



Communities Co-ordinator report for C.O.P.S. October 2017

Poynton Dementia Steering Group



The Dementia Awareness Information sessions available to local businesses and shops in September were well received.

The group is now looking at the criteria for Poynton to become a Dementia Friendly



I have arranged for information to be included in the October edition of the Inside Magazine which summarises the ongoing work to raise awareness about how the local community is helping to support people living with dementia and their carers.

Local business contacts

I have linked a couple of businesses with local community groups. Pizza Express are keen to be involved with Christmas Fest and Appayon are interested in supporting Poynton's dementia awareness and fundraising campaigns and defibrillators.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

I am working with Poynton High School to support a couple of pupils who will be litter picking around the village as part of achieving their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Health and Wellbeing Fair

The Health and Wellbeing Fair on the 23rd September was a great success this year with over twenty-five organisations and groups who support our older residents represented. Poynton Easy Access Scheme was also promoted which seems to have generated recent interest in the mobility scooters. I have trained Poynton Town Council staff to carry out user assessments.

Men in Sheds



We have finalised the poppy design with Men in Sheds and the group will do the final preparations to allow the poppies to be fixed to lamp posts in the village. 110 poppies have now been ordered and a draft list of locations prepared. I'm also liaising with the Royal British Legion about their involvement.

The Men in Sheds AGM meeting is planned for the 25th October.

The group are organising another Open Day on the 18th November to make people aware of the group and to sell their products in time for Christmas, raising funds for themselves and other community groups who they support. The group are also involved with repairing the Poynton Round Table's Santa sleigh.



Civic Pride - Cleaner, Greener Poynton meeting/event

I co-ordinated a Civic Pride – Cleaner, Greener Poynton meeting on Monday 25th September at the Civic Hall attended by representatives from the Heritage Garden Group, Projects4Poynton, Poynton in Bloom, Poynton Pick & Tidy Group, Coppice Road Allotment Association, Poynton Home Gardeners Club, Poynton & District Rotary Club and the Mayor Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore.

The groups updated each other on what they do and agreed to work collectively when required. A mapping exercise was discussed that would be useful to identify which areas/planters are currently maintained and by who, and also to identify high profile areas that would benefit from some attention.

Rotary have 5,000 purple crocus bulbs in support of the End Polio campaign and Poynton in Bloom have 1,000 daffodil bulbs to plant, which will also be indicated on the plan.

On the 28th October the groups will come together to support a ‘Poynton Civic Pride – Cleaner, Greener Day’ which will raise awareness of the groups and possibly recruit new volunteers.

New health programmes – Walking Netball and Aqua Relax

Weekly Walking Netball sessions will start on the 31st October from 11am – 12noon at Poynton Leisure Centre. This new health programme is a partnership between Everybody Sport and Recreation and Netball England.

Aqua Relax pool sessions are available every Wednesday for people with specific medical conditions, with accessible hoists available.

My role has been to support requests from local residents and understanding the needs of community groups who will benefit from these health programmes, and to encourage Everybody Sport and Recreation to provide them. I will support further by helping to promote these health programmes. An update with the health walks programme is that a training date for volunteer health walk leaders is being planned for early December, with a view to start walks in January.

Communities Co-ordinator Work Plan

I am preparing my work plan for this coming year which will build on projects that I have been involved with since I started, along with new ones. I will circulate this with January's report.

Time Out Café

On the 10th October, I organised a coach trip to Blackpool through Roy McCarthy Coaches, for the Time Out Group. As part of the outing, the group visited a fish and chips restaurant before being driven through the lights. I've received positive feedback from the group, including a call from a carer who rang to say what it meant from her perspective. She took her mum who lives with memory problems; she told me that with the support of friends who she's made at the group and help from the group volunteers, it was a very enjoyable event for both her and her mum rather than it being a stressful experience, and something that she wouldn't have done on her own.

Orbitas Handyperson and Electrical Services

Following information from Councillor Beanland, I contacted Orbitas to find out more about their service. Orbitas, who are owned by Cheshire East Council can organise a handyperson and electrical service for household problems such as changing light bulbs, fitting hand rails and plumbing. I am frequently contacted about recommendations for such services so have requested leaflets which are now available at the Civic Hall reception.

Wednesday Lunch Club

We have a new group member, meaning we have nine places taken, out of ten. A number of group members live on their own which means that I am required to provide the link between Open Hands Community Transport as well as other services, e.g. I liaise regularly with the Dementia Reablement Service and social workers to ensure welfare and care issues are addressed. I also ensure there are the appropriate number of volunteers to run the session and meals available are from Wiltshire Farm Foods.

Hullabaloo performances

Hullabaloo, the male voices choir are performing for the group and members of the public on the 25th October and on the last Wednesday Lunch Club before Christmas.

Poynton Area Community Partnership (P.A.C.P.)

IN TOUCH - YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM POYNTON AREA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

The Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP) is an independent, constituted group that brings a broad range of like-minded volunteers together to understand the needs of local people, and strives to improve their quality of life in various ways. The group is a key player in the Cheshire East Partnership Framework and includes Poynton and the parishes of Adlington, Disley, Mottram St Andrew, Prestbury, Kettleshulme and Pets Shrigley.

The PACP works together to make Poynton and those parishes listed above attractive places where people want to visit, live, work and spend their leisure time. It has a vision to make its residents and neighbourhoods more connected, to promote a strong sense of place by supporting civic pride projects, and to encourage socialising and health and wellbeing activity.

To assist with this, the Partnership has been given some funding from Cheshire East Council. Voluntary groups and organisations based in Poynton and the above parishes are invited to apply for modest grants to help fund projects whose aims are aligned with the above vision.

The group is delighted to announce that it has recently appointed a new Chairman, Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore, Poynton's current Mayor. Sarah-Jane is keen to bring our local communities closer together, and is also passionate about promoting Civic Pride and driving and supporting meaningful projects in the wider local area.

For further information about the group please contact Sharon Duke on 01625 872238.

The group has a new Chair, Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore. Cllr Gilmore will be liaising with the group and representatives from the surrounding parishes to review the action plan.

I have also been involved with promoting the group by posting information in the October edition of the Inside Magazine, ensuring that local residents/groups are aware of the group and that funding is available for connecting communities together.

End Loneliness campaign – A guide to Poynton's interest, activity and hobby groups publication

Councillor Geoff King has contacted many local social groups to provide information about their activities. We have met with a graphic designer with a view to preparing a leaflet which will target people who are lonely, but with a softer message around 'Come and join us - something for everyone. A guide to interest, activity and hobby groups'.

Sharon Duke
Communities Co-ordinator