

Community Connector Report

Other than the final Community Consultation report, due to come to Council in November, this will be my final regular report as an employee for Broadclyst Parish Council. As I move onto pastures new – and indeed move outside of the area – I want to thank the Council for its endless help and support whilst I've been an employee. I will dearly miss the role, and I wish the Council all the best going into the future.

The recruitment process to fill the impending vacancy in my role is now open, and is due to close on 22nd October. If any members of the public are interested in taking on this thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding role in the community, you can find out more here: <https://broadclyst.org/news-separator/news/7-news/394-vacancy-community-connector>

In this report, I will cover updates since my previous report to Council in September.

Tithebarn Public Space:

Following on from Council decision on September 2nd, 2024 (minute 24/107iii), work has commenced on installation of the bench. At the time of writing this, it has been delivered and is scheduled to be installed on Wednesday 2nd October.

The overall cost of the bench, sourced from DCW Polymers, came to £364.20 including VAT. This is within the constraints of the Persimmon grant and leaves the Council and my successor space in the budget to complete any required maintenance to the Little Free Library, noticeboard or bench.

It was confirmed that the grant funding from Persimmon could be used on this project, which meant that the Parish Clerk and I went ahead and purchased a bench. The exact grant wording, as approved by Persimmon, states that: *“Monies donated by you will go towards the Tithebarn Little Free Library project primarily, with any underspend allocated to other asset-based community development projects in Tithebarn.”* I therefore take this to mean that any project including a long-term fixture benefiting the asset-based community of Tithebarn, can benefit from the funding. However, it is important to note that this funding cannot be passed on to any other organisation, person or body, as the grant specifically excludes us from offering the funding out as donations or grants to other organisations.

Community Consultation 2024:

The Community Consultation has now closed. 131 responses were received across the two surveys, with the vast majority being received via the Residents' survey. 4 Focus Groups were also completed, as well as 7 drop-in events across the Parish. Clyst Vale Community College also ran their own internal consultation to feed into our reporting.

A full breakdown of these responses will be delivered to the next Council meeting in November 2024. The Council can then use the information in whatever ways are deemed appropriate, including using it to feed into the Strategic Plan, Work Programme, or any other work that appears over the horizon.

Since my time with the Council will be over by the time this report is delivered to the Council, I recommend that Councillors with any questions get in touch with me prior to my leaving date of Friday 18th October to discuss this further if they wish. There is no guarantee that my successor will be in place by the time the report is delivered to the next meeting.

Volunteering Database:

Through the Community Consultation, respondents were able to identify if they wanted to get involved in volunteering within the community. The survey also included specific permissions surrounding contact from the Council regarding this, meaning that we have been able to develop a GDPR-compliant database

of people and volunteering opportunities, to support them with filling voluntary vacancies across the Parish and support social cohesion.

I have also contacted organisations to find volunteering opportunities across the Parish. From this, I can confirm that, as of 30th September, 18 volunteering opportunities with varying volunteer requirements and numbers have been identified across the Parish, across 9 organisations. Work has begun on contacting people directly about these opportunities. If you know of any organisations that have any specific volunteering requirements and that may not already be listed on our database, please do let me know via the contact details at the end of this report.

All information will be kept up-to-date and fully compliant with data protection regulations. This will also be provided to my successor as part of the Community Connector handover.

Broadclyst Foodbank:

I am pleased to inform the Council that we have completed a successful Environmental Health inspection from East Devon District Council. Whilst we are awaiting the final inspection report from the Environmental Health Officer, I can confirm that we are in receipt of either a 5* or Exempt inspection report. This is a positive move, meaning we can continue to work with our stakeholders and contract managers surrounding our food distribution, such as FareShare South West.

Now that this initial inspection is complete, we can expect our next inspection to be completed in the form of a virtual/telephone questionnaire in 3 years' time.

Stakeholder engagement:

Over the past month, I have attended meetings with multiple different stakeholders and community organisations across the Parish. This has included with a representative of Seaton Town Council, presenting some of our consultation work to them and sharing best practice between local Councils.

This concludes my report to Council.

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