



Wokingham Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1AS
Tel: 0118 978 3185 www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk
Town Clerk: Mrs J. Nowecki

This Council Meeting is open to the Public and Press
Please notify the Officer or Chairman if you wish to record the meeting

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting is to be held virtually.

Members of the public remain welcome and should contact the officer below for details.

6th July 2020

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of the **Arts & Culture Committee** to be held as a **Virtual Meeting** at **7.30pm** on **Monday 13th July 2020** for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the subjects and matters set out in the Agenda below.

Yours sincerely

J Nowecki
Town Clerk

Contact Officer: Gemma Cumming, Arts & Culture Officer
Direct line: 0118 974 0889 Email: gcumming@wokingham-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**
To receive any declaration of interests from Members on the business about to be transacted.
- 3 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC**
The Chairman to answer questions raised by members of the Council or public.

This is an opportunity for the people of Wokingham to ask questions of, and make comments to, the Town Council. Members of the public are requested to restrict their questions and comments to three minutes. Questions which are not answered at this meeting will be answered in writing to the person asking the question. To ensure an informed response, please send your questions to the Town Clerk at least three working days prior to the meeting.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

To receive and confirm the Minutes of the proceedings at the meeting of this Committee held on 1st June 2020 (pages 16074 to 16077), copy attached, as a true and correct record.

5 MONITORING REPORT

To receive and consider the Monitoring Report dated 6th July 2020 (copy attached).

6 COMMITTEE BUDGET

To receive and consider the Committee's budget dated to 30th June 2020 (copy attached).

7 WOKINGHAM BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY

To consider and resolve upon the drafted response to the public consultation. (copy attached).

8 NEW IDEAS

To receive and consider ideas from the public for future projects for the financial year 2021/22 or beyond (copy attached).

9 THEATRE IN THE PARK

To receive an update on the Theatre in the Park project.

10 COMMITTEE INFORMATION

- a) To receive information items raised by members
- b) Identify any specific items for marketing purposes

Arts & Culture Committee: Cllrs Anna Box, Philip Cunnington, Matteo Fumagalli, Sally Gurney (Chairman), Daniel Hinton, Peter Hornsby, Tim Lloyd, Morag Malvern and Abby Tebboth (Vice Chairman).

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, all persons attending this meeting are hereby notified that this meeting will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is that it acts as an aide-memoir in assisting the clerk of the meeting in the compilation of minutes. The recordings are held in a secure location and deleted once it has been resolved that the minutes are a true and correct record.

In accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies regulations 2014, persons attending this meeting may make their own recordings of the proceedings subject to the Council's Policy on Filming, Recording & Reporting on Council and Committee Meetings (copy available on request).

1st June 2020 – DRAFT

In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held virtually.

Minutes of the proceedings of the **ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE** meeting held virtually on this day from 19.34 to 21.44.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr S Gurney
Councillors: Cllrs, A Box, P Cunnington, D Hinton, M Fumagalli, P Hornsby, M Malvern, T Lack, T Lloyd and A Tebboth.

IN ATTENDANCE

Arts and Culture Officer
Miss Mackinnon
Cllr R Bishop-Firth

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)

**RESOLVED
30132**

There were no questions from members of the council or public.

ARTS & CULTURE COMMITTEE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr A Tebboth and it was

on a vote of 8 for (with 2 abstentions), that the Minutes of the Arts & Culture Committee meeting held on 9th March 2020 (pages 16037 to 16039) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 5)

The Monitoring Report dated 22nd May was received and considered.

Invite More Arts to a future meeting:

It was agreed that for the time being, it would be best to invite More Arts to the next suitable date when meetings were taking place in person.

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

The Arts and Culture Committee's budget dated to 19th May 2020 was received and noted.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



**WOKINGHAM BOROUGH ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY
(Agenda Item 7)**

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their responses to this strategy in advance of the meeting. The strategy, and comments received, were discussed and a number of points were highlighted of particular importance.

The Committee noted that while fundamentally in agreement with the principle, that the strategy and any subsequent action plan would benefit from more detail and structure on achieving its aims, and sharing of evidence on how its conclusions have been reached. Additionally, more detail was requested on inclusivity ambitions and any information on how the strategy will tie into the Climate Emergency and sustainability work ongoing in the Borough. The Committee were keen to meet directly with the newly appointed Arts and Culture Development Officer and requested, if not already in place, if there could be Town Council representation on the Borough Working Group.

The Arts and Culture Officer was requested to take the discussion points and comments and formulate a draft Wokingham Town Council response.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

COMMITTEE REVIEW (Agenda Item 8)

The report outlining the work of the Arts and Culture Committee over the 2019/20 council year was received and considered. The Arts and Culture Officer was thanked for a detailed review, including the current position relating to COVID-19 and Town Council events.

The question on should Sunny Saturdays happen this year was noted and it was agreed by unanimous vote that due to the current events and requirement to socially distance that Sunny Saturdays would be cancelled in full.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

Cllr Fumagalli reported that the Science with Schools event would now take place entirely digitally, and he would continue to work with schools and lecturers to enable this. He reported that it may mean that there could be wider reach for this event than just the original school.

WOKINGHAM CHILDRENS BOOK FESTIVAL (Agenda Item 9)

The report outlining an alternative digital approach for this year's Book Festival was received and considered. It was requested to look at extending the content into schools in addition to the planned outreach activities. It was also suggested to explore the possibility of bookplates for authors signatures and an e-book giveaway.

It was proposed by Cllr S Gurney and seconded by Cllr A Tebboth and it was

**RESOLVED
30133**

unanimously to proceed with the Wokingham Children's Book Festival as a digital event for 2020.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



NEW IDEAS (Agenda Item 10)**A) “Chalk about it” concept**

Cllr A Box outlined a concept from Australia (that takes place on 31st August) for chalk art being used to destigmatise mental health. The concept was discussed and while there was concern that it might encourage graffiti it was agreed that proper framing of the event would minimise this. Additionally, ideas to use chalkboards instead of the Market Place itself or other potential locations were discussed, as was the addition of a professional chalk artist. It was agreed for the Arts and Culture Officer to investigate further for a future meeting of the committee.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

B) Singing Trees

Cllr A Box outlined a concept from Aalborg where new trees are planted and a famous musician who has attended the city gifts a recording to played under a tree. It was discussed how such a concept might work for Wokingham. Ideas including alternatives to music, such as sound art, poetry and even spoken history and nature were discussed. Also the potential to get the schools involved in the concept and recordings, and the local Men’s Shed and Maker spaces involved in producing a suitable delivery method. A delivery method would need to be reasonably weatherproof, vandal proof and sustainable. It was agreed for the Arts and Culture Officer to investigate further for a future meeting of the Committee.

ACTION: ARTS AND CULTURE OFFICER

C) Pride

Cllr R Bishop-Firth outlined what has been happening regarding Pride celebrations within the Town since 2019. The 2020 event was planned to have been a Pride picnic in Elms Field on the 2nd Saturday in July. It is now expected that the celebrations will move online and potentially promote smaller more front garden events in line with Governmental advice on social gatherings. The Committee were in agreement to support promoting Pride and suggested that for future years, as the event had a strong external organising body, that should they wish to look at more substantial Council support, they may wish to get involved with the upcoming grant process.

It was also suggested that the Virtual Museum may wish to look at the history of LGBT people and activism in Wokingham.

D) Other Ideas

The following ideas were suggested:

- Youth Band event in Elms Field
- Online workshops for school children
- Charitable Community Fun Run which might be in partnership with WBC or another suitable provider. A reasonable 5km course might include Cantley alongside, Joel Park and/or Holt Copse.
- Some sort of event that champions and/or teaches critical thinking skills.

CHAIRMAN’S INITIALS _____



COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

- a) The following items for information were received.
- Councillors were informed that Wokingham Lions were looking at the potential for an October event on the Market Place akin to the May Fayre but much smaller. This would be subject to an appropriate day (the mooted extra October Bank Holiday) and the safety of attendees considering COVID-19.
 - Councillors were informed that the Public Art Working Group were continuing to meet and feedback from the meeting was presented. It was noted that Cllr Lloyd may wish to consult with the appropriate Officer about the status of the blocks.
- b) The Committee suggested that the following items would be beneficial to promote:
- The Committee wishes to ask residents if there was anything in particular they would like to see the Committee do. This may be through Facebook and/or the local newspaper.
 - That Sunny Saturdays is cancelled for 2020
 - That the Book festival would be moving to a digital platform.

ACTION: MARKETING COORDINATOR

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



WOKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Monitoring Report: Arts & Culture

: 7th July 2020

Date Action Agreed	Item for Action (to include any resolution number)	Person Actioning	Proposed Completion Date	Progress
9 th March 2020	Invite More Arts to a future meeting to get an overview of their activities.	Arts and Culture Officer	July	TBC
1 st June 2020	Book festival Update	Arts and Culture Officer	October	Work continues to programme the Book Festival, digital webinar based platforms are being tested alongside contracting authors and marketing strategies.
1 st June 2020	New Ideas Update	Arts and Culture Officer	September	Work has started with fully costed proposals ready for the September meeting.

01/07/2020

Wokingham Town Council

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/06/2020

Month No: 3

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR
304 Arts & Culture							
1156 Mosaic Sponsorship	3,333	0	2,000	2,000			
1159 Book Festival Income	3,760	1,800	3,600	1,800			
1253 Fun Day Income	189	0	150	150			
1256 Misc. Income	381	0	0	0			
Arts & Culture :- Income	7,664	1,800	5,750	3,950			0
4341 Concert	34,070	10,500	37,000	26,500		26,500	
4342 Cultural Month	2,076	0	2,300	2,300		2,300	
4343 PRS Licence	600	574	600	26		26	
4345 Book Festival	5,496	(330)	6,600	6,930		6,930	
4388 Theatre in the Park	4,000	1,250	2,500	1,250	1,250	0	
4389 Board Games event	579	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	
4512 Sunny Saturdays	5,070	(200)	5,000	5,200		5,200	
4513 Dressing the Christmas Tree	791	0	700	700		700	
4518 Living Advent Calendar	996	0	1,100	1,100		1,100	
4519 Mosaics	4,543	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	
4603 Fun Day	6,830	2,730	7,800	5,070		5,070	
Arts & Culture :- Indirect Expenditure	65,050	14,524	67,100	52,576	1,250	51,326	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(57,386)	(12,724)	(61,350)	(48,626)			
Grand Totals:- Income	7,664	1,800	5,750	3,950			
Expenditure	65,050	14,524	67,100	52,576	1,250	51,326	
Net Income over Expenditure	(57,386)	(12,724)	(61,350)	(48,626)			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(57,386)	(12,724)					



Wokingham Town Council

Response to the Wokingham Borough Council Arts and Culture Strategy Consultation.

What do you think of the strategy?

The Committee welcome the addition of an Arts and Culture Strategy and subsequent action plan to the work of the Borough Council. It wishes to extend its congratulations to the recently hired Arts and Culture Development Officer and thanks to the other Officers who have pulled this document together.

Overall happy with the aspirations this document outlines, the Committee looks forward to any further version of this Strategy and Action Plan that goes into more detail about the aspirations and how they may be achieved. They would be keen to understand the methodology that identifies the distinctiveness between the parishes and the partnerships that might come out to support work in the communities. Particularly communities with little existing Arts and Culture support, as well as the partnerships that would support work where there is stronger Arts and Culture activity already in existence, such as Wokingham Town. How would current ongoing work already fit into the strategic vision presented?

Of particular concern is the potential to duplicate work and the Committee encourages that a partnership be built to mutually support each other's work, where appropriate, and ensure that the public is aware of the contributions of each partner. There is a huge potential for the Borough Council to enable work to fill gaps and engage cultural resources.

The Committee would be very keen to learn more about "Project Joy" and the other apps being developed to support this vision. It was noted that there is strong similarity with the work the Town has done to develop Love Wokingham.

They also ask if there is any ranked priority for achieving these 6 goals?

How does this Strategy link to your [WTC's] plans over the next two years, and five years?

There is some overlap with Wokingham Town Council's four fundamental strategic aims of Service, Distinctiveness, Inclusivity and Sustainability. Arts and Culture is in particular looking to new activities and events that fill gaps in provision to ensure the full demographic of Wokingham Town is catered for, as far as is practical for an organisation of its scope. It would welcome skills and resources from external groups to assist in that aim. In addition, existing events are analysed each year to see where improvements could be made with reference to the Strategic aims of the Council.

It was particularly noted that the events we already put on, the promotion of said events, and the more recent work (over the last three years and ongoing) to expand provision for Children and Young People seems to fit strongly with the ambitions of this strategy. The Committee has noted that there are gaps in opportunities for teenagers and young adults which the Borough Councils' existing connections may help foster increased and more efficient engagement.

The Committee are interested in greater details with regards to inclusivity but can see that there is great potential for linked up work with both the Town and Borough's aims in that area.

In addition, it would also be interested in how Wokingham Borough Council's Climate Emergency status and the subsequent Carbon Neutrality Action Plan may feed into the thinking for Arts and Culture within the Borough.

How does this Strategy link to your [WTC's] longer term goals?

Over the longer term the expectation is that the current four strategic aims of Wokingham Town Council will remain and be refined.

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It is noted that an aligned strategy may lead to opportunities that would normally be out of reach for the Town Council as the pool of resources would be larger. Which would only support the Town Council's overall goal to improve the cultural life of the town and promote high quality events.

What do you think is missing?

While appreciating that this Strategy is a draft, and has identified the next step would be an Action Plan (which will be formulated from the current consultation), the Committee would like to see more details on how these aspirations will be achieved, and specific projects and goals to drive movement towards these aspirations. The vision is powerful and the Committee would be interested in the data and evidence that helped create it.

The Committee noted a particular aspiration to develop opportunities for children and young people which it strongly supports, but would ask to consider the active inclusion of learning-disabled houses, children in care and who are carers themselves, as well as the potential for multigenerational learning. Additional detail in how this strategy, Wokingham Borough Council (and partners) might support creative learning, particularly outside of standard scoring and testing approaches, would be valuable, as well as any opportunities to share creative work (both from schools and other settings) with the wider community.

They would also suggest workable actions to target young people and engagement with secondary schools should be better expanded to understand the actions feasibility and effectiveness.

Additionally, they would welcome a detailed approach to engaging with culture for all our under-represented groups (including poorer communities and marginalised ethnicities) and would welcome a plan to;

- (i) identify which communities are under-represented,
- (ii) engage with them,
- (iii) understand their needs,
- (iv) deliver appropriate events.

The Committee would encourage greater support for overlooked communities such as BAME/EU/recent immigrants and notes that currently they are not aware of any events specific to Wokingham's residents to promote multiculturalism. It would also ask to consider that events that recognise marginalised communities are not strictly tied to "History months" but could occur at other times of the year. Similarly, under Economic growth where it talks about a programme of Christmas themed cultural events, we would also suggest that other religious holidays should also be celebrated and recognised.

An aspect of the strategy that could be expanded on would be how WBC might utilise the library service as a key cultural partner for planning and delivery.

They also noted no details within the strategy on how the current lack of performance specific venues within the Borough might be rectified over the next 10 years. With such a strong vision to increase engagement with the Arts and Culture, the need for an increase in quality venues should be expected? Previous decades have seen extensive increases in housing with no notable publicly funded development for an arts venue to support the growth of the Town or Borough. Would it be viable in the short term to forge links with landlords to utilise more empty commercial premises around the Borough as pop up venues?

Finally, they noted a lack of information relating to cultural history, museums and the intersection of science with culture. The draft mentions links with universities, and such partnerships could be utilised to offer residents science-related events. Reading University is in the UK top 20 for Archaeology and has a number of directly associated museums, including the Museum of English Rural Life and The Ure Museum of Greek Archaeology. The Committee again notes the current lack of connection this strategy has with other strategies, particularly those related to the Climate Emergency.

What do you think you [WTC] may be able to contribute? For example space, funding, other resources?

The Council and in particular the Arts and Culture Committee have a strong programme of Arts and Culture events already in place and will continue to identify and fill, as appropriate, gaps in provision. There is also an annual external grant funding process which considers projects that fit the vision and goals of the Council.

The Council owns and/or maintains a number of open spaces and buildings within the Town that have potential to be utilised. It also manages some potentially useful online spaces including the Wokingham Virtual Museum. It has expertise and experience of its own and has worked with other organisations to create partnership opportunities and even created new arts organisations. It would be open to exploring opportunities to support and collaborate on future partnerships or may be able to utilise existing connections to help build external partnerships.

The Committee notes the potential for overlap between Wokingham Town Council's activities and Wokingham Borough Council's new strategy and stresses the need for a strong relationship and partnership working to ensure

resources within the Town are well apportioned. While some of the events of the Committee are designed to specifically serve the residents of the Town, a number of the larger events serve a much wider area including the Borough.

Specifically;

- The International Street Concert, May Fayre and Winter Carnival attract from neighbouring areas outside the Town.
- The Wokingham Children's Book Festival as a partnership with WBC Libraries Service serves the Borough with a focus in the Town.

The Committee would be interested in more detail on how Wokingham Borough Council might supplement and support the ongoing arts and culture activity and aims of the Town Council.

How might your local communities / stakeholders benefit?

The Committee recognises the link that arts and culture have in the wellbeing of a community. An increased level of work in this area, done as a complementary offer to the work already being undertaken by Wokingham Town Council would be of benefit.

It recognises the strength in a more joined up approach between the Borough Council and partners across the Borough, such as the local parishes and arts organisations. One strength being potential access to a more diverse and decentralised set of events. Events that may be able to serve the immediate community, but may also be able to encourage other communities to attend, to create cross-generational and cross-cultural learning, and foster a better understanding of others.

It is particularly noted that there are communities and groups within the Town that Wokingham Borough Council already has historic interaction with, notably Care Homes, Schools and Learning-disabled homes. These already built relationships may facilitate a stronger and more efficient response. Our experience suggests that active coordination of care home activities will be more effective, not merely linking care homes to cultural providers.

Finally, Wokingham Borough Council's statutory duties in particular relating to planning permission, licensing and ongoing regeneration, place it in an excellent position to feed the arts into the consideration of new spaces and the ongoing use of existing spaces. Its position spanning the communities of the area and the ongoing work to improve digital methods of disseminating communication regarding Arts and Cultural activities and resources, as noted in the strategy, would be very much valued.

Any other comments?

The Committee would like to see more public art being brought into the Town. Particularly it being considered as a key aspect of new developments, but also consideration on how it might be added sensitively and appropriately to enhance established spaces.

It would like to know how the ongoing work of the Working Group will be distributed to stakeholders and how it might be possible for partners and stakeholders to have continued input into the ongoing work. The Committee would be very open to representation on the group. The Committee notes the mention of the Cultural Forum and would be interested in more detail about its remit and integration with the Working Group.

The Statement of Intent introduction says: "It is the intention that as part of the consultation process other stakeholders can identify their own actions and/or aspirations to contribute to a more detailed Action Plan and identify where they can add value." -- Do they mean this consultation process or a later piece of work? Can you add detail to how the ongoing process may be achieved?

The Committee encourages that the final strategy/action plan would explicitly state how these priorities will be quantified and tested in due course and whether they expect some level of flexibility to accommodate changes in needs during the next 10 years. Further clarification on some terms, such as "cultural identity" would also be beneficial to understand its interpretation in this context (the term having different interpretations for instance in historical or anthropological contexts).

They would also ask if the ongoing COVID situation is expected to have any short- and long-term implications to achieving these aims set out in the strategy?



Wokingham Town Council

Memorandum

To: Arts and Culture Committee
Date: 6th July 2020
Re: Public responses to request for event ideas
From: Arts and Culture Officer

Good Afternoon Councillors,

As requested at the previous meeting, the Marketing and Communications Coordinator requested ideas from the public for what events and activities they would like to see in the future.

You can see the full post and responses here (you may need a Facebook account to see the comments).
<https://www.facebook.com/lovewokingham/posts/2203761873103874>

I have taken some ideas from the comments, ignoring any that are not relevant for the 2021/22 financial year or are extensions or growth requests for existing events.

Considering the strategic aims of the Council and existing knowledge these would be the top two concepts.

International Day: It seems to have been presented as a market style event. Initial thoughts would be that there would need to be a lot of work to interact with and build relationships with existing local cultural groups to look at interest before any costing. It might not be possible to cost it in time for Budget setting but may still be worth conversations.

Classic Car Rally: I think this is being presented as a show. Classic cars have been done before on a smaller scale as part of another event such as Heritage and the Jubilee. This might work best as part of another event especially if there is thought to closing roads but certainly have contacts to investigate further. I will note that closing a road is estimated at between 2K to 3K.

There was mention on the post about a Christmas Market. The Town Clerk noted that this has been investigated before and came out at least as expensive as the Street Concert, if not significantly more, and required to use the Market Place (nowhere else) on Saturdays with no provision for our regular traders.