Community Development Officer Update

Best Fest

We have been working towards Best Fest again this year which is on Saturday 22 July. Regular meetings and updates with the Best Fest Steering group are happening so that everyone can report back on what work they have been tasked with has be done or if they need help. I am currently trying to source some funding for this as is it not a cheap event and goes beyond the NBL event budget. Orbit Housing have agreed to put some money in, which is a great start.

Copperfields

I have been working with Copperfields Residents Association as they would like a community garden within their grounds for the community to be able to work on as well as the residents with in the facility. They are also looking at getting funding for a defibrillator to be put either within the facility or on the outside wall for the wider community to be able to use should the need every arise.

Year 2 Plan Review

The questions part of this has now gone in and been reviewed by Local Trust, see the attached pdf plan review feedback. We met with Mats and Hannah, along with Tammy and Sam to discuss the content for the 4 short films for the rest of the review. The suggestions for the films are as follows:

1. Liam's journey
2. Sam’s journey
3. Events
4. Tammy’s journey
5. Sailing trip (Team building)
6. Green spaces
7. Youth – Chill Club
8. Intergeneration

All of the above have been suggested so that some of the films can be ‘live’ filming and some with pictures. Mats and Hannah will be in touch with people to arrange a chat/filming with all those concerned.

Newington Wellbeing Network (DDN)

The Management group are continuing to meet fortnightly and have now opened up all 5 of the branches. There are open events/meetings every month where the local community can drop in and find out what is happening in Newington and talk to providers that are there as well as each other. This has been a long slow process where providers out way residents but the group are hopeful that this will pick up. The Facebook and Twitter details of everything are as follows:

1. Calendar: <http://eventspay.uk>
2. If you would like to add an event you can email it to: newington@mail.com
3. Twitter: @NewingtonWN
4. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/997670700286546/>

Community Cafe/Coffee Morning

Continuing to support Community Café on Monday and Coffee Morning on Friday which has been really successful and grown in numbers. Because of the good attendance Orbit Housing now do a drop in surgery for their tenants on the last Monday of the month during the Café so anyone can discuss any problems etc with their Housing Officer.

Youth – Chill Club

This was running every fortnight on Monday but in May it became weekly due to demand. This seems to be going well with youth attendance and is supported with different activities. Porchlight are continuing to support this session with sports but have had a few weeks break due to holidays, along with Nova and Chris, KCC Youth Worker, Tammy and Sam. We are looking at the possibility of getting a football team together but for the young people to head that up. Sponsored by Newington Big Local maybe…

Serves Tennis programme

I have been talking with the Tennis Foundation about the possibility of having FREE Equipment, Training and Support for Newington around Tennis. You can find out more about this programme here: <http://www.tennisfoundation.org.uk/drive-tennis/serves/> I will be meeting with them on Monday 15th May so will now more then.

Apprentice

I am continuing to work and support Liam with his assessments and to achieve the outcomes required. We have a meeting with his assessor every fortnight to go through his work, complete exams and assessments. See Liam’s report on his updates.

Gardener

Keven has tidied up one resident’s garden so far this year and has started cutting the grass at St Christopher’s Church. See Keven’s report for more details.

Marketing

As you may have seen, the new website is up and running and logos are in use. Just in case you haven’t had the chance to have a look: [www.renewington.com](http://www.renewington.com) Liam and I are both learning the new software for the marketing and just need to take an afternoon out to really get to grips with it. The website is very easy to use and looks amazing, thanks to Lantern, we have had great support from them. As soon as the Partnership are ready we can move forward with this.

Kent Savers

This is still ticking along with one regular saver that comes in each week. Lisa and Liam usually oversea this with support from me at times. Keith and I met with Tony March from Job Centre Plus to discuss the Universal Credit and what we can do to help/inform people. If you would like to know more: <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/overview>

Liam and I attended the Kent Savers Credit Union AGM where we were informed of Chris Hunt’s retirement. We also met up with Lesley Jones, who oversees the branches and will be arranging a visit from her to discuss moving the Newington Branch forwards.

Easter Event

This was a very successful event, 96 children along with their families attended and played party games. There were no complaints and everyone joined in and had fun.

Embedded Advice – Citizens Advice Thanet

I have continued to promote the volunteering opportunities along with the benefits of this training every chance I get. To date there has been 3 people passed onto Citizens Advice that were interested in getting more information from them.

Kent Wildlife Trust

This project has now finished and has left a gap at St Christopher’s church as there is now no one maintaining that side of the grounds. If anyone would like to help could they contact Shola please.

ParkLives

ParkLives will be delivered under the Sport 4 NRG project and will offer free activities in both park settings, supported by Coca Cola Great Britain and is aimed to bring together local communities to lead a more active and healthier lifestyle, by doing more outdoors. With ParkLives the focus isn’t about Fitness bur rather fun and community cohesion. These sessions will start on Friday 26th May from 6pm-7pm and will run every week for 16 weeks. If the sessions are popular they will review and look at sustaining some indoor provision.

Age UK Thanet Intergeneration

This project is due to start in June as follows:

Copperfield’s Thursday 1st June / Thursday 8th June / Thursday 15th June / Thursday 22nd June / Thursday 29th June 4.45pm – 6.15pm.

Community Centre Thursday 6th July / Thursday 13th July / Thursday 20th July / Thursday 27th July / Thursday 3rd August 4.45pm – 6.15pm.

Holiday entitlement still remaining: 25 days