

## Monthly Report to Building and Town Committee

ShopWatch now has over 60 participants from local shops throughout Romsey and is working well with shop owners alerting everyone when an incident occurs with good descriptions and even photos. Feedback has been really positive.

Christmas events all went well, and we have had our washup meeting to discuss how we take things forward next year with a few adjustments. I have been working with organisers to examine how we can ensure we have adequate crowd control, first aid and effective communication in place for next year.

Most of my time has been spent organising the first Romsey and District Volunteer Fair which was on Sunday 22 January was well attended with over 250 willing volunteers turning up to give their time. All the stall holders were very happy with how the day went and all received a high number of signups. We had 18 stall holders in total with many of the Volunteer and Charity groups from in and around Romsey such as Baby Necessities and the Fire Brigade Museum plus big organisations such as Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and South-Central Ambulance Charity.

To celebrate the Kings Coronation the Palace will end the weekend of celebrations will end with the Big Help Out on Monday May 8 - a special Bank Holiday proclaimed by the Prime Minister in honour of the Coronation, which will highlight the positive impact volunteering has on communities across the nation. I am proposing that to celebrate this national event Romsey produce a Volunteer Outdoor Market throughout the Town where I will invite those who were previously invited and attended the Volunteer Fair. Please let me know if this is something you would support.

We received £400 from Romsey Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Romsey Food Fair to go towards the Town Council Marshals for all the work they did in managing the road closures.

I am now working with the Tourism Group organising a Leaflet Exchange / Tourism Networking event which will be on the 1 March.

### **Event & Business Group Meetings:**

- Romsey Mutual Business Group Breakfast Meeting
- Community Safety Management Group – Test Valley crime, Youth Café in Andover, Andover Christmas had crowds of around 10,000 will go and meet them to talk about what they did to manage them.
- **Continued action** - Romsey Disabled People Partnership – Worked with TVBC and was introduced to members. The group is looking to increase attendees to help discuss how the Town can help, assist, and cater for those with all disabilities. Please continue to pass this plea onto your constituencies.
- Romsey Chamber of Commerce Networking and Industry Exec Meetings
- Formulating your business strategy – Romsey Chamber of Commerce

## Organisations

Met with:

**Men's Shed Romsey** – took a tour of their establishment and met the committee members who talked about their history and future plans. Arranged to go and do a talk to all their members in Feb.

**Chamber of Commerce** – attended Exec meetings, breakfast meeting and social gatherings. Helping to prepare for the Saving Santa Christmas.

Met with Christianne Ireland from **Unity Online** co ordinating the Volunteer Fair in January 2023.

Romsey Future – passed Footpaths Route 5 and in principle: Youth Café's Romsey and Romsey Disabled People Partnership Disability Training.

## Business

Attended webinar about Local Spend Delivery which talked about local gift cards, Eastleigh Borough Council do it, emailed to see how successful they have found it – Costing is £8,000 with a contract of three years.

Met with Directors of Proseptic, Romsey, one of which is also a Trustee of Carnival Committee.

## TVBC

Monthly catch-up meetings with **Jennie Pell**, Economic Development Officer

Monthly catch up with **Louisa Rice**, Engagement Team Leader

Monthly catch up with Michael White, Licensing

Bi-monthly catch up with Andy Ferrier

## HCC

Potholes and more potholes! Have given the reporting methods to many of visitors. Also currently chasing the one outside Josie's.

## Elected Members

Ad hoc meetings with Councillors to resolve any issues and keep updated with all things Romsey.

## Key priorities:

Short Term:

Tourism App (Faye)

- Small changes to the app to make it more accessible and useable for what we require.
- Input with data and photos.

#### Future events

- Fraud and Scam Day 9<sup>th</sup> Feb in my office – working with Barclays and Hampshire Police
- Tourism Conference for the 1st of March 2023 whereby local attractions, retail, accommodation providers and food and drink establishments attend.
- Social media course for small businesses – March 2023

#### Opportunities

- Big Help Out – Coronation Bank Holiday
- Christmas Market
- Ongoing - Collate and compile database of attractions/accommodation providers/retail/cafes/pubs and restaurants for tourism website and where needed the tourism app
- Ongoing - obtain quality photos for tourism app and website.

#### Long Term:

- Easter fun walk of shops in Romsey – What's in the window?
- Four Fun Fridays / Wacky Wednesdays for summer next year.
- Redesign and resize logo for all Visit Romsey social media and website to complement Visit Test Valley branding.
- Future funding for tourism: tourism app, promoted posts on social, photoshoot, rebranding.

### **Meetings and events coming up:**

Marketing for small business – Chamber event

Workshop – how to start your own business (IncuHive)

Tourism Meeting - monthly

Men's Shed talk to members

Introduction to Mountbatten School

Introduction to Jane Carth House

Carnival Meetings for Coronation Event

Working group for Christmas Market

Design and work with retailers for Easter walk of RTC

Linda Bate – Youth in Romsey (still awaiting)