

Huntingdon Town Council's Leisure & Community Services Committee Annual Report 2020/21

Despite the many problems during the past twelve months, the Town Council's Leisure & Community Services Committee is still meeting on a regular basis to discuss the excellent work our staff are carrying out.

This report outlines some of the key achievements of the Council over the last year, which I hope helps to show the amount of work that continues to take place in our community.

Our Estates Services team hasn't stopped since the pandemic first sent us into lockdown. The team has constantly evolved its way of working to ensure everyone's safety, but to still maintain the high standard of service provision the Town Council prides itself on.

The list below highlights just some of the work undertaken by the team over the past 12 months:

- Planning, ordering and preparing for the Town Council's Crematorium landscaping
- Themed floral displays to celebrate Florence Nightingale, 125 years of Hunts FA and 400 years of the Mayflower
- Weekly food deliveries to some of our most vulnerable senior residents in the town
- Football pitch improvements and marking at Coneygear Park
- Play area inspection training for our portfolio of 20+ play areas
- Weekly play area inspections and specialist Covid-19 cleaning
- Wildflower planting across several sites
- Replacing play area equipment and safety surfacing
- Painting the exterior frontage of the Commemoration Hall

The doors to the brand new Coneygear Centre sadly had to close less than a month after they officially opened, however the building has been a non-stop hive of activity behind the scenes, offering support to local residents via various different projects:

- The Supporting Older People's Project has continued to provide a freshly cooked hot meal once a week, delivered to the most vulnerable in the community. Our Estates Services team deliver these to residents, along with a weekly newsletter and they have proved to be a valuable link to people who need help during the lockdown. Over 2000 meals have been delivered since April 2020.
- The Summer Brunch Club saw up to 100 weekly lunches provided for local families during the summer holidays, which could be enjoyed at the park in allocated spaces for each family bubble. Partner agencies were in attendance to offer help and advice to any families in need of additional support.
- The first all-girls football club is now based at Coneygear Park, with ongoing improvement works being carried out by our Estates Services Team.
- The annual Christmas Hamper project took place with over 100 food hampers made up and sent out to families in the community in need of support over the festive period.
- A community garden project took place with the Green Team to create a pergola seating area and raised planters that can be used for community growing projects in the future. The project supported young people in the local community to build on their skills to better future employment prospects.
- A click and collect service at the Coneygear Centre library to still allow access to books in the local community during the lockdown periods.
- This week, a new pilot project called Tepees of Hope has been set up at Coneygear Park on a Monday, to bring face-to-face projects for local children back but, crucially,

in a COVID-19 secure way. Each participant will have their own tepee to provide a secure base from which they can engage in face-to-face activities but with exceptionally low risk of transmission. The project will offer enrichment sessions and activities to local children and families.

Last week we presented two new Local Highway Improvement bids to the County Council for consideration. They were for a formal pedestrian crossing by Owl Way in Hartford and an additional filter lane at the St Peter's Road and Redwongs Way junction. The results are expected in April. Some of last year's projects have now been completed by the County Council, including a safer footpath at Hinchbrooke Park Road and on-street parking restrictions in Lake Way, Stukeley Meadows.

And finally, CCTV has been installed at Bloomfield and Coneygear Park to provide additional security across both open spaces and we are carrying out a pilot delivery for the June issue of our Huntingdon magazine with a new distributor to ensure all Huntingdon residents receive a copy.

Let's hope that the coming year allows us to continue with our community events which we've had to put on hold, as well as opening up the Coneygear Centre once again for the community to enjoy.