



Committee	Assets & Services
Month	February 2023
Report Title	Events & Activities update 2023
Report Author	Colette Kerr – Events & Activities Officer
Attachments	'Save the Date' Poster

Agenda item: 6

Summary

This report is provided to Committee as an update on the events and activities taken place in January and February 2023. The Events 2023 'Save the Date' poster is for information and sharing only.

Great Winter Get Together – January



SWTC hosted a well-supported Pop-Up Community event on 24th January at The Garden Room, alongside UCAN and Enterprise East CIC. The event, as part of the Great Winter Get Together - a national initiative by The Jo Cox Foundation to highlight loneliness, was well attended by residents of all ages who enjoyed a cup of tea and a homemade cake. Other partners included Mind in West Essex, Uttlesford Foodbank, Saffron Walden Library and PC McNamara.

The collaborative nature of this event meant that direct cost to SWTC were minimal.

FREE Pop-Up Cinema

SWTC and Saffron Walden Baptist Church brought a FREE Pop-Up Cinema to the town during half term, on 16th February. Four films were screened throughout the day, two of which were 'sold out'. SWTC also provided light refreshments for the event. Positive feedback included:

"Such a lovely experience - I could not afford to go to a cinema as bills and food prices are so high, so I am very grateful for this opportunity to see a great film. Thank you"

"Very good event and well done to all who helped put it on. Good picture and sound quality screens"

Thanks have been sent to the UCAN who provided volunteers and the Baptist Church for it's free of charge hire.

The direct costs for the event were £2116.45, with income through funding from Uttlesford District Council's New Homes Bonus from Cllr Richard Freeman – thank you to Cllr Freeman for his support. A small shortfall was met with remaining funds from ECC's ActivAte fund, December 2022. This event, therefore was cost neutral.

Warm Welcome Hub

The Warm Welcome Hub continues to be efficiently resourced with the support of volunteers from Churches Together. Following the Pop-Up Great Winter Get Together, the Warm Hub moved to The Garden Room as a permanent location (previously the Town Hall) and has since received many more attendees. The Warm Welcome is open every Monday and Friday, 12 noon – 15pm until Monday 3rd April 2023. Soup and bread rolls are on offer between 12 noon – 2pm - as well as tea, coffee and biscuits throughout the afternoon, all for free. Wi-Fi, games, cards, puzzles and provision for phone charging will also be available. The initiative continues to be funded from Essex County Council's Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces Fund, sponsorship from Arkwright & Co, and Uttlesford District Council's New Homes Bonus from Cllr Heather Asker, Cllr Derek Eke and Cllr Richard Freeman.

Food Support and Winter Warmth Essentials Fund

SWTC was awarded £4,000.00 from the abovementioned fund administered by Essex County Council; split £3000.00 for food support and £1000.00 for winter warmth essentials. Uttlesford Foodbank and Uttlesford Children's Clothing Bank benefit from this fund.

Feedback from Uttlesford Children's Clothing Bank:

“we are very grateful to Saffron Walden Town Council for securing this funding, which will enable us to provide warm winter clothing to many children across the Uttlesford district”.

Feedback from Uttlesford Foodbank:

“this money will help us source extra food for our clients and we are very grateful to Saffron Walden Town Council for securing the funding.”

Events 2023 ‘Save the Date’

The ‘Save the Date’ poster (attached to this report) is provided for information and will be circulated with all community groups, on line and social media in the local press. The events will range from speciality markets and holiday activities, to wellbeing events and Coronation celebrations – with a Bandstand Season, new for 2023! Details will follow for each event with a poster and accompanying press release to be issued. This will include information on how residents can get involved.

Recommendation

Committee to note the attached Events 2023 ‘Save the date’ information and share with residents.