

Monthly Report to Building and Communities Committee

Sadly, the Coronation was a wash out with the wettest day possible! However diehard fans were in attendance and fun was had by all who braved the weather. Nicqui and I were there on the day to sell the Mayors Big Draw and managed to sell in the region of £450 and gave great awareness of the Town Council and local attractions and businesses who kindly gave prizes.

Kings Coronation Volunteer Market the Big Help Out on Monday May 8 was also a little wet but still had a great turnout. We had 12 stalls and many people kindly signed up to be volunteers. Radio Solent kindly heard my pleas and covered the story live, interviewing myself, Christianne from Unity and also the stall holders. Everyone went away happy from the day and looking forward for the Big Volunteer Fair in January 2024.

Working with Nicqui to help with the Mayors Big Grand Draw which was a great success and drawn on the night of the mayor's changeover. We had some amazing prizes given by attractions and businesses from the area.

This year is Romsey Festival which is on for the first two weeks of July where you can discover over 250 events in and around the Romsey District. Please help promote and advertise them to your constituents. All events can be viewed on the www.romseyfestival.org.

Event & Business Group Meetings:

- Romsey Mutual Business Group Breakfast Meetings
- Test Valley Community Safety Management Group
- Sadler Mill group to deter river parties and swimmers.
- **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, Breakfast Meetings and Exec Meetings
- Test Valley Tourism Meetings
- Beggars Fair Committee Meetings
- Romsey Carnival Committee Meetings
- Romsey Festival Meetings

Organisations

Met with:

Beggars Fair – agreed security arrangements and liaised about plans and set ups for the day.

Chamber of Commerce – attended Exec meetings, breakfast meeting and social gatherings. Now setting up Food Fair and Summer Drinks get together for businesses. Future plans with comms objectives to help secure new business membership.

Carnival Committee – attended meetings and secured toilets and litter bins from Ace Liftaway. Organised with French Television Company their visit and contacts for filming on the day.

Met with Christianne Ireland from **Unity Online** co ordinating the Volunteer Market May 2023

Romsey Festival – helping them with promotion / point of sale and press release to summarise July's events for Romsey.

Business

Attended Broadland Estates opening of the Orangery Rooms

Jackie Edwards, Antique Fair – set up and planning for the event

TVBC

Monthly catch-up meetings with **Jennie Pell**, Economic Development Officer – starting a new project discovering all the businesses in the Romsey area which will take me around all the industrial estates with a survey.

Tourism Comms meeting plan

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

Bi-monthly catch up with Andy Ferrier

HCC

Two uneven slabs of pavement reported in the hundred; outside Superdrug a lady fell over 11th April 2023 and also the edge of the road paving outside Reeves the bakers.

Elected Members

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

Key priorities:

Short Term:

Future events

- Mayors Picnic and Duck Race
- Romsey Festival – over 200 events in the first two weeks of July
- Beggars Fair
- Carnival and Bed Race
- Jobs Fair – working with TVBC and DWP – now moved to September
- Social media course for small businesses – summer
- Four Fun Fridays / Wacky Wednesdays for summer holidays next year.

Opportunities

- Christmas Market
- Checklist and guide for events in Romsey

- 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.

Threats

- Turning trend of converting commercial shops and office space to residential in Central Romsey.
- State of pavements in Town Centre

Long Term:

- 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:

Romsey and District Society, Annual Lecture

Romsey Chamber AGM Wednesday 7 June

Italian Twinning Visit (Treviglio performers) – 7 July

250 + Romsey Festival events – July

Romsey Food Fair planning

Tourism Meeting

Incuhive new business startup

Tracy Lambe – Job Fair in September

Asset based Community Development – Romsey Future