actions were agreed.

Cllr Forbes has contacted DNPA regarding recent activity at the Devonia site. DNPA have confirmed internal renovations are taking place which do not require planning permission. The new office has not been completed but the dance school is up and running.

It was confirmed that planning permission for the proposal to create a live work unit and ground floor café at 3 Bossell Road have been withdrawn by the applicant. Significant earthworks to the site opposite no. 3 are however, being carried out by the applicant which has included the removal of a section of the wall. It is not known if planning permission has been sought or is required.

Cllr Cox will be meeting with the Teignbridge District Council Estates Team to look at changing the covenants to the area of land held in trust at the Duckspod playing field with a view to creating a community garden.

Members expressed concern that the boules pitch and tennis court although still occasionally used are not maintained and are in a poor condition.

19/66. Items requiring urgent attention:

The Clerk has received a proposal from the Chair of the Christmas Fair Committee asking the Town Council to underwrite £1,000 of the total £2,000 cost to host a traditional carousel at the 2019 Christmas Fair.

Decision: Members agreed in principle to recommend for resolution at the October Town Council meeting to underwrite the above initiative.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.