

## **Iminster Forum**

The last time I reported on the activities of the Forum to this Committee, I concluded my report by mentioning two projects for the future. These have now been completed.

The first project we addressed was an issue that arose out of the Community Plan, namely the desire for a community notice board. Thanks to donations and a £100 grant from the Mayor of Iminster's Charities Fund the notice board was unveiled in early October. Tesco agreed to it being placed on the wall next to the ATM, which is on the way into town. The notice board is for non-commercial local community events, talks and exhibitions. Residents are welcome to place their notices on the board, but they must adhere to a few rules. The main ones are that maximum size of posters is A4 and that the material should not cause offence to public taste and decency. It has proved to be very popular and is filled to capacity most of the time.

Secondly, after much work and advice and guidance from District officers a business survey was produced. This was made available electronically and in hard copy to businesses in and around Iminster. Sadly, despite advertising through Iminster Web, Iminster Facebook and mailshots the response was disappointing. Only 26 completed surveys were returned with another 45 only partially completed. It had been hoped that a good response would have produced some useful data that would have benefitted local businesses and provided valuable information for District officers. We will be creating a report on the survey later this month.

Other ongoing projects/activities:

The two volunteers who had worked tirelessly to keep the Iminster Library garden in good shape retired recently. Fortunately, a gentleman has come forward to carry on the good work.

The monthly Iminster Forum produce market lost a key market stallholder in 2017 with the sale of County Farms. His faggots and sausages drew people to the market. Sadly, we have not as yet been able to find a replacement. Given the drop in footfall we opted to close the market over the winter and will relaunch in the spring when Dillington Allotments will return.

Litter picking continues on an ad hoc basis with the main activity being centred on the clean up after the Carnival and Fun Fair.

We continue to support Tourism with walks leaflets and brochures. We have updated and produced a further 2,000 copies of the Stop Line Way leaflet. We will also be carrying out a refresh of the Visit Iminster website. It is linked to Visit Somerset so features on the first page of the Google search.

Our other website the Iminster Web has increased in popularity, because of its up-to-date listing of events in and around Iminster.

Finally, we are now working with the Chamber of Commerce to add a businesses' listing, along the lines of our community group listing, it will have links to the associated websites and Facebook accounts.

Cllr. Carol Goodall