

7. Area West – Reports from Members on Outside Bodies

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Purpose of the Report

To introduce reports from members appointed to outside bodies in Area West.

Public Interest

Each year Area West Committee appoints local Councillors to serve on outside bodies (local organisations) in Area West. During the year Councillors make a report on the achievements of those organisations and other relevant issues.

Background

To replace “Reports from members on outside organisations” as a generic standing agenda item it was agreed at the August 2012 meeting to include specific reports about each organisation in the Committee’s forward plan.

Members were appointed to serve on nine outside bodies at the June 2013 meeting.

Reports

Reports can be verbal or written. There is no standard format, but if possible they include an explanation of the organisations aims, their recent activities, achievements and any issues of concern.

This month the member report is:

Crewkerne Heritage Centre – Cllr. John Dyke

Recommendation

That the report is noted.

Financial Implications

None.

Council Plan Implications

Focus Four: Health and Communities – We want communities that are healthy, self reliant and have individuals who are willing to help each other.

Background Papers: None

CREWKERNE MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTRE 2013

Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre (CMHC) has been operating from its location in the town centre for over a decade. Its purpose is to preserve artefacts relating to the town and to promote interest in Crewkerne's history and heritage.

2013 has been another eventful year. One of the most notable events being the display of memorabilia relating to a well known Crewkerne personality Bert Harwood. Bert ran the Fish & Chip shop in Crewkerne for many years but it was not known that he had written diaries about what was happening in Crewkerne over his lifetime – and the many Crewkerne artefacts he had collected over the period. The Heritage Centre put these on display and published a book detailing extracts from his diaries: this attracted significant sales.

CMHC participated in the Somerset's Art Week – and put on its own show in the Museum showing the work of local artists. This attracted a great deal of interest and publicity.

The Centre has worked with many local Groups and organisations over the year. This included the U3A, the Town Council and a multitude of local schools. It worked with Yeovil Museum which held its "Milking It" exhibition in the Crewkerne Museum. A number of Town Walks designed to demonstrate Crewkerne's heritage were held.

The Friends of Crewkerne Museum continues to thrive with an increasing membership. During the year The Friends organised Coffee Morning and Afternoon Tea events – and also Halloween Eve and Easter Events for the town's children. The Friends participated in many local events (designed to raise the profile of the Heritage Centre) including the Town's Christmas Lighting-Up Ceremony and the Christmas Tree exhibition in the Church.

Local Research has again proved very popular and the newly established Friends of Crewkerne Station has used CHMC for research on the use and importance of Crewkerne Station since it was opened in 1856.

An invitation from Arts Council England to apply for Accreditation resulted in the award for Full Accreditation being given to CMHC. This is the third time that this award has been achieved.

Financially CMHC has held its own in 2013 – even showing a small surplus. This is as a result of rigid cost control particularly over energy costs.

In summary yet another very successful year - in terms of events organised, fund-raising and increasing local interest and support.

John Dyke December 2013