

Annual Report MAYD 2020/2021

Meetings of the Joint Committee 2020/2021

The MAYD Joint Committee has endeavoured to continue to meet quarterly. However, COVID restrictions have made this more difficult. Meetings have been held on 21 January 2019, 3 April 2019, 3 July 2019, 2 October 2019, 29 January 2020, 8 July 2020, 7 October 2020, 13 January 2021, 25 March 2021. The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for 15 June 2021.

Update and impact of COVID 19

The reporting year has been a difficult period for MAYD, due to the overwhelming impact of the Covid-19 pandemic with the associated rules and controls on face-to-face working.

At the time of the first lockdown in March 2020 Groundwork East quickly developed a virtual youth engagement programme that was formally approved by the MAYD committee. Unfortunately, the numbers of young people taking up this option were judged too few to make continuing it worthwhile. The last part of the 2020 spring programme was therefore cancelled by agreement at a MAYD joint committee meeting.

Due to the on-going problems of compliance to Covid-safe rules the committee had agreed to suspend all MAYD activities until the late autumn. However, further Covid restrictions meant that this arrangement was again cancelled.

At the commencement of 2021 it was finally agreed that another attempt be made at a virtual delivery and this took place during February and March. It was very successful with a high level of engagement covering all villages + Royston.

Finance and MAYD Joint Committee

A successful bid was made to obtain funding from North Herts DC to balance the costs of MAYD activities due to attendance of Royston young people. A North Herts District Councillor is attending meetings.

Foxton PC, who had withdrawn from the Joint Committee last year elected to re-join so the original four villages of Melbourn, Meldreth Foxton and Shepreth are now members alongside the support from North Herts.

Future plans

Groundwork East has suffered staff losses due to Covid. They are proposing a more focused 'Workshop' format for delivery during the forthcoming half term and summer holiday periods. Costings for the summer have been received from Groundwork East by MAYD and approval will be given to go ahead with the summer programme subject to a trial workshop agreed for May 2021.

Due to the extended periods of forced closure during the last 12 months the financial position of MAYD is fairly healthy for the remainder of 2021. Budgeting for 2022 will need to be revisited with the contributing parish councils later in the year, together with decisions on the best strategy for delivering MAYD.

The potential for using two different sites for youth club winter and summer is also being explored. The traditional pavilion setting would remain in the summer with the open grassed play areas to hand. Whereas the winter provision, where better inside space needs to be available, could be elsewhere in Melbourn or possibly at alternative rotating village sites.

The longer-term involvement of N Herts will be explored

Cllr John Travis, Melbourn Parish Council

Chair, MAYD Joint Committee

Date: April 2021