

Bi-Monthly Report to Buildings and Community Committee

Vegan Market - The Vegan Market was very successful, and weather prevailed with sunshine and no rain! The event company were pleased and hope to organise another event at a later stage.

Security and Policing Exhibition - Attended a one day briefing by the Home Office finding out about the support available for Businesses and Event planner and Spaces and requirements for the future. Will be using some of these resources available for Romsey and the planning of events.

Easter Trail – was run by Moonstones, Dukes Keep who is also running a market and activities over Easter. Fun days at Kings John House and many of the churches and local halls which have been promoted on social media.

Romsey Business and Brew The new Chamber breakfast meeting held its second event at Romsey Town Council. With sponsorship from Reeve the Baker to support the new launch it was attended by over 30 businesses and retailers from the town.

Issues still outstanding: State of pavements in the town.

Event & Business Group Meetings:

- Romsey Disabled People Partnership – Preparing for business training events to be sent to all shops, businesses, and organisations in Romsey. The aim is to deliver four one-hour training sessions over the week commencing Monday 20th May for ‘Romsey Disabled Partnership awareness week’.
- Job Fair Planning
- Lymington Chamber – met with the President as they have done a remarkable job in turning around membership to now triple what it was a couple of years ago. Gained a great insight and ideas plus their support. Will organise a cross chamber business meet shortly.
- Romsey Chamber of Commerce Networking, Breakfast Meetings and Exec Meetings
- Beggars Fair Committee Meetings for 2024
- Romsey Food Fair Meetings for 2024
- Pubwatch – to engage with publicans to help subsidise and promote the Beggars Fair for help with funding and sponsorship.
- Test Valley Business Awards – promote and help find Romsey based sponsorship and entries.
- Create a new social media group to promote all of Romsey’s Markets under one umbrella. Administration of the account will be managed by all the markets, Romsey Market, South Central Makers Market, Romsey Country Market, Antiques Market and also hope to sign up Farmers Market.
- Working with the Memorial Park Café to ensure all parties are happy with events and what they can cater for (Rotary and Beggars Fair).

Event priorities have been:

- Events sign up form – currently written signed off by Test Valley, as of 27/03 awaiting a response from Police and Fire Brigade.
- Events Toolkit and Marshal Safety / Training
- Preparation for Antiques Fair, Christmas events, Beggars Fair managing schedules, operations, security, training, and protocols for each event. Taking advice from different parties on the complexed needs to prove the security and safety of the town during events.
- Beggars Fair 30th anniversary event – events throughout the year, partnership with other organisations/businesses, event parking, promotion / marketing, and funding.

Business

Romsey Job Fair went successfully however due to extensive flooding, major road closures and two big Job Centre events either side of the day it was slightly less attended by businesses. The next one will be in September and then again in March/April 2025

Promoting 'Cross – Chamber Connections' was organised by the Romsey Chamber as a joint event with Salisbury and District Chamber of Commerce which was attended by 60 businesses wanting to network with businesses in these areas. It was a huge success which has already achieve some positive collaborations.

Hays Travel new shop opening.

Community

The Romsey Food Partnership was set up to create a working group to help and assist those in Romsey and Test Valley gain the support they need by bringing in key businesses to help facilitate new programmes, funding, and partnerships. The partnership is now in talks with Andover Food partnership to merge into a wider Test Valley working group which will employ a Co-ordinator funded for 2 years, who with the guidance and help from the Partnership Groups, will run projects throughout the Test Valley. They have 25k to fund this position but need to match fund this position. Working on the Romsey Food Fair committee I have agreed to give the group a charity stall for 2024.

Attended Test Valley South Locality Health Forum to understand the problems and opportunities to our health service in South Test Valley. This going forward will now be passed to Cllr S Gidley to attend.

TVBC

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

Tourism Meet up with TVBC

I have spoken to Brett Hill, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor South about the general litter in Romsey and talked through a new idea of 'reverse graffiti' with a stencil saying 'help keep Romsey tidy' which he was supportive of. You can see how it is done here:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3JPdhkpfMh/?igsh=NmpsbDc4MW1lZGcy> The cost is minimal and also jet washed with water (no chemicals) so there is no damage to the surface area or flora. Interested in your feedback to the idea.

HCC

Calls for a governance on A board was requested from Councillors, as a number of complaints had been filtered through to them. This is managed by HCC with no advice on their website as to the legalities of placing them. I have spoken to a number of the shops which were mentioned.

Centre of town paving is still ongoing.

Elected Members

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

Key priorities:

Future events

- St George's Day parade – road marshals.
- Antiques Collectable & Decorative Arts Fair Sunday 12th May
- Solo and Startups evening for small businesses in Romsey partnering with Romsey Chamber
- Bed Race 5th July and Summer Carnival 6th July (not confirmed by Police and TVBC)
- Mayors Picnic and Duck Race - 7th July (Forms been presented to TVBC for sign off)
- Beggars Fair 30th year - Saturday 14th July (Police and authorities happy with Event Plans)

Opportunities in the pipeline:

- Set up Romsey's events document, sign up and emergency plan.
- Christmas Market - 'Romsey's Spirit of Christmas' planning
- Summer Fair – August 2024
- May Bank Holiday 2025 Gardening Market in the town.

Threats

- Turning trend of converting commercial shops and office space to residential in Central Romsey.
- State of pavements in Town Centre
- Areas of Romsey looking tired, weeds, broken and rotting benches

Empty Retail Space

Old Cornmarket (prev. Barclays) - Vacant

27 The Hundred (prev Hays Travel) – Vacant but Hays still have the rent for another two months. Have spoken to the landlord and passed on two interested parties.

1 Marketplace (prev Chemist/Print shop) – Vacant (no signs)

84 The Hundred (FLHair) Vacant (available to let at www.trinity-rose.co.uk 02380 002020)

Works currently being completed at:

6 Cornmarket (prev Computer Repair) – Vacant, although works currently being done inside.

M & Co – works currently underway, occupier not known.

Confirmed new business opening:

56-58 The Hundred – Works currently being done – Footners & Ewing are extending their offices, hope to open in late spring early summer.

86 The Hundred – Awaiting planning application to secure property. New business opening, main business situated in Winchester.

Meetings coming up:

Romsey Food Partnership

Test Valley Safety Management Group

Beggars Fair 2024 30th anniversary

Food Fair 2024

TVBC Property Asset Management team

Disabled Partnership Training to businesses

RTC Project update:

Christmas Market – Met up with Cllr Janet Burnage and talked through the idea and partnership organisations. Met with Beggars Fair, Makers Market, Antiques Market, and spoke with Bradbeers and the Romsey Food fair Committee and talked through the idea and gained their commitment. Spoken with the Police and they liked the idea in principle.

Next steps: Confirm the idea and planned use of TVBC space with the authorities. Gain feedback from Romsey Fire Station. Organise a meeting with all partner organisations, interested parties and Cllr Janet Burnage.