

Market Drayton Learning Partnership Report

In June 2016 I was asked to attend meetings held by the Market Drayton learning Partnership as a representative of MDCP.

There are 3 town schools included in this Learning Partnership, which are:

Market Drayton Infant School

Market Drayton Junior School

Grove School

The **vision** of the Market Drayton Learning Partnership is:

“To work as a community to support our children and young people in their enjoyment of learning, raising their aspirations and their achievements as learners now and for the future.”

Where possible the MDLP would like help and interaction from other local community groups in order to achieve their vision and objectives. They do issue newsletters detailing the activities that they are involved in which I attached for reference.

The first stakeholder forum meeting was held in March 2016 and it meets approximately every 4 months. The Heads of the 3 schools involved and other key teaching staff, along with Grove student ambassadors, school governors and members of other local community organisations generally attend the meetings.

The first meeting I attended was in July 2016 where members who represent local community organisations were asked to provide a brief description of how they can support the local schools and how that may be developed.

I therefore outlined the interest groups working on aspects of the 2012 town plan, the Drayton Arts festival, environment and climate change group focusing at that time on Walkmill meadow, incredible edible who were already involved with planting projects at Longlands school and Tourism/ visitors projects.

Some teachers picked up on the potential links to planting, as meetings by students across all 3 schools had shown an interest in a joint planting project within the town. After the meeting I contacted Suzanne Byrnes-Antoney who was very keen to forge further links with all the schools and I understand has been in contact with the schools and has regularly attended the other meetings. I also contacted Kerry Simmons, the secretary of the partnerships stakeholder forum, to advise of this interest. In the last meeting in March 2017 it was mentioned that Councillor Hughes had informed the Grove students that some land would be available for planting but at that time it was not known exactly where it was. Suzanne Byrnes-Antoney was invited to be involved in this too.

At the meeting in July 2016, Sam Scott, the Head teacher at the Infant school, also showed an interest in the town museum and heritage trail linking Clive of India on the curriculum and asked for a copy of the Town Trail in order to work out a mini walking tour for the infants. I sent her a copy of the Town Trail leaflet and

suggested that she could speak to Ian Picton-Robinson for his knowledge on the museum.

After the first meeting that I attended I also contacted Pauline Machin to see if there were any community art projects that any of the schools could be involved in, particularly at that time with the art work along the canal Longlands school were included in this project with art sessions being organized by Suzanne at the school which were paid by MDCP from funds received for the Heritage Trail.

Unfortunately the Market Drayton Learning Partnership may have missed the boat on that one as this was already well under way but I hope that the schools in the learning partnership will be considered for any future Community Arts projects including the Arts festival 2017.

It was noted though that Pauline and Suzanne had tried to involve Grove in Community Arts in 2015 but did not receive much interest. Hopefully now through the attendance of the Market Drayton Learning Partnership meetings these links can be forged in the future so that opportunities for school involvement in community projects will not be missed.

The meeting in November 2016 discussed outline planning for a summer event involving pupils and students from all 3 schools and local community organisations, which was further discussed in the last meeting in March 2017. Several ideas were discussed including a music festival to be widened out to other schools, not just the 3 town schools, however as this is to be held at Grove school it may have to be broken down to different key stage groups. It was also suggested to include events for display of artwork done by the schools and poetry and singing events. Teachers at the 3 schools were nominated to organize this and more detail on this will be discussed at the next meeting in June 2017.

In the latest meeting David Smith from the Royal British Legion discussed about the British Legion commemorating 1914-18 war next year and they have incorporated a working party to assist involving the schools. History coordinators are being invited to the next meeting from each school for David to discuss the British Legion plans in more detail.

One main point of concern that has come from the head teachers in these meetings is the admission numbers to the Town schools over the forthcoming years. It is estimated that MD will require 4 extra primary classrooms by 2020-2022 and that both MD Infant School and MD Junior School will require potential capital build to facilitate the increase in numbers expected.

If there are any community projects that people feel that the schools can be involved with can they let me know

Davina Bridge