

 Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12 November 2013		Agenda Item No. 10
Title	Annual Feedback on Outside Appointments	
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Civic & Committee Services	
Wards of the District directly affected		
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?	No	
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number		
Background Papers	O & S Work Programme 10 September 2013	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality & Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
Not required as it concerns outside appointments.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
N/A		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report gives the annual statement of work undertaken by Outside Bodies (Appendix 1).

2. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the annual statement of work (Appendix 1).
- 2.2 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee decide whether any Councillors serving on Outside Bodies attend a future meeting to give further detail of the work of the Body and their involvement.

3. **REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 It was agreed that each year, Councillors who serve on Outside Bodies should submit an annual statement of the work undertaken by the body they served upon and this should be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. **POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 4.1 **Policy Framework** – Not applicable.
- 4.2 **Fit for the Future** – This report allows the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the work undertaken by Councillors who sit on Outside Bodies and to scrutinise if this work helps to make the District a better place to live.

5. **BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 This report does not have any financial or budgetary implications for the Council.

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S) CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 No alternative options have been considered because this method to review the work undertaken by Outside Bodies was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 10 September 2013.

7. **BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 In 2011, there was a review of outside appointments. As part of this review, it was agreed that each year all Councillors on outside bodies would be required to produce an annual statement on the work undertaken by the body. This would be made available to all Councillors electronically and could be requested to be presented to a Scrutiny Committee for consideration if a Member had concerns. This did not happen.
- 7.2 It was then agreed amongst Group Leaders that a report be brought to Scrutiny Committee each year which contains a simple update from each Councillor on their outside appointment.
- 7.3 Committee Services would coordinate this by requesting the information twice from the Councillor. If a response is not received following two requests a nil response will be recorded in the report.

- 7.4 It was agreed that November would be the appropriate time for the report to come to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is the first year that the system has been implemented.
- 7.5 Council agreed the following criteria for appointing a Councillor to an outside body:
1. A body or partnership to which the Council provides significant financial contribution;
 2. An established Council partnership with agreements in place;
 3. A body or partnership to which the Council is obliged to appoint a Member;
 4. A body or partnership which relates to the management of an asset of the Council; or
 5. Appointments made at the discretion of the Council.
- 7.6 It should be noted that the outside appointments are made on a politically proportionate basis i.e. the numbers allocated are proportionate to the number of Councillors in each Group on the Council. Following the recent changes in political groups there is a need to review the number of appointments for each group. This has been held in back until after the forthcoming appointment of a new Leader of the Conservative Group because this may also result in some changes.
- 7.7 In addition to the above paragraph the Deputy Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager has also been considering if all the appointments are ones to be made by Council or if some of them are ones to be made by the Executive. This would also affect the political proportionality and it is anticipated to discuss this with Group Leaders in December.
- 7.8 The original intention of the annual reports was to not only understand what was happening with the outside appointments but to also see if there were ones where the appointments could cease. The appointments where no contact has been received for over 12 months will now be contacted by the Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer with a view to cancelling the appointment.

Appendix 1

FEEDBACK ON OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS – 2012/13

Category	Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
	51m	Hammon/Illingworth	<p>51M was formed on the announcement of the new proposed High Speed Rail route. It consists of representatives of all the local authorities through which the route passes from London to the south of Birmingham. It now has been joined by authorities north of Birmingham who represent the areas affected by the second stage of the proposed route to Manchester and Leeds.</p> <p>All authorities felt that this new route would do irreparable damage to their area without any cost benefit. In fact in many cases it would have negative economic impacts. All agreed to fund opposition to the scheme in a concerted effort under the banner 51M.</p> <p>Warwick District Council initially agreed funding of £100,000 but this has now increased after a Judicial Review and subsequent appeal to the Supreme Court.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire, Camden and Hillingdon have borne the largest cost for the legal work.</p> <p>Although nothing has, as yet, stopped HS2 going ahead, the credibility of the scheme has been severely damaged by the efforts of this group. The future of the project is now very much in doubt.</p> <p>Warwick District Council was represented initially by Councillors Doody and Hammon and now by Councillors Illingworth and Hammon.</p>
3	Bath Place Community Venture & Management Committee	Ms Dean	Appendix 10

2	Bid Leamington Board	Gifford	<p>This is a very successful organisation that has ensured that Leamington Town Centre has been one of only a few towns in the Midlands to increase its footfall. It is funded by the retailers in the town centre (North of the river) and has used its income of about £ 300,000 per annum to promote Leamington Spa as a shopping destination. It has used its excellent website, the Food and Drink Festival, The Leamington Lantern Parade and improved Christmas lights to give people special reasons for visiting the town.</p> <p>It has also shown imagination in marketing the town. It has had a successful poster campaign at Marylebone Station and its "Little Book of Offers" has helped the traders not only sell more to their customers but also to harvest more information on those customers. It has worked in constructive partnership with the District Council over such matters as the Food and Drink Festival and the Christmas Lights. It is an example of how the public and private sectors can work together with considerable success.</p>
3	Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee	Guest	Appendix 9
	City Deals	Caborn	The latest position is outlined in the report to the Executive on 12 November 2013.
	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	Caborn	A detailed report was made to scrutiny in July 2013 . Process moving forward in appointing a new chairman and CEO. Issues may arise on future governance if new homes bonus money is moved to LEP. It is still an evolving body.

3	Coventry Airport Consultative Committee	Hammon	<p>The Consultative Committee was formed when the airport expansion was perceived as very controversial. There was mistrust between local people and the airport authorities.</p> <p>The purpose of the Committee at the beginning was for the airport authority to discuss any plans it might have with the members before they came to fruition. This would reduce the mistrust and allow dialogue and consultation to take place without confrontation. The policy has largely been successful as there is now a much better atmosphere at the meetings. It must be said however that activity at the airport has been slow and nothing too controversial has been proposed.</p> <p>The committee also receives all data from the airport including number of flights, noise complaints and changes that take place within the airport boundary. It gives updates on its dealings with Warwick District Council including S.106 negotiation with the planning department and noise readings for Environmental Health.</p> <p>Membership is made up from airport users and businesses, local representatives, local parish councils, action groups, C.P.R.E., Coventry Chamber of Commerce and me for Warwick District Council.</p>
4	Friends of Leamington Art Gallery	Weber/Mrs Goode	Appendix 7

1	Hill Close Gardens Trust	Kinson/Pittarello	<p>Councillor Pittarello: Hill Close Gardens continues to make exciting progress in attracting visitors to these beautiful and high quality gardens – recognised by English Heritage as the only example of Victorian detached gardens to which the public have regular access. Its 80 passionate volunteers contributing 3500 hours per annum are highly dedicated and its membership at 250 continues to grow. Hill Close now delivers substantial education (with glowing feedback) with local schools attracting 500 children this year, and with the addition of horticulture to the national curriculum, this is likely to be a growth area. The Gardens also host a number of highly popular annual specialist events including “Snowdrop Day” and “Apple Day” which the guest book suggests attracts visitors from far afield. As a garden it is highly weather dependent, and to that extent 2012 being the washout that it was, did not help visitor numbers – the first drop since it opened in 2007, however this is likely to be a blip. HCG remains dependent on WDC for a quarter of its income, however this amount is significantly less than would otherwise be required to maintain these gardens to a lower quality from alternative 3rd party contractors. Councillors should be aware that the original WDC grant to HCG ends in 2015/16, and the viability of the gardens would be in jeopardy should there be no further funding. This is a developing jewel in Warwick’s crown attracting visitors and educating our young. It is one of the best examples of local community engagement and we should continue to support their work until they are in a position to support themselves.</p>
4	Kenilworth Abbey Advisory Committee	Vincett	<p>My major participation through the year has been in relation to progressing the roof repairs to the Abbey Gatehouse. Please See Appendix 5 for the minutes of the KAAC AGM 25 January 2013.</p>
4	Kenilworth Town Centre Partnership	Coker	<p>This committee has overseen the development of the Kenilworth Town Centre and the implementation of the Town Centre Plan which the District sponsored with the Town Council some years ago. Much has been achieved but the process continues with currently the further development of the Civic centre being the main concern. It meets intermittently as opportunities to progress the Plan occur.</p>

3	Lapworth Charity	Caborn	<p>Very successfully year managing its portfolio of alms houses , rental property and farm land</p> <p>Grants given to Lapworth School, individual education projects for residents, and the elderly. Emergency call systems installed for elderly</p> <p>My attendance limited on advise of monitoring officer on account of leading local plan and charity being a possible developer</p>
2	LGA District Council's Network	Doody	
2	LLP Board	Doody/Hammon/Mobbs	Appendix 8
3	Local Government Association – Rural Commission	Mackay	<p>The LGA Rural Commission is very active. It meets on five occasions each year, The Commission meets in March and September. The latter runs for two days, the first being The Commission and the second the Conference, which allows non commission members. This year I was delighted to work with the officers in arranging the venue for the two days ,September 3rd &*4th in our District at the Hilton. It received very favourable comments, including for the Workshop on Rural Housing conducted by Cllr Norman Vincett and Head of Housing Jameel Malik. The other two days – one in Spring and another in the Autumn – are Policy Review Groups. The Groups comprise only a %age of the Commission members. My role as Independent Vice-Chairman of the Commission was instrumental in bringing the Commission to Warwick District.</p>
3	Local Government Association – Urban Commission	Mrs Grainger	
3	National Association of Councillors	Caborn	Kept in touch via email but have not attended meetings this year because of travel and accommodation costs to authority .ie AGM held in Ireland
1	National Parking Adjudication Service Patrol	Weed	Nothing to report because Councillor Weed was unable to attend the last meeting.

	Racing Club Warwick	Rhead	
4	Royal Leamington Spa Town Centre Partnerships	Ms Dean/Gifford/Heath	<p>Councillor Gifford: Sadly I have not been invited to any meetings since Pam Dunston left WDC, in September 2012. Certainly whilst she was responsible I was informed of meetings but most of the communication and discussion was via email. Since then I have not been notified of any meetings.</p> <p>However, as a Town Councillor, I am aware that with both BID Leamington being very active north of the river and the Mary Portas Bid starting to operate south of the river, the Leamington Town Centre Partnership may have less relevance than similar partnerships in the other towns.</p>
	Safer Stronger and Communities Board	Coker/Weed	<p>Councillor Coker: SSPB has the responsibility for approving and overseeing county level partnership strategies for community safety and community engagement. This group also fulfils the statutory responsibilities of the county community safety strategy group as required under the Crime & Disorder Act (1998). SSPB receives the strategic assessments from the 4 Warwickshire community safety partnerships before agreeing its own countywide priorities and producing the Community Safety Agreement.</p> <p><i>There are currently two representatives from this authority (one for safer and one for stronger) but when the group met on September 20th, 2013 it resolved to consult with all local authorities on whether this could be reduced to one representative.</i></p>

2	South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership	Boad/Coker	Councillor Coker: The two community safety partnerships for Warwick & Stratford Districts formally merged in September 2008. This is the statutory body for the reduction of crime, disorder and substance misuse as set out in the Crime & Disorder Act (1998). It is made up of board members of the responsible authorities including district and county councils, Police, Fire & Rescue, Probation Trust and Clinical Commission Group. SWCSP is responsible for the production of an annual strategic assessment and a partnership plan to address the agreed priorities of reducing violence, anti-social behaviour and reoffending. SWCSP meets in May and November to assess performance and in January to receive the Strategic Assessment and agree priorities. I am currently Chairman but will hand this role over at our next meeting to Cllr Gill Roach of Stratford.
3	South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	Mrs Bunker	Appendix 6
3	South Warwickshire Plato Trust	Mrs Falp	Appendix 2
3	Thomas Oken Charity	Caborn	No attendance this year on advise of monitoring officer as Charity is part of a developer consortium
1	Victim Support Mid-Warwickshire	Mobbs	I have not attended victim support and after requests they are not interested in my involvement.
5	Warwick Community and Voluntary Action	Copping	W.C.A.V.A. supports and advises circa 350 local charities and voluntary associations. Income is £126,000 per annum, mostly from grants. I enjoy being associated with C.A.V.A. and think they are doing an excellent job in these very tough financial times. See Appendix 4.

3	Warwick District Age UK Care and Repair Advisory Committee	Wilkinson	<p>I have not been contacted by Warwick District Care and Repair agency for over 12 months nor have I contacted them.</p> <p>Officers have advised that this appointment is no longer required due to the change in working relations with the agency as work with them has decreased and there are other more regular meeting where performance can be monitored.</p> <p>I have asked for the Deputy Monitoring Officer to consider this with Group Leaders when they discuss appointments in December 2013.</p>
1	Warwick District Citizens Advice Bureau	Wilkinson	<p>In the year April 2012 to March 2013 Warwick District CAB handled over 6000 new enquiries from 4900 clients; 3300 of whom were new users of CAB. Over 12,800 issues were dealt with by the 70 or so volunteers. Issues addressed included debt, benefits, employment, housing, legal and consumer, immigration, relationships, discrimination, taxes and utilities.</p> <p>The CAB office in Hamilton Terrace is open 4 days a week for drop in advice. Additionally volunteers and staff provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for 4 days a week to the County wide CAB Telephone Advice Service. - Advice Sessions. 1 from Shire Hall and 1 from Kenilworth Library. -Advice and Support to parents of under-5s -Delivery of a Macmillan Benefits advice project -Financial capability training <p>A prime concern of CAB is changes to Government policy in relation to both housing and benefits. These have impacted negatively on a number of clients.</p> <p>Finance. Funders and Donors include WCC and WDC, and the Town Councils of Warwick and Leamington but not Kenilworth.</p> <p>Currently CAB is running with a small surplus and has reserves of</p>

			<p>£236k being the equivalent of 5 months turnover. However Budget income for 2013-2014 is projected to fall by 12%.</p> <p>The office in Hamilton Terrace is WDC owned. CAB does not occupy the empty upper floors. Dialogue on possibly occupancy has stalled. Additionally, the building is in poor repair.</p> <p>In conclusion, I believe CAB is well run and provides an important service. Funding is an issue. CAB are aware that Funders need to be reassured with hard data that their money is being used effectively and CAB are making sure that this is the case.</p>
1	Warwick District Mobility	Mrs Bunker	Nothing to report because Warwick District Mobility has not met for at least three years.
4	Warwick Town Centre Management Group	Kinson	<p>Since Mathew Caddick decided to become a teacher in Aug 2011 the Warwick Town Centre Management has not been under proper leadership until July 2013 when Nicki Curwood arrived from Riverside House. I have represented WDC in this area for several years and have now been requested to Chair our meetings. Nicki is endeavouring to increase attendance at all our meetings from all interested parties in Warwick and also settle on a regular time as have experimented with breakfast, lunch time, and evening meetings recently. The Strategy and Action Plan for 2014 is being updated and it is hoped that the new Shakespeare England tourist organisation will improve visitor numbers. Visitor numbers are already up compared to 2012. Our new TIC is proving a big attraction. 2014 will see Warwick celebrating 1100 years since its foundation and so coordination and publicity for all the events being planned plus commemorating the Great War and all the regular events held during the year will be a major task.</p>
4	Warwick Town Centre Partnership	Mrs Bromley/Mrs Higgins/ Caborn	Councillor Mrs Higgins reported that the Warwick Town Centre Partnership received the Town Centre proposals (organised by Lorna Coldicott) and this was well received by those who were there that evening. It has not met since.

3	Warwickshire County Council Health and Adult Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Kinson	<p>I have represented Warwick District Council on this Committee for approximately 9 years. The Adult Social Services Committee was incorporated around 4 years ago, though District Borough Reps do not have a vote on these issues. When the WDC Health Forums were held regularly I used to report to them but in recent times their meetings have been infrequent. However with the recent reorganisation of the NHS responsibility for public health has now been devolved down to WCC and WDC levels. A Health Scrutiny Working Party has now been established and has already met twice. On 29 Oct 2013 the Guest Speakers were Anna Burns Director of Strategy and Engagement NHS South Warwickshire CCG followed by Dr John Linnane Director of Public Health Warwickshire. I feel sure that our Scrutiny Members are far more aware of the new organisation now though it will take time to absorb the large amount of paperwork which was issued to them. It is worth noting that Cllr M Coker represents WDC on the newly established WCC Health and Well Being Board.</p>
3	Warwickshire County Council – Housing Support Partnership	Vincett	<p>The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services has been a Member of Warwickshire County Council's Warwickshire Housing Support Partnership, formerly known as the "Commissioning Body". The Partnership's role is to determine the strategic direction for the Supporting People programme and its membership consists of senior housing officers and Councillors.</p> <p>It hasn't met since early 2013 due to a number of significant changes. Since the removal of the Supporting People ring-fence there has been a complete restructuring of the County's Supporting People service and the Chairperson has now become the Leader of the County Council.</p> <p>Meetings during 2012/3 centred on where and how cutbacks might be made so as to meet the WCC budget constraints and progressed to beginning to scope new contract let specifications for re-tendering.</p>

3	Warwickshire County Council – Overview and Scrutiny Board	Gifford	<p>This Board was abolished by the County Council after the elections in May this year. Most of its work was dealing with County Council Scrutiny issues and in that respect it was redundant, given the work done by other Scrutiny Committees at the County. However it could be a useful link between the District Council O & S Committee and the County Council. I like to believe that this Council used it more effectively than the other Districts and Boroughs especially when dealing with the very difficult issues arising from mental health and social housing.</p> <p>Sadly, it was abolished just before the recent discussions on Parking Enforcement. I think there will need to be some new means of the scrutiny elements of the Boroughs and Districts keeping in contact with the County Council's Scrutiny role.</p>
3	Warwickshire County Council – Pension Fund Consultative Panel	Coker	Due to other commitments I have not been able to attend the meetings of this panel over the last two years. It meets from time to time to monitor the movements and development of the Pension Fund.
3	Warwickshire County Council – Health & Wellbeing Board	Coker	The Board officially came into being on 1 st April 2013 after operating in 'shadow' mode from approximately 18 months previously. The main function of the Board is to improve the health & wellbeing of the community in Warwickshire. A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has been carried out, in common with all Health & Wellbeing Boards. This assesses and identified the specific health needs in the area. WCC agreed during the course of last year that all County districts and boroughs should be represented on this Board which is developing bearing in mind the changes to the Health Service and Public Health.
2	Warwickshire Direct Partnership	Kirton	
3	Warwickshire Police & Crime Panel	Doody	
1	Warwickshire Rural Community Council – Executive Committee	Pratt	Councillor Pratt reported that he has never received an invitation to a meeting and therefore has nothing to report.

1	Warwickshire Rural Community Council – Works & Projects Committee	MacKay	Only one contact was made. An invitation was made to one meeting but it clashed. My intention is now to ensure I get integrated into the Council.
2	Warwickshire Waste Management Forum	Shilton	
3	West Midlands Employers	Doody	
3	William Riley Charity (Alms Houses in Brunswick ward)	Gill	Appendix 3

Key to categories:

- 1 – A body or partnership to which the Council provides significant financial contribution.
- 2 – An established Council partnership with agreements in place.
- 3 – A body or partnership to which the Council is obliged to appoint a Member.
- 4 – A body or partnership which relates to the management of an asset of the Council.
- 5 – Appointments made at the discretion of the Council.

Appendix 2

The Plato Trust

The South Warwickshire Plato Trust is a charitable organisation providing housing for people who have suffered from, or are recovering from mental illness.

In 1971, South Warwickshire Group Homes was formed to provide safe accommodation for people suffering from mental health problems and thereby assist with their recovery. In 1982 Plato Trust was also founded, providing much the same services as South Warwickshire Group Homes. The two organisations worked closely together until 2001, when they merged to become South Warwickshire Plato Trust, with the working name of Plato Trust.

South Warwickshire Plato Trust has a range of accommodation leased from the County Council and the District Council. There are 9 houses and 14 single person flats, providing a total of 46 places from 21st October 2013. There are 12 properties currently rented from Warwickshire District Council, 9 properties from Warwickshire County Council, and one from Orbit Housing. The organisation has also recently purchased its own first flat. The organisation works closely with Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust, Warwickshire County Council and Stratford and Warwick District Councils.

The current cost of renting an accommodation from the Trust is £140. This covers the rent, utility services, communal T.V licence, telephone line rental and communal gardening. Heating and appliance repairs and maintenance that is not the responsibility of the landlord are also provided for the tenants. All accommodation is furnished.

There are regular meetings of the Management Board where partners are invited to attend. Regular updates are given at the meeting about how the tenants are managing. Issues are quickly addressed by the Manager and his Assistant. Financial reports on the Trust are given at each meeting and an Annual General Meeting is always held.

The issues for the committee in the future will be Universal Credit. Tenants will receive their benefits monthly, directly. With many having complex needs, a way to ensure they pay their bills needs to be found. If not, this could result in rent (with utility costs) not being paid to the organisation. Also an on-going issue is the lack of accommodation being available from the District Councils to rent.

My role, I believe, is to advise if possible of any policy decisions by W.D.C. that may affect the Trust. I also try to advise on whom to contact if they have concerns on certain matters and to now advise elected members annually on why I sit on the Board for W.D.C. and the ways we can work together to help some of our tenants who have specific needs.

Councillor Judy Falp

Appendix 3

William Riley Charity

William Riley is a very small charity. I think it's linked to Almshouse Association. A couple of years ago this appointment was cancelled by Council but it was against the charity's constitution. There should be councillor on the board of trustees so I was re-appointed.

It only has two properties at Prospect Road Leamington Spa.

Its aim was to rent these houses to those people who have very low income and a very low bank balance.

When I joined its board of trustees in 2003, I was surprised to note that rent was less than £15 per week for three bed room property.

It was and still is administered by one of the solicitors of Wright Hassall.

Their administration cost was more than the income. I advised them to increase the rent to bring it in line with council housing rent level of similar properties but over the years. 1st year it looked bad percentage wise (50%) though the increase was less than £10 per week. We have increased the rent over the years but it is still below the council rent level.

One of the properties was empty and there was very little income. The solicitor advised us to sell this property which I opposed and I asked them if the two properties cannot pay the admin cost how could one?

I advised them to find or choose a tenant out of council waiting list that fits in the charity criteria. Eventually we found the tenant.

We meet once a year in April. The solicitor advised in April 2013 to have an estate agent to administer these properties. It may be good in one sense that charity will get market rent but admin fee may be a lot more.

Councillor Balvinder Gill

Appendix 4

Monitoring Narrative

1st April – 30th Sept 2013

Priority One.

Supporting voluntary and community organisations with their development needs

- Help groups respond to financial pressures and changes to public sector finance by adopting new business models
- Ensure voluntary and community groups have access to information and good practice advice around all aspects of running an organisation
- Work with specific groups and projects as negotiated with the funding partners. This will generally be (a) groups looking to take-over public services; (b) groups looking to adapt to reductions or changes in public sector finance), or (c) development of new projects to meet identified priorities or gaps in the market.
 - i.e.: Funding brought in or new income streams developed
 - Achievement of quality standards
 - Group takes on the delivery of a public service
 - New service established
 - Other evidence of enhanced capacity

One to one funding and development consultations continue to be very diverse in nature, with numerous groups in the early stages of setting up as a company and needing advice on legal structures, guidance on funding sources for areas such as overseas work, equipment for pre-term babies and buildings. One of the meetings took place in Hampton Magna, with the new Budbrooke community centre committee to look at sources of funding to upgrade the building and included signposting to WRCC and WDC rural urban improvements scheme.

A number of funding searches have taken place for groups wanting to apply for project and core costs, and appraisals of applications to a variety of funders. Kenilworth Phab required particular support around their charity application and Chase Meadow Community Centre were advised on their governance structures. Support was provided for Kids Run Free in respect of assessing their Full Cost Recovery spread sheet accompanying their Awards for All application for £9,156.

We have supported Leamington Night Shelter with successfully becoming a registered charity.

As part of one to one consultations, the benefits of registering organisations and opportunities with the Volunteer Centre, have been promoted, and as a result The Cotton Tree Children's Trust has registered a Volunteer opportunity.

Positive feedback from organisations supported includes *"You certainly gave me a lot to think about and lots of inspiration when we chatted so thanks very much for that and for your time", "Thanks - Absolutely brilliant support - will let you know how I get on !!!" and "I can't thank you enough for your time this afternoon and for the opportunity to explain where it is that we're at. Your experience is invaluable in this kind of situation and the perspective you have is very welcome indeed."*

One to one consultations regarding advice on setting up and/or improving volunteer programmes continue. The emphasis on this is reflected at national level as NCVO are in the process of recruiting for a new post of volunteer manager with a focus on implementation at a strategic level.

Larger voluntary organisations, e.g. Air Ambulance and Guide Dogs for the Blind have been seeking advice on strategic volunteer management. Other issues for organisations include implementing the new DBS service.

Priority Two

Enabling effective networking and collaboration between voluntary and community organisations; supporting the sector to input into partnership and commissioning arrangements

- Facilitate local voluntary sector networks meeting at least twice a year across the County
- Ensure the facilitation and co-ordination of thematic voluntary sector networks as agreed through discussion with the contract manager (including networks around Health & Social Care; Children & Youth Services; and Voluntary Sector Support Services)
- Support on-line networking between voluntary and community organisations
 - i.e.: Details of networks, collaboration & consortia supported, including dates of meetings and numbers attending, and any outcomes of that support
 - Details of links with public sector commissioners & partnership bodies

Two South Warwickshire Funding and Development meetings have been held. At one of the meetings, the Business Partnership Manager at CSW Sport led a presentation on the number of initiatives and funding opportunities available in the sub-region, including information on how to set up a community games and the accompanying toolkit to support groups and communities. Public Liability was highlighted as an area of concern for many members, in terms of how we support groups in raising awareness, but also signposting to appropriate insurance companies that understand their needs.

The South Warwickshire Fundraisers Forum was held on 1st July in Kenilworth and attended by 14 people. The topic was 'Evidencing Need', which was highlighted as a priority within the last SWFF evaluation. Feedback from the event included comments about how useful the presentation by the research team at Warwickshire Observatory was, and how participants would be able to "take away increased knowledge on websites suitable for research purposes". The presentation was followed by a practical session led by WCAVA Funding and Development Officers on what is meant by evidence and different ways to demonstrate needs and gaps in provision. Suggestions for future topics include "Measuring your organisation's impact" and "Writing effective funding applications". The next forum is on the 17th October at the SYDNI Centre and will be focused on impact, another area highlighted by evaluation feedback.

WCAVA Group Funding and Development attended the local MP, Chris White's constituents' networking event at the Brunswick Healthy Living Centre alongside the Volunteer Centre, providing an informal opportunity to share what we do with other colleagues and voluntary organisations working in the District.

WCAVA organised an event on April 29th to bring together mental health providers from the voluntary and community and statutory sector working in the District, in order to exchange information about their service provision. 63 people attended. The vast majority of respondents assessed the event as extremely useful. The main outcomes of the event were – further networking, increased knowledge of providers and services with up to date contact detail, and improved signposting/referral mechanisms. When asked how providers can work together more effectively to improve mental health provision the following were mentioned: more networking events, an electronic and up to date directory, clearer

signposting/referral/pathways mechanisms, shared mailing lists/web pages, mental health training, and better contact with service users and the crisis mental health team.

As a result of the event, WCAVAWD produced a Directory of mental health providers which has recently been updated so that it is more comprehensive, and indexed, so that readers can identify which organisations work within different areas of mental health such as crisis. Further promotion of the Directory particularly to GPs is planned. The link to the Directory is: <http://www.wcava.org.uk/wcava-directory-mental-health-provision-warwick-district>

WCAVA is the lead organisation for the mental health section of the action plan for the Health and Well Being Board in Warwick District (HIWEB). WCAVA completes actions for the plan through the mental health task and finish group made up of nine mental health providers working in the District. The first three objectives from the plan have been met though the mental health event, directory and the promotion of mental health first aid training to the sector; the group is now in the process of reviewing the pathways for people with mental health problems. The group is hoping to commission some focused research on this area with service users, to be completed by a student from Coventry University, who is also a mental health specialist with our neighbouring Age UK.

The Volunteer Centre and Groups Funding and Development were represented at the Sports Development Evening on the 30 September. Over 30 sports clubs and groups attended this event and support was given in areas of funding, partnerships and signposting. Lots of useful contacts were made and collaborative work has been planned for a number of groups. 18 people attended each of the two workshops, one on volunteer recruitment and one on retention, and the VC also supported clubs and groups with good practice advice in volunteer management and signposting.

Many thanks go to volunteer, Nick Rabson, who continues to provide material for all our VC events.

The CAF took place on Monday 15th July on the theme of the 'Changing Health Landscape' with presentations from Healthwatch Warwickshire and the South Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Group, with 35 attendees. The event focused on the changing health structures and how organisations can engage with them.

21 people attended the South Warwickshire Volunteering Forum one day workshop on 'Strategic Volunteer Management'. 14 people who attended this workshop have requested to be followed up and work has already commenced on their personal development plans. It is envisaged that all 14 will have a formal review in 6 months' time.

32 people attended the South Warwickshire Volunteering Forum event on 6 August; the two topics were "Recruiting the Right Volunteer" and an exercise to see how well members were using the Volunteer Charter. As a result of the exercise it is proposed to hold a one day workshop next year on implementing (and influencing) the Volunteer Charter.

Priority Three

Stimulating local community activism and volunteering

- Provide an integrated gateway for people looking to volunteer, with a particular emphasis on (a) web-based information (b) using local community facilities (c) tailored information for neighbourhoods/localities, linked to Community Forums.
- Provide practical support and guidance for agencies managing volunteers – around issues such as CRB checks and expenses - including web-based information or links.
- Support the involvement of community groups in identifying and addressing local priorities
 - i.e.: Evidence of activities facilitated to address local priorities identified with public sector partners, for instance through Community Forums

Brokerage figures: During this period the VC has promoted an average of 1,000 opportunities, of which 900 are uploaded to the national volunteering database website www.do-it.org.uk. The total number of volunteers registered from 1.4.13 to 1.6.13 is 219, compared with 203 registered from 1.4.12-31.6.13. The total number of volunteers registered from 1.7.13 to 31.9.13 is 202. Please note that due to the enormous administration that is needed, it would be impossible for the brokerage function to operate successfully without the input of the VC volunteers, Ann Beckett, Robyn Dorling, Sue Garrett, and Jo Hill.

The data for the last 3 months shows a remarkable increase, particularly in August, for young people aged between 19-25 years, who are seeking volunteering opportunities.

More and more volunteers with extra support needs are seeking volunteering opportunities that are diminishing for them. There are now very few organisations who are able to support volunteers with these needs. This is a worrying trend.

Additionally many people, who have English as a second language, are applying for volunteering. In many instances their understanding of English prohibits them securing the volunteering opportunities they are really interested in.

Issues that have concerned VIOs: Issues regarding the new setup of the Disclosure and Barring Service still continues to vex VIOs. The VCM has been on training for this and is now better able to respond to issues. The VC continues to promote youth volunteering and had a very successful campaign at the Peace Festival on 15 and 16 June. The new literature developed by Volunteer Centres Warwickshire, with help and funding from WCC, has proved very popular with 250 leaflets being distributed at the Festival itself.

Gill Jones and Ann Beckett were able to represent the VC at a market place provision event set up by the Job Centre – giving advice and information to Job Centre Advisors. This was particularly satisfying for all concerned as the VCM was unable to attend as she was delivering the SWVF workshop on Strategic Volunteer Management. Having volunteers who are well trained and confident in dealing with the Job Centre was extremely beneficial. It is with great pride that the Volunteer Centre wishes Gill Jones every success in her new role as an employee, as she started on 1 June with Warwickshire CAVA, Warwick District as Community Support Co-ordinator. She will be sorely missed. As a result of her departure the VC is revising how the other volunteers are working so that the VC can meet the demands of the WCC and WDC contracts.

The Volunteer Centre attended a one day session for NEETS in Warwickshire on 27 August. 60 young people attended and the Volunteer Centre made several referrals to volunteer-involving organisations.

Priority Four

Bringing in funding & investment to Warwickshire, particularly our most disadvantaged communities; and working to maximise the benefits from local trust funds

- Identify and liaise with local Trust Funds and fund holders to explore opportunities to align funding with local priorities
- Support groups to make the most of funding opportunities, including bringing together collaborative bids
 - i.e.: Evidence of key funding brought in or used differently
 - Details of collaborative bids developed

The latest funding opportunities continue to be collated and shared through the WCAVA weekly E-grapevine and to contacts on the Group Funding database. This mechanism has proved to be a useful tool to keep in touch with groups, particularly those who have had a one to one consultation, or require follow up support.

A joint funding consultation meeting took place between Kath Bannister, Community Development Worker, Warwickshire Race Equality Partnership (WREP) and a volunteer from the West Indian Senior Endeavours (WISE), with the intention of reviving this social group.

A partnership is being developed between Bath Place, Sure Start Clemens Street and Mary Portas to support the delivery of services and ensure their future sustainability. In addition to the Mary Portas funding, Bath Place is currently pursuing the Community Assets and Services Grant through the SIB for the redevelopment of their original building. Kath Bannister and the Funding Officer are also supporting St John's Church Kenilworth in their Community Involvement Project ensuring suitable partnerships and support in accessing Section 106 funding.

Priority Five

Acting as a communication link between public agencies and the wider sector, including providing a knowledge base/information bank of sector activity; helping to identify community needs and facilitating engagement of communities and interest groups

- Provide a weekly email bulletin of news and information for voluntary and community organisations (minimum 42 per year)
- Support public sector managers and commissioners to communicate and liaise with voluntary and community organisations; and provide specific information on request
- Monitor the implementation of the Warwickshire Compact, represent the interests of the voluntary and community sector, and provide a point of mediation as necessary
- Support local partnerships to identify community needs, and support the engagement of communities and interest groups
- Undertake a survey of voluntary and community organisations to include the health of the sector, relations with public agencies, and satisfaction with support services.

WCAVA continues to manage the 'Engaging with Communities of interest' contract with Warwick District Council. We continue to streamline the project's systems and monitoring processes. A meeting took place with WYCVS, WCAVA and LGBT representatives from the Push Projects, Terence Higgins Trust and Coventry and

Warwickshire Friends to see how they might be engaged within this piece of work. Participants were keen to be involved in coordination meetings, disseminating consultation material, sharing survey information and partnership working. A member of Coventry and Warwickshire Friends now attends the ECCG meetings and at the last meeting provided information about the issues for the LGBT community, identified through a survey conducted by the organisation.

WCAVA and other members of the ECCG attended the inaugural Warwickshire Pride event on 31 August. The event attracted a variety of voluntary and community organisations and LGBT groups and was a wonderful celebration of the diversity of the local community. High calibre entertainment combined with speeches highlighting issues such as the prevalence of homophobic bullying in schools. The LGBT network met and discussed the Warwickshire Pride event, and future plans for more consultation with the LGBT community, and the delivery of LGBT awareness training.

The ECCG continues to identify issues for specific communities of interest; four meetings have been held during this period. For example, OPA is focusing on the issues of loneliness and transport which have been identified from their consultations, and is working closely with WDC on specific issues related to these areas. Circles Network has had an input into the WDC Housing Strategy Consultations, raising awareness of the issues for disabled people with housing. WCAVAWD has used its new database, VCConnect, and the Do.it website to identify disability organisations working in Warwick District, as a starting point for the creation of a Disability Forum in Warwick District.

The WCAVAWD delivery team attends regular meeting with the Community Partnership team to share local intelligence and priorities for both teams. Jane Coates and Jane Holdsworth delivered a joint presentation on “Developing an innovative partnership with third sector providers and demonstrating the delivery of outcomes” at the Capita Third Sector Commissioning Conference in July, describing their experience of joint working during the transition from WDC grant funding to commissioning. The event provided an opportunity to showcase the work of WCAVA and highlight good practice in the monitoring methods used by voluntary organisations in Warwick District, to 68 representatives from across the country, including the Chief Executive of NAVCA, Joe Irvin.

We aim to strengthen the relationship with elected members and to that end the Locality Manager attended the Annual Meeting of WD Council.

The Locality Manager and Volunteer Centre Manager attended Warwick District’s Citizen of the Year Award 2013, organised by the Brakes Trust. WCAVA staff members supported nominees from organisations they have worked with, such as the SYDNI Centre. Two volunteers with 100 years of volunteering experience between them, from the Royal Leamington Spa Rehab Hospital, were the joint winners.

Appendix 5

KENILWORTH ABBEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 25th January 2013

Present Richard Morris, Hon.Chairman (RM)
Joanna Illingworth, Hon.Vice-Chairman (JI)
Geoff Hilton, Hon.Secretary (GH)
Sue Hutchins, Hon.Treasurer (SH)
Cllr. Shirley Shilton (SS)
Roger Cullimore (RC)
David Brock (DB)
Norman Stevens (NS)
Ben Wallace (BW)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Pat Smith, Ian George, Lisette Piper, Cllr. Mike Hitchins, and Mervyn Kimberley.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting, Friday 5th October, 2012.

The Minutes had been circulated: they were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes, not covered by the Agenda.

805. GH had written to Gordon Cain inviting him to join our meetings (783): Gordon replied that he was extremely interested professionally in the restoration and conservation of the Gatehouse, and although occupied with a project for an Oxford college, would attend one of our meetings when he could.
806. Jon Holmes emailed GH to say that ivy trimming in the North Transept was in progress (800) that yews on the Chapter House wall had been removed and their stumps treated, and that a replacement sign was organised for LP to install, with a spare sign available if needed.

4. Chairman's Report for 2012

807. Let me start by thanking on your behalf all the other Officers, including those of the Conservation Plan Working Group, for their various contributions in 2012, and also to David Brock for his technical drawings for the north door project. We are also grateful to Lisette Piper, Roger Cullimore and Ian George for their support and advice, and to Ben Wallace, who has joined the Committee this year. The attendance of representatives from other organisations at Committee meetings is really appreciated: it makes the functioning of KAAC much more effective.

Some essential repairs at the Gatehouse were carried out by WDC in October 2012. The summer's heavy rain had washed out some of the infilling of mortar and rubble between the stone blocks in the aperture of the blocked north doorway, and a very enthusiastic mason from WDC's contractors, Pinners, returned the masonry of the jambs to its former state. His ability to move huge stone blocks permitted Henrietta Denny and myself the opportunity to record the pile of carved stones on the floor of the north room, and I am grateful to Lisette Piper for arranging for Pinners' carpenters to supply some wooden form-work to facilitate a tidier stacking of the stones for the present time. Following a site meeting with Jon Holmes in May 2012, the WDC spraying of weeds on the Abbey ruins appeared to proceed more effectively last summer, for which we are grateful, though still no action has been taken about the increasing tree growth and vegetation around the mill masonry by the brook. This remains a priority for 2013. There was a time when we had anticipated that the WDC re-roofing of the Barn would happen in 2012, but it was put off and now hopefully will take place in autumn 2013 or early 2014, whilst the museum is closed to the public.

However, to my mind the most significant happenings in 2012 were more of a paperwork kind, laying the ground for what we hope will be significant developments this year, 2013.

The WDC scheme to seal the Gatehouse roof, that slow-moving juggernaut, appears finally to have passed through all (or almost all) the bureaucratic barriers; we understand that a contractor has been appointed and we hold our breath that the work will actually, finally, be undertaken this Spring. In the meantime, Wolverhampton University has commenced measuring the relative moisture in the two chambers.

The Harry Sunley Memorial Project (the refitting of the Gatehouse), proposed at our last Annual Meeting, has begun to take shape through discussion at our various meetings in 2012. The most tangible step forward has been the granting of SMC for the north door and the related path re-grading works. The project has now reached the point where a major fund-raising initiative needs to be launched in 2013, and there is a paper relating to this on today's Agenda.

The complete revamping by WDC of the play area in Abbey Fields is due to commence shortly, and I should like to think that the planned relocation of the junior playground to the old bowling green is due at least in small part to the proposal we made a year ago. In November 2012 I responded to the Consultation Brief on your behalf, after discussion with the other Officers, welcoming the intention to improve the setting of the Barn and the Abbey remains by locating play equipment further away. However, we seriously questioned the proposal for a 'Teen Area', with large adventure equipment, in part of the old play area (more suitable for Castle Farm, in our opinion); we strongly opposed the idea for 'sculpture' in the proposed picnic area closest to the Barn; and we expressed our preference to retain the 1920s wooden pavilion by the bowling green. We asked to be consulted further particularly on any parts of the final scheme which are in the general vicinity of the Barn; though at the time of writing I have heard nothing further.

So this coming year should see a lot of action, and hopefully, from our point of view, a lot to which to look forward with pleasure.

808. NS commented that no Resistivity readings could be made for the Bowling Green owing to compaction of the ground.

809. SS, as our Councillor representative, said she would hold a watching brief about proposals for recreation in front of the Barn, and RM said he would write to Simon Richardson again.

Treasurer's Report

810. Sue Hutchins presented her Report as follows:

Financial Report for 28th Jan 2012 to 25th Jan 2013

	<u>Current a/c</u> (Community a/c)	<u>Saver a/c</u> (Business Saver)	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Balance at 28.01.12</u>	755.13	433.83	4.83	1193.79
Income				
Interest		0.21		
R.Morris, Donation	50.00			
Kenilworth Society Donation	160.00			
WDC for North Door	500.00			
Expenditure	0	0		
<u>Balance at 25.01.13</u>	1465.13	434.04	4.83	1904.00

6. Secretary's Report to include correspondence

811. Correspondence has been addressed in minutes 805 and 806.

812. Jon Holmes had emailed a response to RM's first draft for the Harry Sunley Memorial Project: firstly, that soil be moved off the site by skip – not happy to have it in the fields, and secondly, that an oak door would not allow throughput of air and would be a target for vandals - would not an iron gate be less prone to damage and allow sight lines to the inside?

813. We felt that these issues had been addressed and that an oak door was the preferred option.

814. GH received a circular from Simon Richardson in October about the Project Brief for Abbey Fields Play Area, which he forwarded to RM, whose response is in the Chairman's Report

above.

7. Election of Officers

815. No proposals have been received in writing. The present Officers agreed to serve for the coming year and it was proposed by NS, and seconded by BW, that they be elected. This motion was carried unanimously.

8. The Gatehouse Roof

816. RC reported that plans were up to schedule. The Green Roof will largely avoid the problem of run-off but a waterspout would be provided on the south side. RM was concerned about leakage over the passage arch, the highest point of the roof being on the north-west. RC will send him a copy of the architect's plans.

816. The watertight roof would not solve the problem of damp rising up the west wall. DB said that the soil alongside need not be regraded if a gravel trench and fin drain were to conduct water down to a pipe discharging to the south.

817. NS pointed out that scaffolding for the roof would have to be erected on made-up ground if we were too quick with the north door.

9. The Conservation Plan Working Party

9i North Door

818. JI reported that Planning Permission would be required. LP had offered to get a quotation from the WDC Contractors to do the work.

819. The Committee thanked WDC for a grant of £500 towards the preparations for the north door and Roger Cullimore for his part in securing this.

820. DB estimated that regrading from the doorway to the central passageway would only require a skip or two. Since Jon Holmes objected to this material being spread on Abbey Fields, it should be carried away off site.

821. BW said that the Council for British Archaeology might be interested in sponsoring the excavation of material as a Community Archaeology Project.

9ii The Harry Sunley Memorial Project

822. The Committee discussed RM's draft, 'The Harry Sunley Memorial Project' (18.01.13), which had been circulated prior to the meeting. They considered it to be an excellent overall vision of the work which needed to be done.

823. To clear the interior, there was an amount of rough stone of no particular archaeological value to dispose of. Burying it might be the answer, or offering rubble for sale. GH remembered that among Joyce Powell's documents was a 1929 receipt for 2/6d for a barrowload of Abbey stone.

824. It was agreed that an Appeal Sub-committee would include RM, SH and MK, and that Gordon Cain should be invited to be a member too. An approach would also be made to KHAS for a member involved in refurbishing the Barn displays.

10. Site Report by small group

825. Snow had prevented any observations on the Site.

11. Constituent Society Reports

826. No written reports had been received (804).

12. Date of next meeting

827. Meeting fixed for Friday 3rd May at 2.30 pm in the Abbey Museum, The Barn, Abbey Fields.

13. Any Other Business

828. JI hoped that members would respond to the Kenilworth Town Action Plan Public Consultation, particularly concerning the proposal for the Outdoor Swimming Pool.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 4.25pm.

G.M.Hilton Hon.Secretary

Appendix 6

South Warwickshire Foundation Trust report – October 2013

The Trust has recently had its second round of Governor elections and it was sad to say goodbye to many who had served on the shadow board prior to us being granted Foundation Status. We have welcomed some very enthusiastic new governors, so I hope they will enjoy their term of Office.

The Director of Finance left for a new post some while ago, and there has been a period of difficulty while a suitable replacement was found with some interim help in a temporary capacity until our new permanent Director took up her post. A new Medical Director has just been appointed too.

Some of our non-Executive Directors have completed their terms in office and we are in the process of appointing three replacements. (By the time you see this, hopefully they will have been appointed)

As you are probably aware SWFT won the contract for providing Community Services for the whole of Warwickshire, which seems to be working well.

We have shown an "Expression of Interest" in putting the Trust forward for possibly taking over of George Elliot hospital in Nuneaton. If successful, this may be in partnership with one or more organisations or alone.

The Board of Governors meets four times a year in various parts of our area and we have a number of committees covering: General Purposes, Membership Development and Nominations and Recruitment on which I serve. The Patient Care Committee recently has been formed to enable governors to focus on patient case issues and to provide a link to the Patient Forum.

The hospital is planning expansions to its ward capacity, while updating some of the older wards to make them more efficient. The Trust successfully bid for £200 000 of funding together with additional funding from the Trust to improve the environment in Maternity inspired by suggestions made by the users of this service. An application for a new office block to ease the problem has just been refused by our Planning Committee, but I would expect a revised application to be put forward soon at Warwick. Work has been done to improve the Central England Rehabilitation Unit (CERU) securing its future as a national centre of excellence and increasing the bed capacity to 42. There are plans to develop Stratford Hospital to offer more services including Cancer and Ophthalmology services. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) now provides care to patients on an outpatient basis, which has helped reduce hospital admissions and provide care in a more appropriate and comfortable setting.

There are concerns about performance in the Accident and Emergency Department due to unprecedented demand and action is being taken here.

Action is being made to prevent infection - MRSA, CDiff, and Norovirus in particular, by enforcing hand washing and general hygiene for both visitors and staff and measures are being taken to provide facilities to do this easily. This is now a top priority.

The Council of Governors approved changes to the Trust's constitution and the governors' role arising from the Health and Social Care Act of 2012.

F. Bunker

Appendix 7

The Friends of Leamington Art Gallery and Museum (FLAG)

Councillors Eithne Goode and Jerry Weber

Background

FLAG was founded in 1967 with about 40 members. Since then the membership has grown steadily to about 200. The purposes and activities of FLAG are:

- To give support to Leamington Art Gallery and Museum (LAGM) and its staff through suggestions for improvement and more significantly financial support for non-core activities;
- To offer financial support included purchasing of new acquisitions, exhibition brochures and important conservation projects. Over the years they have given significant amounts of money to the gallery at crucial times to enable important purchases of national acclaim;
- To organise and fund the prizes for the annual children's art competition;
- To organise talks and outings for its members with a heritage theme. These activities raise funds that support the financial contributions that FLAG makes to LAGM

Friends of cultural organizations are characteristically seen as a benefit by staff. On the other hand, there are instances where this is not the case where the friends group is seen as a hindrance to the smooth running of the organisation particularly when elected members are not involved. In the case of FLAG, they have an excellent relationship with the Heritage and Arts Manager and LAGM staff and are seen as a positive and supportive complement to the service. The Chair of FLAG has been invited to the Midlands organisation for museum professionals (MID FED) to give a talk on the work of FLAG and how a successful Friends organisation functions.

Committee

Eithne Goode and Jerry Weber are councillor WDC representatives on FLAG's committee. Their role enables Committee members to have direct contact with councillors both through the Committee meetings and more informally. A good example is prior to the recent review of the Art Gallery and Museum, the Arts and Heritage Manager gave us an in depth tour of the premises, including discussions relating to the need for change and possible ideas for savings.

Future councillor representation

Although FLAG meetings often clash with Full Council and we do not go to as many meetings as we would like, either one of us usually attends the meetings. There are also informal chats with several of the Committee members on a regular basis through meeting at other organisations or as residents.

We believe that FLAG is an excellent support to the LAGM and they value our input and our presence is much appreciated. We think that WDC should support them as much as possible particularly as there is no cost to WDC in councillors continuing to be members of the Committee.

Appendix 8

Representatives on Outside Bodies report.

Body: PSP Warwick Limited Liability Partnership ('LLP')

Original approval:

On 12 December 2012 Executive approved the creation of a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) between the Council and Public Sector Plc. Facilitating Limited ('PSP'). This LLP was incorporated on 26 March this year, and its Members Board has been meeting and working since that time.

What is the new LLP?

This is a partnership between the Council and PSP. The partnership identifies possible projects, and works up their feasibility and delivery options. This process is advanced at PSP's initial cost. If a business case is agreed, showing additional profit for the Council over what the Council could have achieved without the LLP, then the LLP can potentially move to implement that project. This would only be done after a further project specific approval by the Council's Executive.

What is its role and function?

The LLP will be an additional option for the Council to use to unlock regeneration and assist the Council's asset management. By entering into the LLP, the Council will not be under any obligation to put any specific property related project into the Partnership. The key safeguard is that if better value can be delivered by a normal market disposal or by other means then any project would not go through the LLP and would progress as they currently do.

LLP's Members Board:

WDC:

3 board members: Councillors Doody, Mobbs and Hammon.

PSP:

3 board members: (These are company representatives).

28 October 2013

Duncan Elliott

Appendix 9

Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee

I have been a member of this committee for the last 6 years (although I had been a member for a time in the 1990's), but the last 3 years have been the most interesting due to the great improvements and plans which have been implemented.

Members of the committee represent all Midland County and District Councils along with some towns and most of the Parish councils near to the Airport. In addition some others represent organisations who are users of the Airport. In addition there are two sub committees, one covers all Environmental matters whilst the second covers Passenger and Surface matters. I am one of 12 members on the latter committee, possibly due to my previous experience in the Travel business.

Following the new arrival/departure buildings which were completed in 2009/10, the movement for passengers has been made much easier, although. However, arrivals can sometime be delayed by Immigration, and at times it appears that the organisation, which does a very important job, can also be "a law unto itself". In the waiting area, airside, many new restaurants and different shops have been added, along with an enlarged Duty Free area.

The extension of the runway has proceeded quite quickly since Solihull Metropolitan Council agreed the plans four years ago, especially when one realises that the route of the A 45 has had to be altered and lowered, so that the extension is now about to be built over it. In addition a new and modern Control Tower has been completed, although it was not at first expected. Apparently after the extension runway was agreed, those running the old Tower suddenly realised that they would not be able to see the end of the runway extension!! But it only cost another £5 million.

The Airport has now introduced another Future Plan which includes a second runway on the other side of the railway, which would also have new station on the proposed H2S. The CEO has always been a strong supporter of the new fast railway plans since he hopes it will bring new travellers from the South, as he anticipates it will be quicker for them to get to the Airport than travelling to overcrowded Heathrow by either road or rail... So, at the meeting when he advised the committee of the future Airport plans, I just could not resist asking him what would happen if the new rail plans did not get the OK, and he had to dolefully admit that the plans could not proceed !!. He is aware that we are against the new rail plans.

However during my time on this committee I have been continually impressed with the way the administration have put forward plans to make Birmingham Airport one of the best outside London, when from experience I know how difficult it has been at times to get people living to the South of Birmingham to go from Birmingham rather than those airports in the Capital. So I look forward to the completion of the extension so that travellers will then be able to fly direct to the Far East and The Western States of the USA.

Councillor Gerry Guest

Bath Place Community Venture

In 2012 Bath Place Community Venture had to leave the Old Library (owned by Warwickshire College) where it had been operating a community café, support services and room hire since the fire at Bath Place itself. A limited amount of room hire was later carried out at the Band Factory, Althorpe Street. A number of craft and social events for senior citizens were also held with Age Concern. However, with BPCV effectively 'homeless', most of the work this year has been 'behind the scenes' to pursue options for the future.

At a well-attended AGM in January 2013, options were discussed with members and interested parties. Other locations in the target area (to serve principally Brunswick as an area of relative deprivation and also people in need who live in or visit Leamington town centre) were limited or not thought suitable. The AGM therefore tasked the board to focus on investigating the feasibility, with like-minded partners supporting local people who had been excluded from opportunities and services, of recreating a modernised community centre at Bath Place.

Since then, the Bath Place site has been listed as an asset of community value. The owners, Warwickshire County Council, has put the site on the market but the listing means BPCV has until 4th January 2014 to make a bid (before any other sale could proceed). Success or otherwise will depend largely on the County's weighing of the market value of the site against social value in community space and support of otherwise marginalised people that could be delivered. Improvements to people's health and wellbeing e.g. from good food and social interaction, and in many cases to their employment prospects through advice and experience could save much public spending later. BPCV is well aware that asset transfer, or an affordable reduced price for the site, depends on quantifying these benefits. A full business plan and calculation of annual Social Return on Investment are well on the way to completion with support of a grant from Royal Leamington Spa Building Conservation Trust and using the consultancy services of Keith Mitchell who is eminent in the field. A grant from the Social Investment Business has also enabled commissioning of detailed architectural plans for the site itself, to show how the existing buildings could be retained and modern facilities provided.

Springfield MIND and ESH Works (which supports those recovering from addiction to alcohol and other drugs) and other partners have already been participating in the process and if the site is secured a more formal consortium is envisaged. All are clear that many clients would benefit specifically from a space which is not 'clinical' or 'bureaucratic' (which can be intimidating) but welcoming and inspiring.

The current position therefore is that in January 2014 we shall know Warwickshire County Council's response to BPCV's bid and whether they are prepared to transfer the site on terms affordable for BPCV in return, in effect, for community service provision (with partners). If the exciting new project is to go ahead, a larger BPCV board and formal partnership agreements will be needed. As Warwick District Council also continues to focus on regeneration of Leamington Old Town and on support of people facing tough economic and personal times, a renewed community facility at Bath Place would well support both of those objectives.