



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

Poynton Dementia Steering Group



The group are planning to submit an application to the Alzheimer's Society for Poynton to officially become a Dementia Friendly Community, which I will organise. This will involve gathering evidence of the work done so far and identifying how the group hopes to build on this work in future. It is anticipated that an application will be submitted before Christmas.

Working with young people - Poynton High School

Three students from year 8 are litter picking in various places around Poynton, as part of achieving their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The students have to volunteer for an hour a week over a six-month period. Parents are providing supervision, and we have agreed that the students will keep a record of their work which will include 'before' and 'after' photographs, so I can validate their work.

Another student is litter picking for 15 hours as part of her Upper Gold Leadership Award. We have two, year 12 volunteers helping at Wednesday Lunch Club and two volunteers at Time Out Café on Fridays. These are long term volunteers and will be with us until next year.

Civic Pride – Crocus Focus event

On the 28th October, I organised a 'Crocus Focus' event involving the Heritage Garden Group, Projects4Poynton, Poynton in Bloom, Poynton Pick & Tidy Group, Coppice Road Allotment Association, Poynton Home Gardeners Club and Poynton & District Rotary Club. Twenty-five volunteers planted 5,000 purple crocus bulbs along verges in Poynton in support of the End Polio campaign and 1,000 daffodil bulbs. Some of the group litter picked along the streets, paying particular attention to collecting litter from behind the green communication boxes.

The Mayor, Cllr. Sarah-Jane Gilmore supported this Civic Pride event, which also helped to recruit new volunteers for the various groups.



New health programmes. Working with Everybody Sport and Recreation

The new weekly Walking Netball session start on the 31st October at Poynton Leisure Centre in partnership between Everybody Sport and Recreation and Netball England. 16 people attended the first session, which is an unprecedented number for this programme.

We now have a Health Walk Leader role profile and are awaiting confirmation of a date in January for Health Walk Leader training.

Poynton Civic Hall – A Connected Community Centre

It was agreed on the 6th November by Cheshire East Council that Poynton Civic Hall is to become a Connected Community Centre, following a proposal by Poynton Area Community Partnership. As part of Cheshire East Council's Connected Communities strategy, more than £150,000 has been pledged to help community venues across the council area to develop the services they offer and encourage more people to use them. The community will benefit by the town council being able to offer subsidised room hire for agreed community programmes and will have access to a computer tablet connected to the Live Well community information website, helping residents to find out easily what's available in the area. A launch event and signage will be discussed in the coming weeks.



Purse bells

I have worked with the local PCSO's to help distribute purse bells to members of the Time Out Café and Friday Morning Shopping Group, following a distraction theft on Queensway. I circulated details of the incident to raise awareness, and have encouraged residents to remain vigilant.

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

A booklet has been produced and will be circulated with the December edition of the Poynton Post. As the project is part of a Poynton Area Community Partnership project, other neighbouring parishes will also be provided with booklets to circulate amongst their residents. Cllr. Geoff King and I have met with Poynton WI and hope to work together towards ending loneliness.

Poynton Poppies



On the 2nd of November, I invited volunteers from the Royal British Legion to help Poynton Town Council staff to put up the poppies along the main routes through Poynton. There has been a good response from the community, especially as the project involved Men in Sheds, who organised the poppies, made the holes and provided the cable ties. I generated the health and safety documentation for the activity.

Representatives from the British Legion are keen to work together on a programme next year to commemorate the end of the first world war.



My colleague, Lauren has produced a reception display at the Civic Hall that includes information about the poppies and some of the soldiers from Poynton who were killed. This information was provided by Cheshire Villages Great War Society. Visitors have expressed how wonderful they think the display is, and have taken time to read the information about the soldiers.

Sharon Duke
Communities Co-ordinator