

Forum News



The following items of news are in the form of notes from the last meeting of Selsey Community Forum in January 2020. If you wish to know more about any of the items, please contact us at: mail@selseycommunityforum.uk or drop into The Care Shop at 121 High Street, Selsey.

- ◆ Selsey Town Council described the ongoing development of Destination Selsey, a website designed to provide information about the town and to act as a virtual heritage centre as well as provide immersive local walking guides. The website will serve to inform both tourists and residents about many aspects of the local area, with the focus on Selsey's unique artistic, cultural, historical, environmental and scientific importance. The project arises from residents' responses to Selsey Vision and the Manhood Peninsula Destination Management Plan and seeks to benefit from the wealth of knowledge of Selsey's heritage and wildlife held by many local community groups. The website should be available in May; more about it is at: www.selseytowncouncil.gov.uk/article/32483/Destination-Selsey.
- ◆ It was noted that the Selsey Town Council Business Plan consultation period had now ended. However, the plan did not seem to have been delivered throughout the town and late submission of any comments could still be made. The plan can be obtained from the Town Hall or at: <http://www.selseytowncouncil.gov.uk/article/32691/Business-Plan-2020-2024>
- ◆ The WSCC team developing new ways of managing adult social care has now held two successful sessions in the Care Shop. From the team's point of view, it was refreshing to be out of the office and in the community for meetings in an environment with which the client is familiar. From the Care Shop's point of view, the team demonstrated that their intimate knowledge of the council means they can get things done very quickly and effectively. The team will make fortnightly visits to Selsey, with sessions currently planned in the Care Shop, The SHOP and Selsey Town Hall.
- ◆ The Community Warden has been working closely with the new PCSO and The Academy and they have had some ongoing success in countering anti-social behaviour by a small number of young people in the town. There have also been multi-agency meetings addressing Selsey's policing needs which have subsequently resulted in improved proactive policing. The possible establishment of a Youth Club on Friday evenings in the Selsey Centre is also being addressed.
- ◆ The local Speedwatch Group is continuing to provide evidence which it is hoped will justify the introduction of speed calming measures. In addition, the road safety campaign, held as part of the Selsey Fire Station's Christmas Safety Week was very successful and included thirty 30 sets of lights being installed on young people's bicycles.
- ◆ All the Christmas community events went well with a much-appreciated pantomime and an excellent Christmas Lunch for those who might otherwise have been alone on the day.

Food and presents were delivered by Selsey Lions to those who are housebound. The lunch raised £390 for local charities. Of that amount, £195 was donated to the Selsey Food Bank, which is very well supported by the local community and has now fed 1,353 local people in crisis and, in the 2019 school summer holidays, provided lunch packs for 70 children who were facing holiday hunger.

- ◆ In spite of the conditions imposed on charity collections by Chichester District Council, Selsey Lions had a successful Christmas collection. The Lions are in need of volunteers and would like to hear from people who would be interested in helping them to contribute to the local community.
- ◆ The Selsey Care Shop had a very successful 2019 with a wide range of services to counter loneliness in the community and to offer support to unpaid carers. In particular, the Sewing Club is an excellent example of an intergenerational event where older members of the community transfer their skills to those who are still at school. To further improve the services provided by the shop, an ongoing review is aiming to improve the training of both staff and volunteers to ensure the continuing provision of high quality services.
- ◆ Selsey Dementia Action Alliance also had a very successful 2019 with over 100 referrals for people living with dementia now having been received and a variety of sessions and activities established. In particular, the Men's Group, to which recruitment can be difficult, is now regularly well attended and beneficial to men living with dementia and their carers.
- ◆ Selsey Debt Support and Selsey Wellbeing Services are currently being developed and will be launched in the Spring. The debt support service, in partnership with the Frontline charity will, rather than just giving advice, help to implement that advice on an ongoing basis until the problem is resolved. The wellbeing service, in partnership with Chichester University and their counselling students, will involve trained volunteers and qualified students in providing a variety of local counselling services.
- ◆ Arts Dream Selsey are presenting a Family Drumming Workshop on 18th February at 2-3pm in Selsey Town Hall where adults and children over the age of 8 can come together to take part in a family-friendly event using a variety of hand drums and percussion to create music together. The Arts Dream-sponsored Sing Your Heart Out project has proved so successful that that another one is now planned.
- ◆ Youthdream's Hidden Garden project is seeking to involve Care Homes and individuals from different age groups. This inter-generational initiative would meet the 'Grow Selsey' aspiration arising from the Selsey Vision project and also offer new funding opportunities.
- ◆ ResBite teas, intended for the vulnerable and lonely, are now being held in turn by the Methodist, East Beach and Catholic churches on three Sunday afternoons each month.
- ◆ The Youth Information Project, in partnership with the National Lottery, has started with visits to schools and other organisations to establish the needs of our younger residents across the wider Manhood Peninsula. When the project is complete, it is intended that the provision of services and activities to fill any gaps will be addressed using lottery funding.
- ◆ Age Fusion is now involving 10-15 students from The Academy making regular visits to the residents in local Care Homes.
- ◆ After the demise of an earlier scheme, Selseyworks are now again able to direct people

who are fuel poor but without families to a source of fuel energy vouchers. Similarly, they can direct vulnerable people to a domestic appliance replacement scheme. Selseyworks also offer help with completing application forms such as those for Attendance Allowance and Blue Badges; they can also offer training to volunteers involved in such help.

- ◆ A local cleaning business which has been involved in fund-raising for Dementia Action described how it sometimes becomes aware of very lonely and isolated individuals, often with health issues. Although it can sometimes provide help, it has limited capacity and expertise. The business has now established links with the Selsey Care Shop and hopes for a productive relationship in which it will be able to make referrals to the shop in situations where it is unable to provide appropriate help.
- ◆ A new Carers Discount Card scheme is being launched by West Sussex Carers Support for use in participating local businesses.
- ◆ The NHS are providing a free confidential sexual health advice clinic in the afternoons of the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month in Snak Shak.
- ◆ The Venture Club is still short of drivers and would welcome volunteers over the age of 25 and holding a D1 driving licence who would be willing to drive for a few hours each week.

The next meeting of the Selsey Community Forum will be held at 4.15pm on Wednesday 18th March 2020 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.