

Market Drayton Community Partnership (MDCP)

Notes of the meeting held at Market Drayton Town Hall on Monday 16th July 2108.

Present: Richard Priestley (Chairman), Davina Bridge (Treasurer), Suzanne Edwards, Steve Glover, Nicola Fisher, Hamish Armytage,

Apologies: Roy Claydon, Alistair Duncan (Vice Chairman), Kate Woodward (Secretary), Jane Hughes, Eric Davis.

15.18. Welcome.

Richard welcomed everyone to the meeting .Apologies for absence were agreed as per the above.

16.18. Notes of the MDCP meeting on Monday 9 April 2108.

The notes of the meeting were **agreed** as a true record.

17.18. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

18.18. Financial report.

18.18.1 Davina presented the Treasurer's Report for the financial year to 30th June 2018.

It was **noted** that there was a starting balance of £ 9172.69 at 1st April 2018. It was also **noted** that £ 2000 received from Shropshire Council has been set aside for Resilient Communities work and that the net increase in funds to 30th June 2018 was £ 696.29.

18.18.2 Taking into consideration balances held specifically for the Art Club; Incredible Edible and MD Community Arts Festival, and costs relating to the 2nd set of sign for the canal heritage trail, insurance, website maintenance and accounts software, it was **noted** that unallocated funds of £ 997.25 remained.

18.18.3 The Chairman drew attention to the fact that as a consequence of the level of unallocated funds, any new projects or development of existing projects would have to have funding in place or assured before proceeding. Similarly it would not be possible for existing projects to over run their budgets.

18.18.4 Suzanne Edwards **reported** that revenue generated by the Summer Fair (Arts Festival) fund-raiser had exceeded £ 826.51.. Although £ 448 had been incurred in insurance costs, the Town Council has indicated that this will be reimbursed. Suzanne explained that the Town Council has undertaken to cover future insurance requirements and that this would be of considerable assistance in mounting Arts Festival events. She also commented that the winding up of the Jean Jackson trust - a major financial contributor to the Arts Festival - meant that the organisers would have to be circumspect in their financial approach to the 2018 event.

19.18. Future Policy for MDCP.

The Chairman invited ideas for new developments and / or funding sources from those present. Suzanne pointed out that the Arts Festival would have an additional focus on the centenary tributes relating to WW1, but that extra costs would not be involved as a consequence. Steve Glover suggested that funds might be raised by the 2019 mounting of "Party in the Park".; however it was pointed out that this did not fall under the auspices of the MDCP. Nic Fisher suggested a strategic focus on the benefits arising from the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan, should it succeed at referendum , mentioned the value of Resilient Communities and also suggested that Market Drayton should be offering ideas for Shropshire Council's Local Economic Growth Strategy. Nic also commended Eric Davis for his pursuit of projects and funding with respect to Market Drayton Community Enterprise. Hamish Armytage suggested that a Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme might qualify for funding; it was noted that The Zone might be an avenue through which to explore this, and possibly The Grove School. It was recognised that MDCP funding is currently project orientated and relies on identifying areas of benefit to the community..

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the MDCP originated 6+ years ago as a result of the development of the Town Plan, and the Neighbourhood Plan is now its natural successor.. Richard

articulated the sentiment that the town would best be served by one organisation that concerns itself with community development in Market Drayton and mentioned projects of the Community Partnership such as the Children's Art Group; Canal Maintenance; Education Partnership etc. It was **confirmed** that it is some time since the MDCP produced further innovative developments, and suggested that an open discussion with the Market Drayton Community Enterprise with a view to fusing the two organisations might be appropriate under present circumstances. To this end he suggested that the 4 officers of the MDCP should meet with their counterparts in MDCE with a view to trying to produce an outcome which might meet the above and ensure continuation of the MDCP 's projects This proposal was unanimously **agreed** by those present; any such proposals emerging from these discussions could then be put to the MDCP at the AGM in November.2018 for consideration

20.18. Neighbourhood Plan/Canal - Marina

It was **noted** that the current phase of consultation regarding the Neighbourhood Plan would end on 24th July and that it did not have a high profile in the town. It was also **noted** that an outline planning proposal for a marina with housing, hotel and retail facilities was in preparation for 2018/19 which the MDCP strongly supported

21.18. Children's Art Group

Suzanne Edwards **reported** that an arts club on Saturday mornings at the Phoenix Centre would commence on 2nd September 2018. Two staff have been recruited; four children were enrolled with places for twelve 7-11 year olds in total. The group would be run on a six week block basis over which a project would be developed. The two staff would take it in turns to lead a project over each six week period, with the other one in support.

22.18. Incredible Edible - No report

23.18. Drayton Arts Festival

Suzanne **reported** that a full program of events for 26th - 28th October 2018 was in place, mainly targeting the 18 - 40 year age group and families. Many events will be participatory, including various workshops and it is hoped to maintain free or low entry cost to as many as possible. The band of the Mercian Regiment will be present making centennial WW1 tributes. Suzanne is currently engaged with local schools and community groups to produce a "Button Mural" which will feature 165 poppies bearing the names of people from Market Drayton killed in WW1.

24.18. Tourism and Visitors Group

Roy Claydon and a group of volunteers have completed some excellent work on the canal including re-painting woodwork, litter picking and tidying. A second set of murals is now in place close to the "39 steps", and an application by the Canal and River Trust, in conjunction with the MDCP has now submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding a comprehensive project relating to the history, environment etc of the canal..

Visits to the Market Drayton Tourism and Visitor website now number 558859 with 639129 pages having been viewed at the last count. .The MDCP site ha 31,056 visits and the Drayton Arts Festival had 27,651 visits.

25.18. Market Drayton Learning Partnership.

Davina reported that the focus is currently on the WW1 remembrance events including a concert and some artwork. After the remembrance events have taken place there will be a review to decide the next steps of the project.

26.18. Resilient Communities

Nic Fisher reported that £2000 was to be signed over to MDCE which was the organisation that would take the project forward on behalf of Shropshire Council.

27.18. Any other business/news

It was **noted** that the recommended standard of access to Natural Green Space (2.5 hectares of green space within a 5 minute walk) was not met in Market Drayton. Mention in some quarters of a "Splash Park" at the site of the open air swimming pool in Market Drayton were regarded as aspirational, but a route to such desirable outcomes might be best achieved using the Neighbourhood Plan rules to create such projects.

28.18.Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting of the MDCP will be Monday 12th November 2018 at 7.00 pm.