

 Overview and Scrutiny Committee 4 November 2014		Agenda Item No. 10
Title	Annual Feedback on Outside Appointments	
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Democratic 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Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?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	12 November 2013	
Background Papers		

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 Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
Not required as it concerns outside appointments.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive	23/10/14	Bill Hunt
Head of Service	23/10/14	Graham Leach
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Not applicable.		
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.
- 4.3 **Impact Assessments** – This should set out the impacts of new or significant policy changes proposed in respect of Equalities. Reference can be made to an appendix which sets out the detail of the impacts

5. **Budgetary Framework**

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

6. **Risks**

- 6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

7. **Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 7.1 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.

8. **Background**

- 8.1 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.

- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 It was agreed that November would be the appropriate time for the report to come to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is the second year that the system has been implemented.
- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 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.
- 8.7 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 – 2013/14

(Executive Appointments)

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
Warwickshire County Council – Pension Fund Consultative Panel	Coker	As far as I am aware I am not on this anymore. I think it was changed after the last check. I have not had a notice recently.
Warwickshire County Council – Supporting People Partnership	Vincett	<p>There haven't been any meetings of this specific partnership for about 18 months. However, Warwickshire County Council (WCC) commissioners and senior managers from the WCC business unit have worked with health and housing partners through Better Care Fund and have held meetings with Heads of Housing and Housing Strategy Managers from each of the five district & boroughs. In addition, there is an Accommodation with Support Board that oversees the strategic direction for this area of work, including housing related support.</p> <p>WCC are currently undertaking a public consultation about proposed changes to housing related support services (Supporting People). The consultation began on the 8th September and runs until 28 November 2014. Details can be accessed via http://askwarks.wordpress.com/2014/09/08/housing-related-support-services-consultation/</p> <p>Warwick District Council's Supporting Tenants Team will be responding to the consultation.</p>
Warwickshire Police and Crime Panel	Coker	This panel meets regularly at different venues thought out the County and scrutinizes the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is very active and receives and requires report on issues arising and also has to approve his budget although whilst we can refuse to authorise his budget we only get one chance and after that his next effort has to be passed!!

<p>West Midlands Employers formerly West Midlands Councils and West Midlands Leaders Board</p>	<p>Mobbs</p>	<p>Councillor Mobbs attended a meeting in October 2014 at which the services provided by the body were explained.</p> <p>West Midlands Employers (WME) is the Regional Employers Organisation offering a range of services aimed at local councils and the wider public sector to support performance improvement at both an individual and organisational level. It is all about 'people and leadership solutions' helping companies make the best use of their greatest resource - their people.</p> <p>WME has a small team of highly experienced HR professionals providing a responsive and flexible service from our core as an 'advisory, representative and coordinating employers' organisation' through to our commercially focused in-house training and consultancy services such as restructuring support, Job evaluation, investigations, interim HR management, and mediation. It also has an innovative People and Leadership Team working with public sector organisations to reduce costs and improve the services they deliver for their communities, with a focus on Achievement Based Development for strengthening the management and leadership skills of employees and elected members and Efficiency Based Resourcing to get the right people in the right place for the organisation, in reduced time and at a reduced cost.</p> <p>More information on this can be found by following this link: http://www.wmemployers.org.uk/about-us</p>
<p>Coventry and Warwickshire LEP</p>	<p>Mobbs</p>	<p>Councillor Mobbs gives regular reports to O & S on the LEP through the year. The last report he gave was 30 September 2014.</p>
<p>City Deals</p>	<p>Caborn</p>	<p>See LEP report. City Deals is part of the LEP report and not a function in its own right. It will therefore not appear as a separate heading in next year's report.</p>
<p>LLP Members Board</p>	<p>Cross, Hammon & Mobbs</p>	<p>The Limited Liability Partnership, (variously referred to as either the Investment Partnership or more simply the Warwick LLP) was established in 2013 to assist us to deliver our strategic objectives for asset management and regeneration. To date the main focus of the Partnership has been on the delivery of the Riverside House relocation project. The full detail of this project and the LLP Board's related work was covered in the reports to Executive in March and May 2014 and to full Council in June.</p>

		<p>The LLP Members Board's work over the last year has comprised the overseeing and commissioning of the comprehensive design and financial feasibility options work, carried out for a range of possible WDC HQ Office relocation sites. This work has also included the integrated feasibility work in respect of options for the disposal of the Council's Riverside House site.</p> <p>Following the decision, made at the June Council meeting, to widen the criteria used to assess potential sites for the relocation of the Council's HQ offices a wide range of options are now being assessed. The outcome of this review will be reported to Executive in December.</p> <p>The original LLP proposals envisaged a wide ranging remit for the LLP. However, other than an initial high level assessment of potential options for the Pump Rooms and Town Hall and a more recent assessment of potential options relating to the Kenilworth Public Service Centre, No report submitted of which were progressed, its activities have exclusively focussed on the Riverside House relocation project. There is a further LLP report being considered by Executive tomorrow proposing a wider role, consistent with the original intentions.</p>
Safer Stronger and Communities Board	Coker	<p>This is a WCC committee which deals with community safety generally throughout the County and the Districts and Boroughs have a portfolio representative each. It is a forum that deals with all of the counties departments dealing with crime in all its forms, children's safety, problem families, drugs etc.</p>
South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership	Coker	<p>This body is the equivalent of the Safer and Stronger Committee only at district level and is a partnership between ourselves and Stratford.</p> <p>It is an effective partnership and we work well together. We are trying to enlarge its work by cooperation with CCGs and NHS as many problems of for instance drink and drugs also cause more work in their areas and we hope to cooperate to improve the situation so that there is a reduction for all. This meets regularly at Warwick and there are spin offs in respect of WPs etc on strategy docs.etc.</p>
Warwickshire County Council Health & Wellbeing Board	Coker	<p>This again is a WCC committee but the boroughs and Districts have obtained membership in order to have a clear link with Public Health in particular and also all of the other County activities that are covered by them in committee such as child and elderly care, and the strategy documents that the County produces on the various county responsibilities .Again the meetings are regular at Warwick</p>

		<p>and again there are spin off meetings.</p> <p>They are supplemented as far as the districts are concerned by a pre meeting of the Portfolio holders which takes place about a fortnight before the main meeting to discuss and agree where possible what the districts require to be raised or dealt with. These take place on a rota basis throughout the county.</p>
<p>Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH)</p>	<p>Vincett</p>	<p>Meetings – Bi-monthly Executive meetings (most recent 22nd September 2014) Annual General meeting (September meeting non quorate. To be re-scheduled for possibly November 2014).</p> <p>Other Activities – Training events ARCH Blog</p> <p>The Portfolio Holder and HoS are both Directors and sit on the Executive. The Association has a suite in the IoH building in Greys Inn Road. Originally set up in response to CG’s Self Financing Initiative to research and advise Local Authorities on all related issues and the sharing of knowledge. Currently, the Association is looking to how it now re-styles its core activities and the September meeting received a presentation by consultants engaged to review and recommend evolution.</p> <p>ARCH will continue to receive, disseminate and comment on Government Legislation and initiatives and maintain its regular Blog. The most recent being 20th October 2014 - <i>ARCH's Policy Advisor Matthew Warburton looks at what the Lyons Housing Review has to say about why we are now building only around half the number of new homes each year that the nation needs.</i></p>

(Warwick District Council Appointments – Conservative Appointments)

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
Coventry Airport Consultative Committee	Hammon	<p>This was started in the wake of the planning application to increase the passenger terminal capacity which was refused on appeal. The intention of the committee was to give local representatives a chance to voice any concerns the public may have regards the running of the airport. This was very controversial in the early days when Thomson was flying passengers from there. Now the activities have greatly reduced the committee merely hears reports from the airport management on the day to day running of the airport and any new proposals they have for the future. They also report on the requirements of the section 106 obligations such as noise monitoring.</p> <p>The committee is formed with representatives from businesses at the airport, Coventry Chamber of Trade, CPRE, local parishes, Coventry CC, Rugby BC and Warwick DC for which I am the member.</p>
Kenilworth Abbey Advisory Committee	Vincett	<p>Meetings - Annual Meeting held on Friday 24th January 2014 Ordinary Meeting held on Friday 16th May 2014 Launch of "Harry Sunley Memorial" project 20th June 2014 Working Group meeting held on 21st July 2014 Meeting held on Friday 3rd October 2014</p> <p>The committee remains buoyant, committed and proactive. Subsequent to the replacing of the protective roofing of the Abbey Gatehouse by WDC over Autumn/Winter 2013-14, the main focus has been on the driving forward of the "Harry Sunley Memorial" project that aims to install racking and platforms to display the many architectural and historically important stonework remains unearthed together with other archaeological finds such that the Abbey Gatehouse can be opened to the public in a similar fashion to how the "Barn" is managed. To facilitate this there is a requirement now for an electrical supply to be fed to the Abbey Gatehouse. This is being jointly looked into by WDC/EH/KAAC.</p> <p>The Working Group remains vigilant in assessing the condition of the fabric of the ruins identifying and advising WDC of upkeep maintenance and consolidation</p>

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
		requirements as well as involving itself in archaeological investigations working with both EH and the Warwick Archaeologist.
Kenilworth Town Centre Partnership	Coker	I represent the Town and District on this committee which is a partnership of all three authorities and the Chamber of Trade and other organisations. The object is the improvement of the shopping experience and general foot fall in the Town centre. It has the assistance of the Town Centre Manager and obviously assists him with the various Town events that are developed to improve the Town centre experience and footfall. It is reasonably successful.
LGA District Councils' Network	Mobbs	Councillor Mobbs has not attended a meeting.
Racing Club Warwick	Rhead	Councillor Rhead has been unable to attend any meetings.
South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust	Mrs Bunker	See Appendix 3.
Warwick Town Centre Management Group	Kinson	No report submitted.
Warwickshire County Council – Adult Social Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Kinson	Councillor Kinson submits regular reports to the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
Warwickshire Waste Management Forum	Shilton	I am Vice-Chair for this group which meets on a quarterly basis and provides the strategic direction for Waste Management within Warwickshire through an agreed Warwickshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy. It organises an annual Warwickshire Waste Partnership Conference which improves communication and stakeholder engagement. Over the past year the partnership has updated the strategy and set targets until 2020 and key areas of work for 2014/15.
51m	Hammon & Illingworth	This is formed by representatives from all the local authorities from London to Birmingham who oppose the route and business case of HS2. WDC have joined in legal action with this group in opposition to the Bill going through Parliament in order to try to prevent the devastation that the proposed line will cause this area. The Bill is still going through Parliament but is now at the stage where local authorities, action groups and other interested parties can petition for mitigation

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
		<p>against unreasonable harm the line may cause to the parties concerned. WDC is very much involved in this process at the present moment and expects to go before the Select Committee in December.</p> <p>George Illingworth and I represent WDC on this body.</p>
National Association of Councillors	Caborn	I attend when the local rally is held which has not been for some time and it is inappropriate for it to be an expenses claim to attend.
Birmingham Airport Consultative Committee	Guest	<p>The good news was that the extension of the runway, the building of the new Tower and the diversion of the A45 were all completed on time.</p> <p>The first aircraft to use the full extension was an aircraft direct from Beijing with 310 passengers who stayed in the area for 4 days visiting the various well known tourist and business sites.</p> <p>On their departure the air-side shops took more money than any other day in the past, as the Chinese took advantage of the Tax Free items.</p> <p>Unfortunately for me there appears to have been a breakdown between WDC and the airport as we had apparently not advised them that I was still our representative on the committee from May 2014, so that I was not advised of the April meeting, and the notice that the Committee was being increased in numbers following the new take-off/landing flight directions which has meant more of the small villages were complaining about aircraft noise. Burton Green were one of the areas who complained, but I am sure that it was no more than we in Warwick/Leamington have had for years.</p> <p>At the September meeting the CEO gave an encouraging report on the possibilities of more Air Companies using the airport following a number of visits overseas by the sales staff, regarding the runway completion, but some European companies fear that they may have to reduce or even possibly withdraw from BHX, especially France due to financial problems in the countries. However this matter relates to business travellers not holidays.</p>

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		<p>The finished air-side businesses make the area more like a small town and all of them seem happy with their share of the passengers' money, and as you may have read recently, companies like W.H.Smith make most of their increased profits for airports and ports.</p> <p>The next meeting will be in November and it will be interesting to learn if any of our villages will be able to send a representative to the Consultative Committee, and I will advise in the next report.</p>

(Warwick District Council Appointments – Labour Appointments)

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
Bath Place Community Venture & Management Committee	Ms Dean	<p>It has been a difficult year for all associated with BPCV and the outcome remains uncertain. The board thanks all who have supported the organisation and its aims.</p> <p>Briefly to summarise a long story, at the 2013 AGM, BPCV members mandated the board to focus on negotiating with Warwickshire County Council to return to and redevelop the Bath Place (All Saints School) site for provision of innovative space and services to the community. Warwickshire County Council subsequently decided to put the site on the market. A huge amount of work was done by BPCV to present a bid for transfer of the site to BPCV. This included a redevelopment scheme with imaginative plans for the building as a social and creative space and source of advice and education for older, young and vulnerable people (including those with mental health and addiction issues) in south Leamington. A business plan for services, using room lettings to generate income was added, together with a breakdown of social return on investment, e.g. savings in expenditure on health and social care by improving access to support networks and healthy activity. Nevertheless, and despite welcome support by some local County Councillors, the decision was taken by Warwickshire County Council Cabinet not to transfer the site to BPCV. No suitable and feasible alternative site in the area has been identified despite investigations, so the consequences of the decision were grave for BPCV. Given that funds had been diminishing while the organisation has been without a base and working hard on developing the bid to County, the board has now had to minimise ongoing expenditure and agree the sale of equipment in order to maintain solvency. However, still outstanding is the resolution of a claim for losses suffered by BPCV as a result of the fire at Bath Place. A court hearing involving insurers is due shortly and if significant sums are recovered, it is likely that the board will propose a trust fund to utilise these for suitable charitable purposes in south Leamington. Ultimately decisions about continuing BPCV’s legacy, if funds are forthcoming from the legal claims, will be for a general meeting of members in the near future.</p>

Warwick District Citizens' Advice Bureau	Wilkinson	<p>The Bureau has a new manager, Aidan Knox, who has been in post since July 2013. Aidan has built a constructive working relationship with WDC Community team with mutually helpful discussions on case work record keeping with the objective of ensuring that accountability is measurable and also with WDC Economic Development in negotiations leading to WDCAB occupying empty space in their office in Hamilton Terrace which is owned by WDC.</p> <p>WDCAB's work continues apace. In 2013-2014 5,865 Debt issues, 4,817 Welfare benefit issues and 1,898 Employment issues were dealt with. Advisors are mainly volunteers. The range of subjects they deal with in a session is staggering: anything from eviction for rent arrears to disciplinary proceedings at work. The financial situation is a cause for concern. The day-to-day running costs are well covered; however, there is a major problem with Warwickshire County Council Pension Fund. The debt claim, £277,000, came without warning. Discussions are ongoing but until they are resolved WDCAB is at risk. I am confident, or should I say hopeful, that commonsense will prevail but in these difficult times that could be wishful thinking.</p>
Old Town Mary Portas Group	Wilkinson	<p>WDC 's role is to act as the holder of funds allocated by central government to the Portas scheme, south Leamington. WDC cannot veto decisions but by holding the purse and insisting on correct accounting procedures being followed, can exercise enough control to ensure, as far as possible, monies are not abused. The initial grant of £100,000 from government was supplemented by £5000 from WDC, £2000 from WCC and £10,000 from Leamington Town Council, the latter being ring fenced on expenditure for Christmas Lights for Old Town.</p> <p>There is circa £35,000 left in the scheme. The main expenditure has been on "HeartUps". Basically, that is helping start-up businesses such as The Coffee Box, Chrome Yellow and Dombey and Daughter. There have been night markets, "Brocante" (second hand / retro/ "previously loved") events and attempts to influence and change the appearance of Old Town.</p> <p>If the scheme continues to fulfil its prime brief of pump priming it is likely that it will run out of money and wind up in the not to distant future, possibly within six months. Various options are on the table as to what happens then.</p>

<p>William Riley Charity</p>	<p>Gill</p>	<p>I was appointed to the William Riley Charity after the elections to replace Councillor Mrs Evans and I attended the first meeting in April 2004.</p> <p>This is a very small charity to rent only two houses. We have four trustees and one member of Wright & Hassall Solicitors acts as a secretary. The secretary looks after the running of the charity and the maintenance of the two houses and they charge for these services.</p> <p>Trustees meet only once a year and the secretary gives the report of income and expenditure. The secretary sends us newsletters of Almshouse Charity; it may be a parent charity but we as trustee have no other link with Almshouse and it is never discussed in the meetings.</p> <p>As far as I know I have attended four or five meetings and missed a couple, once when I was out of the country and I had a mayoral engagement for the other.</p> <p>I found at the first meeting that the rent level was extremely low and hardly covered the secretary's expenses. I expressed my concerns at the low rent levels and we agreed to increase the rents. I gave them Warwick District Council housing rent levels for similar houses.</p> <p>At one stage one house became empty; there was not enough income to pay for the secretary's expenses. We were advised to sell the house to cover expenses and I opposed this proposal. There were no qualified people to rent this as the saving threshold was too low set out many years ago. I proposed to raise the threshold which was agreed but advertisement was not wide enough.</p> <p>I advised them to liaise with Warwick District Council Housing Department to advertise along with home choice to get someone from the waiting list. Housing Department agreed to advertise the charity's house and it worked well and we found a stable tenant. We have two tenants living in affordable houses and the charity is surviving.</p> <p>At the last meeting in April 2013, the secretary suggested that they could no longer manage which means the Board will have to appoint agents to manager</p>
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		<p>the properties. This might work well but the expenses will be too high.</p> <p>(The Council stopped its representation on this charity, so April 2013 was the last meeting Councillor Gill attended.)</p>
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(Warwick District Council Appointments – Liberal Democrat Appointments)

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
Bid Leamington Board	Gifford	<p>BID Leamington has had another successful year that has ensured that Leamington Spa Town Centre has continued to attract new shops and restaurants. It is funded by the retailers in the town centre (North of the river) and has used its income of more than £ 300,000 per annum to promote Royal Leamington Spa as a shopping destination.</p> <p>It has used its excellent website, the Food and Drink Festival, The Leamington Lantern Parade, the Golden Ticket and improved Christmas lights to give people special reasons for visiting the town. The 2013 Lantern Parade had families from other counties visiting Leamington Spa to learn how to make the lanterns and then returning to the town to Parade with them. The Food and Drink Festival this year was a tremendous success and brought money into the town as a whole.</p> <p>It has also shown imagination in marketing the town. Once again it has worked in constructive partnership with the District Council over such matters as the Food and Drink Festival and the excellent Bringing Leamington to Chelsea project that showed the creative success of Leamington Spa in the best possible light. The Council is more and more aware of how much benefit BID Leamington brings not just to Leamington Spa but the District as whole.</p> <p>It is indeed an example of how the public and private sectors can work together with considerable success.</p>
Warwick – Community and Voluntary Action	Copping	No report submitted
Warwick District Mobility	Mrs Syson	<p>Although called Warwick District Mobility this is otherwise known as Leamington Spa Shopmobility based on the 4th floor of the Royal Priors car park. WDC used to provide some funding, but the service is now funded by a generous annual grant from Royal Leamington Spa Town Council.</p> <p>Leamington Spa Shopmobility provides wheelchairs and mobility scooters enabling users to enjoy independence and freedom to visit shops, cafes, public services and parks within Leamington town centre Mondays to Fridays. Mobility scooters can only be hired on a daily basis but wheelchairs can be hired for longer. A small charge is made: either an annual charge of £15 or a daily charge</p>

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
		<p>of £5 for occasional users. The mobility equipment is easy to use and full training is given in our practice area by our staff to ensure safety. Following the resignation of the previous manager the unit was closed for two months in January and February 2014 and relaunched in March 2014. The closure enabled redecoration to take place, thanks to Gerry McManus of Royal Priors. We were also able to appoint a new manager Robin Brooks who used to run Oxford's Shopmobility.</p> <p>At present the service is underused but there is a marketing plan in place concentrating efforts on making more people aware of what Shopmobility offers. In August 2014 there were 35 day users with 17 people borrowing wheelchairs for longer. Usage is, however, on an upward trend as in the first 6 months since re-opening we have almost had as many users as in the whole of 2013. Other plans also include looking at the issue of Accessibility in Leamington and developing the unit into an information centre for those with accessibility needs. At the year end of 31 March 2014 the total funds available were £16052, a considerably improved financial situation over 2013 thanks principally to the grant funding from the Town Council, donations from the Mayor's Charity Fund and the Leamington Spa Rotary Club and the temporary closure of the shop unit for two months at the start of 2014.</p> <p>The Trustees are:</p> <p>Chair: Councillor Ann Morrison (appointed by Royal Leamington Spa Town Council) Treasurer: Andy Gotts Ms Jayne Canning Ms Jan Dugdale Ms Amelia Giles, Cllr David Greenwood (appointed by Royal Leamington Spa Town Council) Mr Mike Magness Ms Pauline Shemmans Cllr Sidney Syson (appointed by Warwick District Council). Officers: Robin Brooks,(Manager), Ted Buckworth,(Accountant), Robert Nash (Secretary).</p>

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership	Boad	No report submitted.
National Parking Adjudication Service	Vacant	Appointment required due to issuing of Parking Enforcement Notices.

(Warwick District Council Appointments – Independent Appointments)

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
South Warwickshire Plato Trust	Mrs Falp	<p>The South Warwickshire Plato Trust is a limited company charity providing housing for people who have suffered from or are recovering from mental illness.</p> <p>In 1971 South Warwickshire Group Homes was formed to provide safe accommodation to 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 then they merged to become South Warwickshire Plato Trust, with the working name of Plato Trust.</p> <p>South Warwickshire Plato Trust has a range of accommodation leased from the County Council and the District Council. They currently operate 10 houses and fourteen flats providing a total of 50 places (maximum). There are 12 properties currently rented from Warwick District Council, 9 properties from Warwickshire County Council and 1 from Orbit Housing. South Warwickshire Plato Trust owns 2 flats in addition to those properties rented. The organisation works closely with many multi agency professionals and stakeholders within South Warwickshire.</p> <p>The current cost of renting accommodation from the trust is £140.00 per week (to be reviewed early 2015). This covers rent payable to landlords, utility costs, communal T.V licence, telephone line rental, communal gardening and cleaning as well as all maintenance and repairs that are not the responsibility of the landlords. All accommodation comes furnished.</p> <p>There are regular meetings of the management board where partners are invited to attend. Regular updates are given at the meeting on how tenants are managing. Any issues are quickly addressed by the two members of staff. Financial reports on the Trust are given each meeting and an Annual General Meeting is always held.</p> <p>The issues for the committee going forward will be the imposition of Universal Credit, any future Government interventions in the possible limiting of housing benefit to 21 year olds and over and a continuing lack of rental accommodation</p>

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
		<p>from District Councils.</p> <p>My role, I believe, is to advise if possible of any policy decisions by Warwick District Council that may affect the Trust. I also advise on whom to contact if they have concerns on certain matters. I also investigate ways we can all work together to help some of our tenants who have specific needs.</p>
Chase Meadow Community Centre	Mrs Mellor	No report submitted.
LGS Rural Services Network	Vacant	None.

(Warwick District Council Appointments – One or More Appointments)

Outside Body	Councillor(s)	Feedback
Friends of Leamington Art Gallery	Weber and Mrs Goode	See Appendix 2
Warwick Town Centre Partnership	Mrs Higgins, Mrs Bromley and Caborn	See Appendix 4
Hill Close Gardens Trust	Kinson and Pittarello	<p>Hill Close Gardens has continued its excellent work in developing the unique heritage of the site with its massively enthusiastic band of volunteers. Visitor numbers have significantly increased this year because of opening the Gardens every weekday. There has been good support for educational activities and for 'special events' during the summer and there is increased national recognition of the quality of horticulture of the Gardens. However, much trustee time this year has been spent discussing the implications of the ending of the grant from WDC.</p> <p>The financial position of the organisation is stable, however, without support from WDC, the longer term prospects for the organisation are more challenging. Despite significant efforts from the organisation to engage Officers in discussions over possible future financing (Officers admit that maintenance of this land to a lower standard if HCG was not there would be significant), to date, no plan is in place. A meeting is scheduled imminently with Deputy Chief Executive Andy Jones, however if no agreement can be found, O&S are urged to review whether a "no grant" situation is sustainable for this organisation and whether it can seriously expect this jewel in Warwick's crown to continue to flourish without some future financial commitment. As we all know, protecting our heritage costs money, but this site adds to the visitor package attracting visitors to the area, inspires our young people in horticulture, and retains a piece of our history for local people to understand and enjoy.</p>

Report on the work of the Friends of Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

Submitted by Cllrs Eithne Goode and Jerry Weber

This report includes contributions from The Friends of Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum (FLAG) and Jeff Watkin, Heritage & Arts Manager, Warwick District Council. It is clear from both submissions that there is a mutual respect between the society and the officers of Warwick District Council. Their work ensures a vibrant approach to a subject which gives enormous pleasure and educational benefits to a large number of people all over Warwick District and further afield.

Report from FLAG covering the period from 1st October 2013 – 30th September 2014

President: Mo Enright Chairman: Graham White Vice-Chairman: Clive Nelson

Secretary: Lyn Buckle Treasurer: Linda Nelson Committee of 9 members

The Friends of Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum (FLAG) have enjoyed a busy and successful year. Membership has now reached 300 and members come from all parts of Warwick District including outlying villages and also the towns of Rugby and Stratford. Membership is a combination of loyal, longstanding Members and enthusiastic new ones.

Support for the Gallery and Museum

FLAG's aim is to support the Gallery and Museum in whatever Jeff Watkin and the Curators wish and we never seek to impose our own wishes on them although we do occasionally make suggestions which they are happy to discuss and on occasion, to implement. We support the Gallery and Museum both financially and with our time. Financial contributions in the last 12 months have included the following:

£1000 towards production of catalogue for the David Carpanini Exhibition

£350 in support of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies) volunteers who help with conservation

£2000 towards the Bi-Centennial Pump Rooms Exhibition

£300 towards the purchase of an embroidered local map

£1000 towards the catalogue for the forthcoming Tessa Beaver Exhibition

£2000 towards the framing of prints for the forthcoming Terry Frost Exhibition

£2000 towards the acquisition of a John Piper painting. The sum will be handed over as soon as the Gallery has received funding from the remainder of the other sources.

In addition, Committee members are happy to give of their time by serving refreshments (purchased by FLAG) at some of the children's events organised by the Gallery and Museum and by attending various Gallery and Museum events.

Relations with the Staff

Relations with Jeff Watkin, the Curators and other Staff are very cordial. We have found them to be unfailingly co-operative, appreciative and constructive in their dealings with us. We see them on an informal basis virtually every week during the Friday Focus, while one of the Curatorial Staff attends our Committee Meetings and our AGM. Our Senior Committee members also have regular six monthly meetings with Jeff Watkin and the Curators to discuss matters of interest. We considered it a great compliment when Victoria Slade, the Museum Curator, recommended us to Mid-Fed (the Federation of Midlands Museum Curators) as an example of a Friends organisation which is well run and which enjoys good relations with the Gallery and Museum. We were invited to give a presentation at a Mid-Fed in Stoke last October as part of a conference on fund raising.

FLAG's Programme

Between October and April we arrange monthly talks in the evening on subjects likely to appeal to our members. In January we hold both an afternoon and an evening meeting. Typical topics include, art architecture, local history and costume. The Pump Rooms annexe became too small for these talks which are now held in the Dormer Conference Centre at St Peter's Church. In addition to our talks we offer 2 Study Mornings on a particular subject each year which are very popular. We have 2 sessions on Florence scheduled for early next year. Earlier this year we invited Louise Vaile, a conservator of works of art on paper to give 2 sessions for members. Our excursions to houses, churches, museums and gardens are always well supported.

How FLAG Raises Funds

We keep basic subscription very low in the desire that nobody will be deterred from joining us through cost. We suggest a minimum of £7.00 per person p.a. and some members pay a little more. Evening meetings are self-financing and make a small profit. Excursions and Study Mornings provide a large part of our income. At the present time we have a healthy balance of over £14,000 in our current and savings accounts.

Communication

We consider good communication is vital for both the smooth running of FLAG and for attracting new members. We send out Newsletters in August and January plus information sheets about our excursions which are delivered to our members in Spring. Our website is lively and attractive.

We also publish an informative leaflet, which is intended for prospective members and is available in the Gallery and Museum display stands. Members receive a printed card which outlines the programme of events and updates are made by email.

FLAG's Concerns

At the moment we are keeping our membership numbers stable ... They have increased from those of a few years ago. Many of our members are active supporters with approximately one third taking part in excursions at any one time and a similar number taking part in the last Study Mornings and evening talks. Our main worry is the outcome of the review over the future of the Gallery and Museum. Our 2 councillors have been helpful and informative and we have, of course, spoken with Jeff Watkin but we would always welcome some reassurance from or contact with WDC officers over the matter. We would consider it to be an enormous loss to Warwick District if the Gallery and Museum were to be moved from its present site.

Jeff Watkin tells us that FLAG has worked with Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum (LSAG&M) for almost half a century and the relationship between the two bodies has never been better. Jeff says: "The list of payments over the last 12 months illustrates very clearly the type of activities to which FLAG has contributed financial assistance over the years. These typically include helping fund the purchase or conservation of exhibits, contributing to the cost of framing works or producing catalogues for exhibitions and paying for materials for volunteer groups such as NADFAS. FLAG has also contributed financially re refurbishment projects such as the redevelopment of the children's gallery (now called Haddie's Gallery) and refurbishment of the medical history displays. Members of FLAG also provide much appreciated 'help in kind' by providing and serving refreshments at events like Santa's Grotto and the Children's Art Competition. Equally importantly they have a great value to LSAG&M as a group within the local community, supporting our activities by attending events and promoting our activities through 'word of mouth'. The community engagement represented by FLAG is also understood and appreciated by funding bodies such as Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Art

Fund, who are more likely to approve applications for grants where there is clear evidence of community support for LSAG&M's activities."

"The move from the old Art Gallery on Avenue Road to the Royal Pump Rooms in 1999 provided an opportunity to significantly extend the range and quality of the services provided by LSAG&M, which now attracts over 117,000 visitors each year ... the annual visitor figures to the building being around 500,000. The continuing support provided by FLAG is an important part of this success story."

It is clear from these two reports that there is an excellent working relationship between FLAG and Warwick District Council. FLAG's significant contribution over the years has been invaluable. They work quietly in the background but the results are impressive. They do not insist that their funding goes solely to glamorous, noteworthy acquisitions but instead they listen to the requests from WDC and support other important behind-the-scenes work such as conservation and framing for which there is no WDC budget. At FLAG's last committee meeting it was agreed to contribute £1,000 towards the Tessa Beaver exhibition and £2,000 towards frames for the forthcoming Terry Frost exhibition. This £2,000 will be for approximately 20 new frames, which will be used to display the very large Frost prints in the collection, which due to their size have not been photographed or displayed since they were acquired. The frames will be re-usable, so other large scale prints or posters could be displayed in them if desired. FLAG's contributions to the production of catalogues to accompany the excellent exhibitions which are held at the gallery, also help to promote the facilities and the area, as many visitors come from elsewhere and bring much needed revenue to Warwick District. . Any money left over from the purchase of the 20 frames for the Frost exhibition will go towards production of a book, which will include details of Frost's links with Leamington and will be published at the time of the exhibition. The book would continue to be sold on a long-term basis.

The two councillors who currently represent Warwick District Council on the Committee of FLAG have no hesitation in congratulating FLAG on their successful work and in thanking them for all they do. It is much appreciated.

Cllr Eithne Goode and Cllr Jerry Weber October 2014

South Warwickshire Foundation Trust Report – October 2014

This has been a time of challenges for the hospital, with national targets to meet, and increasing demands on services. However, the dedicated staff at all levels under the excellent leadership of Glen Burley Chief Executive, have worked hard to make sure that patients get a high standard of treatment and patient surveys reflect a confidence in the Trust as a whole.

In my last report I referred to the possibility of this Foundation Trust working alone or with partners to take over the George Elliot Hospital in Nuneaton, which was struggling. However, the Nuneaton hospital decided to remain independent and pulled out of the negotiations. Personally, I had misgivings about this as I was concerned about stretching our resources too thinly if we had responsibility for a site with challenging circumstances, but it was annoying that resources had to be used to support the negotiations, the outcome of which was of no advantage to anyone! The business case to build a new hospital at Stratford was approved in February 2014. The first phase of this development will include the provision of cancer and ophthalmology services. This will be so welcome to patients in the Stratford area who will no longer have to travel to Warwick, and will relieve their resources to improve waiting times and improve the patient experience.

The new hospital will be built separately to the existing one in the same grounds, so that all current services can continue during the building process and the new hospital will be approximately twice the size of the existing one, to accommodate a growing population and to provide more services there. At the time of writing Stratford Town Council planning committee has raised objections, but we await the District Council's verdict in the near future. In fact by the time you receive this report Stratford's planning committee may have made a decision.

The building of the new three storey ward block at Warwick hospital has started and should be completed by November 2015 and the new office block on Lakin Road should soon be approved.

The Central England Rehabilitation Unit (CERU) is now a "Centre of Excellence" now that most of the work has been completed. This and a similar unit at Northwick Park in Middlesex are rated the best in the country for their work. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is now established and working well to avoid unnecessary admissions to hospital with extended hours of working seven days a week. The Community Services contract which expired in April was extended for twelve months. It is hoped that SWFT will be able to keep this contract when a decision is made.

Eight priorities for quality improvement had been set for 2013/14. These were: to improve patient safety by implementing the safety thermometer and achieving 95% harm free care, to reduce the number of medication errors, improve the patient experience of food service, to improve systems to reduce mortality rates, fully implement frail elderly care pathway to include dementia screening and dementia sensitive services, to improve the timeliness of the discharge process for patients, implement an improved appointment process and put in place a new system for booking and co-ordinating Community Services. These were all achieved which is good news for us all!

Sometimes the hospital does not do as well as it would like and there have been two sad cases in Maternity, but these have been dealt with effectively and with

compassion. We can all learn from errors and take action to ensure that they do not happen again.

The hospital is being proactive in efforts to prevent the various infections that are so difficult to control with the number of people who visit hospitals and cause so much distress. As a result hospital infections are at an all time low.

South Warwickshire along with Luton and Dunstable were the only two hospitals that achieved the target for A & E performance for the second quarter this year for the Midlands and East region.

The Governors continue to be active on behalf of all residents. Events are put on regularly in various parts of the area to highlight innovations and topics of general interest, as well as the normal committee and board meetings which governors attend.

Graham Murrell has been reappointed as Chairman of the Trust for a further term of one year, and the process has started to appoint his successor. He has been an effective leader seeing the hospital through the process of becoming a Foundation Trust and becoming established as a successful and well respected organisation. It is most important that staff are happy and fulfilled in their work in order that patients get the best attention. It was therefore very encouraging that in a recent survey Staff at the Trust rated it as an excellent place to work.

Councillor Mrs Felicity Bunker

Warwick Town Centre Area Action Plan

A 'Partnership' was formed in 2009 with the aim of preparing a plan for how Warwick town centre, and the way it is managed, should change and develop to tackle current problems and deliver a shared vision for what we want our town centre to be like in the future. The Committee comprised County, District and Town Councillors, together with officers from all three authorities, Warwick Chamber of Trade and The Warwick Society.

The original timetable was:- Spring 2010 Public Consultation on options, Winter 2010 WDC to publish a draft AAP for further public consultation, taking into account earlier responses, Spring 2011 submission with comments to the Government, and Summer 2011 tested in examination by an Inspector who would write a report setting out the Government's conclusions. In the winter of 2011 WDC was to adopt the AAP in accordance with the Inspector's report.

Following a number of meetings an initial consultation was carried out in March 2010 in order to consult the public on the realistic options available to address the key issues. In June 2010 a 20 page Report was issued by WDC on the Public Consultation and a Visioning Event held which was introduced by a facilitator. The vision agreed upon was, *"To make Warwick the best market town in Britain to live in, work in and visit by creating and effectively promoting a strong mix of attractions, businesses and public spaces that enhance the town's vitality and historic character."*

It was agreed that a Core Group would be set up to carry on and progress the work for the plan taking into account the responses to the original options and report back to the whole Partnership. As per recommendations in an Executive Report of 11th July 2012, WDC published a draft of the AAP for the final public consultation which was carried out in October and November 2012. The vision proposed was, *"To achieve economic and social success by building on Warwick's distinctive architectural and cultural strengths"*. An exhibition was taken to a series of venues throughout Warwick with officers and members of the Partnership engaging with people and encouraging them to ask questions and participate in the consultation.

Following the Public Consultation, at the last meeting of the Partnership on 13th May 2013 the consultation results were discussed and the Way Forward considered. Many recommendations included projects such as a footway through from Sainsburys to the Town Centre, improvements to Market Hall and St. Johns Museums to attract visitors and fulfil educational needs, making the Market Place a lively centrepiece, direct access from the Castle into the Town, better management of car parking, improvements to St. Mary's Church public area and also at Eastgate/Westgate, improving traffic flow and shopping area at St. Johns and so on. These schemes would have proved of considerable economic benefit to the Town but have progressed no further because the Partnership appears to have been brought to a halt. Added to this, the Local Plan's traffic assessment then appeared on the WDC website reporting that Warwick would carry far more traffic because of the new developments. This was in direct contradiction to the Warwick Town Centre Plan which stated that *"We will reduce through traffic not stopping in the town"*. The Minutes of the last meeting record the comment that, *"under the Local Plan, Warwick Town Centre will become a gyratory system. More traffic will result in the air quality deteriorating further. Air quality improvements are supported in the Town Centre Plan. The Town Centre Plan is negated by the present Local Plan proposals leaving the Partnership in a difficult position."*

Since that meeting there has been no further communication from WDC to the Partnership and members have been disgruntled that no meeting has been arranged since that time.

The costs of the exercise to date are £15,080 which include facilitator, printing of leaflets, questionnaires and glossy brochures, exhibition at various venues, advertising in press and '*Focus*' magazine, websites, window displays and boards. Staff hours have not been included in these costs and, together with attendance at meetings and events by members of the Partnership over the five years, add up to an enormous number of hours and resources.

Councillor Mrs Linda Bromley