

Community Connector Report

Since my last report to you, I have been busy implementing decisions of the Council. I returned from leave later than expected, and following decisions of Council at its Extraordinary Meeting on 3rd June 2024 (minute 24/075i), implementation of the Community Consultation was therefore delayed. I am pleased to report that this work is now ongoing.

Recommendations:

1. That Council resolve to approve the installation of a new backless bench on the concrete slab in front of the Tithebarn Little Free Library and Noticeboard, using remaining unallocated funding from the Persimmon grant.
2. That Council delegate authority to the Parish Clerk, in conjunction with the Community Connector, to implement spend on the bench project - including its design, build and installation – within grant funding limits.

Tithebarn Little Free Library:

I am pleased to report to Council that Tithebarn now has a Little Free Library, alongside its new Parish Noticeboard. This is situated on the green square between Tithebarn Lane, Stone Barton Road and Tithebarn Way, with permission from the landowners (Persimmon) to keep these assets there. Since one of the benches on the space had fallen apart, we were successful in requesting use of the pre-existing concrete slab in this area for the Little Free Library and Noticeboard.

The Little Free Library is being utilized well, with children's books being wildly popular now. I have been working with the Tithebarn Residents' Association to increase community buy-in and ownership of the asset, culminating in a Residents' Association-led storytelling afternoon and opening event for the Library on 26th August. I have appended pictures at the end of this report.

Unfortunately, within 24 hours of the Little Free Library being installed, the Perspex door window was vandalized and broken. This has since been rectified and mended, with thicker Perspex, more screws and heavier duty glue all serving to support it further. With time, it is hoped that any threats of vandalism will shrink, especially as community recognition and buy-in increases.

Council will note from my previous report on 3rd June 2024 that Persimmon were kind enough to grant Broadclyst Parish Council £1000 for community projects, with a specific eye to the Little Free Library and associated projects. It has been suggested that a small, backless bench should be installed on the concrete slab in front of the Little Free Library and Noticeboard, to aide those who wish to use both assets and to improve the general utility of the area. It is therefore recommended that Council resolve to approve the installation of a new backless bench on the concrete slab in front of the Tithebarn Little Free Library and Noticeboard, using remaining unallocated grant funding from the Persimmon grant.

Community Consultation 2024:

The Community Consultation is well under way. The online survey is open for responses, and we have received over 100 so far. In-person pop-up events have taken place across the Parish, and focus groups have started. A full report on the final outcomes of the consultation will be delivered to Council at its meeting in November.

In this time, I have also met with Cllr Steve Taylor to discuss how the community consultation overlaps with the upcoming Strategic Plan. We agree that, due to the quantity and quality of responses that are being received especially surrounding community ideas, a further consultation on Strategic Plan projects

is not required at this point in time. This of course may change as the Strategic Plan progresses further towards final Council resolution.

It is important that people continue to complete the survey until it closes, so we can ensure as many grassroots ideas are picked up as possible. The online surveys will be open until the end of the working day on Friday 13th September, with consultation activities such as contacting respondents continuing until Monday 30th September, as per Council resolution on 3rd June 2024 (minute 24/075i).

Further information on the community consultation, including how to access the surveys, can be found at the following link: <https://www.broadclyst.org/community/consultation/>

This concludes my report to Council.

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Top L: Little Free Library and a visitor



*Top R (left to right): Rhiannon, Library Steward;
Cllr Paula Fernley; Corinna, who constructed
the Library; and Jake, Community Connector*



Bottom: Corinna's daughter opening the Library