

Forum News

November 2020



After a long period without being able to hold face-to-face forums, one was held by Zoom on 18th November; the following news items are from that meeting. If you would like to know more about any of the items, please contact us at: mail@selseycommunityforum.uk.

- ◆ All Selsey's churches are again closed for all but private prayer. East Beach Church continues to provide online services and prayer sessions.
- ◆ Although the Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid project had been put into hibernation at the end of July, the Buddy System, with around 80 volunteers, had been retained and is continuing to provide shopping and other support to our more vulnerable residents during Lockdown Two. A partnership of Apetito, UK Harvest, Bunn Leisure, East Beach Church and others are making food deliveries to those in need.
- ◆ The Selsey Community Christmas Lunch would, this year, be replaced by delivering 140 meals to people in their own homes. Gifts and hampers donated by local businesses and residents will also be delivered to 35 families. Apetito, who have an expanding food delivery service in Selsey, are looking forward to supporting the Christmas lunch. Care would be taken to ensure that customers would not receive their regular order as well as a Christmas Lunch.
- ◆ Selsey Lions had arranged a certificate for each of more than 180 volunteers, commemorating their involvement in the Selsey Covid-19 Mutual Aid project. Sadly, a planned presentation event had had to be cancelled but, nevertheless, the certificates had been much appreciated. The Lions still plan to hold their traditional Father Christmas float in some form and can help with transportation for delivering Christmas lunches.
- ◆ Selsey Care Shop has had to suspend the activities and events that had been restarting, albeit with limited numbers to satisfy social-distancing measures. Nevertheless, the shop remains open and has been busy with visitors and phone calls. 'Good Morning Selsey' calls over 50 lonely and isolated people, most on a daily basis, and many more calls are being made to support carers and others with difficulties arising from Lockdown Two.
- ◆ Selsey Money Support, a partnership with Frontline Debt Support, now had six advisors dealing with often extreme cases requiring a lot of support and assistance. It was clear that Covid-19 was raising many issues, particularly as a result of people losing their jobs or having been furloughed.
- ◆ Selsey Wellbeing Services, in partnership with Chichester University, were providing bereavement and other counselling with three qualified counsellors from the university. The ongoing food deliveries were shining a light on emotional and mental health issues which are also being addressed by Selsey Wellbeing Services
- ◆ The Stroke Club held its first meeting in October with eighteen people now interested in attending. Unfortunately, further meetings are currently suspended, although individuals continue to be supported by telephone.
- ◆ The Community Warden has been working with young people and a number of recent police operations in Selsey have produced significant results.

- ◆ Although the The Bridge Youth Support Centre had had to suspend many of its activities, it is concentrating on giving support to those young people in need.
- ◆ Pathfinder West Sussex provide mental health and emotional support across the Chichester district. In normal times, they prefer to travel to local communities to relieve clients of the need to travel; currently, support is mainly by telephone. Little support is provided in the Selsey area and Pathfinder are interested in finding out more about Selsey Community Forum's activities. More information about Pathfinder can be found at: www.pathfinderwestsussex.org.uk .
- ◆ Selsey Medical Practice is in the same position as other practices with much effort being applied to preparation for possible future events. In the opinion of one who had used the eConsult system, it worked well. More information at www.econsult.net .
- ◆ Voluntary Action Arun & Chichester promotes and supports voluntary and community groups in the local area; its strong external partnerships and a wealth of experience mean it can offer a broad range of support. More information can be found at www.vaac.org.uk .
- ◆ It was still hoped to take advantage in Selsey of the Government's Kick Start project which offers job placements with local businesses to young people aged 16-24 who are on Universal Credit and in danger of becoming long-term unemployed. One of those present, an English teacher with long experience of assisting those with dyslexia, offered help which might be of value to this project.
- ◆ Ferry Farm Community Grant Fund has opened the next round with new criteria for grants. Applications are invited from community groups in Sidlesham and Selsey by 31st January 2021. More information is at: www.selseycommunityforum.uk/Ferry-Farm/ .
- ◆ Selsey Tree Wardens are local tree champions who plant, look after and stand up for trees. They have recently completed planting and tree care in Denshare Road. More information can be found at www.treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/tree-wardens/ .
- ◆ Martin Woods, who died recently, was for many years a youth leader in Selsey. In his memory, an award to students each year for community work will be known as the Martin Woods and Youth Dream Community Award.
- ◆ Although they were not currently meeting, Selsey Men in Sheds have now refurbished and equipped an old classroom on The Bridge site (behind the library) as their new base.
- ◆ Selsey Community Forum would embark on 2021 with a new Business Plan and Financial Strategy to take it confidently into the future. Projects would include:
 - ◆ Hidden Disabilities, such as dementia and many others where the symptoms are not immediately apparent, are often misunderstood. The aim would be to create a community with better understanding, compassion and kindness in dealing with those with such disabilities.
 - ◆ Suicide Prevention, particularly aimed at older bereaved and lonely people. Recent experience has, unfortunately, shown the need for such a project and funding is currently being sought.

The next meeting of the Selsey Community Forum is, subject to any lockdown restrictions, planned to be held at 4.15pm on Wednesday 20th January 2021 at The Academy, Selsey.

The forum shares news of interest to local community groups and seeks to identify and implement solutions where the community would benefit from new or improved local services and activities; you can find out more at www.selseycommunityforum.uk .

All those interested are invited to attend.