



Communities Co-ordinator report for C.O.P.S. January 2018

Poynton Dementia Steering Group



On behalf of the group, I have collated and submitted an application to the Alzheimer's Society for Poynton to officially become a Dementia Friendly Community. This involved gathering evidence of the work done so far and identifying how the group hopes to build on this work in future. We have been informed that our application was successful, and comments were received that our application was a great example of a detailed application. Following a meeting with the group on the 11th January, we will discuss how we will achieve our aspirations and explore what PTC are required to do as part of this process.

Poynton Civic Hall – A Connected Community Centre

Following on from being notified that the Civic Hall has been granted the status of becoming a Connected Community Centre, I will support the Town Clerk and Val Burlison from Cheshire East Council with a launch event, which will be planned for February-time.



Civic Pride – A Cleaner, Greener Poynton. A focus on London Road North and Burton Drive

On the 28th November volunteers from the Rapid Response Team, Heritage Garden and Poynton Pick and Tidy Groups relocated grasses, hydrangeas and ground cover planting, from London Road North to the corner of Burton Drive. Tree ties were also removed to prevent any further damage to the magnolia and tulip trees that have established well. This work will make way for Cheshire East Highways to grass London Road North in the coming weeks.



Poynton High School

I was involved with the student development day on the 30th November when Malcolm Adams in his role of Deputy Chair of Poynton Area Community Partnership and I were invited to talk to year 8 students about 'Living in the community'. We presented to five, Year 8 classes over the day and made them aware of my role and how the local community are involved with projects such as Civic Pride and the work of the Poynton Dementia Steering Group to make Poynton a Dementia Friendly Community. This builds on existing relationships with Poynton High School, and their student volunteers with litter picking and supporting Wednesday Lunch Club and Time Out Café activities.

The Poynton Pick and Tidy Group

The group convened a session on the 2nd December with fifteen people attending to litter pick along the main routes around Poynton, ahead of Christmas Fest and the festive period. Volunteers found an unopened bottle of Bailey's and a standard lamp, along with many bags of litter.



Christmas Fest

The Christmas Fest was once again a great success in this, its 11th year. I supported on the evening as an event steward and co-ordinated Poynton Town Council's input in the run up to the event, ensuring chairs, signage and equipment was available and ready for the night.



Poynton Area Community Partnership (PACP)



The PACP produced and distributed 'A guide to local interest, activity and hobby groups' ahead of the festive period. This was to kick-start the groups 'ending loneliness' campaign, which they are keen to expand on this coming year. The booklet was distributed to every Poynton household via the Poynton Post and copies are available at the Civic Hall and library. The publication was well received.

The new Chairman, Cllr. Mrs Sarah-Jane Gilmore and I will be visiting the surrounding parishes over the coming weeks to identify their priorities for inclusion in the PACP Action Plan for the coming year.

Time Out Café

The 15th of December was the last Time Out Café of 2017 and was a great occasion with the volunteers organising food to provide a wonderful festive feast. The group has grown significantly over the last twelve months and has spread their wings a little, enjoying trips out to the Avro Museum and Blackpool. I'm sure I will be involved supporting the volunteers with organising more trips this year.



Wednesday Lunch Club

Volunteers and members of the group were invited to the Methodist church on the 6th December to visit the Christmas Tree Festival. Different community groups in Poynton had decorated trees with a Christmas Carol theme, and the group received a special invite from Rev. Wiseman to view the trees and meet children from the pre-school. The group thoroughly enjoyed the experience and took part in decorating the Christmas tree that was placed at reception over the festive period.



Hullabaloo

On the 21st December a performance by Hullabaloo, the male voices choir rounded off the festivities with over 40 people attending, the largest number yet!



Sharon Duke
Communities Co-ordinator