

Quite a lot to report since we last met.

1 Lottery update

An interim report on the first 6 months of our Lottery PBSA programme was submitted and accepted by Lottery. It focused on the progress on the Access and Inclusion (A&I) programme and under the Strives activity, especially Andy Westcott's WAP (Watchet Action Project) with skateboards as reported in last month's newsletter.



'Bored' not 'board' project exhibition E. Quay.

Attendees at the exhibition and at a Lottery workshop confirmed they could not tell the difference between those produced by the professional street artist and the young people participating.



..... Professional



Young person

John was asked to present the work of WCCT to the other 8 PBSA Lottery grant awardees at an on-line workshop organised by Locality. We shared lessons learned during COVID which could be applied to the current cost of living crisis. This covered our work on the COVID help line, liaison between Foodbank free food and co-op purchased and delivered food during lockdowns, and Peter and Donna's community transport programme. Whilst focussing on food, fuel and transport poverty, we also stressed that we should not forget young people especially NEET (not in education, employment, or training) and those with hidden disabilities.

2 SCC Community Regeneration Fund

John has presented a series of reports on the activities undertaken on this programme which has been accepted by SCC as completing the core deliverables promised under the funding. This included gaining membership and purchase of lanyards and materials for the Sunflower hidden disability scheme aiming to broaden community access and inclusion to our programmes. A further key part of the programme was the delivery of an initial de-carbonisation plan for WCCT which John and Andy finalised, submitted and was accepted by SCC. This identifies possible activities that can help move us towards meeting the UK Government's decarbonisation targets of 75% C reduction by 2025 and achieving zero C by 2050. We intend to review this initial plan in more detail at future member meetings, which includes Martin exploring further the potential for solar power & battery storage at number 7 and whether alternative heating is possible, all in the context of our electricity prices increasing from 24 p to 86 p per kWh.

3 Visit of High Sheriff

John was asked by Sue Thompson our PCSO to host a visit to Watchet by the High Sheriff of Somerset, Jennifer Duke. Historically the role was focussed on law enforcement but now has a ceremonial function supporting local communities and charities, especially where they support young people in preventing anti-social behaviour. Jennifer's additional interests are in food poverty and links to church activities. From Sue learned of work with the West Somerset Railway to encourage those who have been involved locally in antisocial behaviour and vandalism into the WCCT WAP project. Jennifer is keen to help Sue apply for discretionary funding which might complement the programme.

During the visit we saw

E. Quay where WAP meet.

Phoenix centre and cooks in kitchen for Tuesday club.

HCB at number 7 where she met volunteers

Quantock Foodbank

Watchet Esplanade including Library, Police Office and Coastguards

Jennifer as a profoundly deaf person who relies on lip reading was impressed with the WCCT member Summertime's course teaching British Sign Language (BSL) at Watchet Library, now run as a community partnership library and where community events can be held at times when library is closed. The BSL course was originally run in the first PBSA learns phase and relates to the A&I initiative.



Mandy Church's BSL at Watchet Library in Summertime



Visit to HCB with Judy Champion and Linda Stroud



Quantock Foodbank with Marlene Mason



Police Office with Sue Thompson

Carly, Kate and John have been exploring partnership working with Catherine Dance of Somerset Skills and Learning (SSL) to deliver courses of relevance to people in Watchet under our Lottery 'Learns' programmes. SSL are undertaking surveys to identify what courses people actually want so that we can tailor these accordingly. With SSL delivering courses and providing tutors, WCCT are providing use of number 7 free of charge in an initial pilot. Running weekly for 10 weeks during the winter months when HCB is closed, both daytime and evening courses in teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages have been planned at introductory and higher levels. In the spring we will review how this can be continued and developed.

In addition Kate and John have been investigating food preparation workshops together with Quantock Foodbank.

Carly has been researching the provision of digital skills courses, particularly for older people, but SS&L offers something for everyone. Below are the courses SS&L already offers in Somerset

To make sure there is enough interest to secure a tutor, space and resources, the following information is required:

1. What subjects are of interest
2. What days and times (morning or afternoon) best suit most.
3. Is a loan device required (phone, tablet and/or laptop) during course times

If you see anything you are interested in, or have something specific in mind, please email carly@watchetconnects.com. Please also refer us to anyone you think might be interested.

Subject	Course Title
Digital Skills	Using Word and Excel with Office 365 to enhance Digital Skills
Digital Skills - Business	FaceBook Pages for Beginners
Digital Skills - Business & Creative	Create a Website
Digital Skills - Business & Creative	Create a Blog
Digital Skills - Business & Creative	Movie Making
Digital Skills - Business & Creative	Logo & Flyer Creator
Digital Skills - Creative	Stop Motion Animation (can be themed/Family Learning)
Digital Skills - Creative	Digital Poster Making For Families (can be themed)
Digital Skills - Creative	Flipaclip - Create your own Digital Flipbook Animation (can be themed/ Family Learning)
Digital Skills - Creative	Star in your own Cartoon (can be themed/Family Learning)
Digital Skills - Creative	Movie Trailers (can be themed/Family Learning)
Digital Skills - Creative	Music Making (can be themed/Family Learning)

Digital Skills - Device	Cloud Storage
Digital Skills - Device	Digital Maps
Digital Skills - Device	Google Docs Made Easy
Digital Skills - Digital Security	Digital Security for Adults
Digital Skills - Digital Security	Digital Security for Parents
Digital Skills - Digital Security	Sharing Information Safely Online
Digital Skills - Health & Wellbeing	Use your Device for Health & Fitness
Digital Skills - Health & Wellbeing	Mindfulness & Digital Wellbeing
Digital Skills - Health & Wellbeing	Digital Wellbeing
Digital Skills - Personal Development	Get Started with Selling Online - make space, save Earth, earn money!
Digital Skills - Personal Development	Get Started with your Smart Phone or Tablet
Digital Skills - Personal Development	Get Started with Social Media
Digital Skills - Social Media	WhatsApp
Digital Skills - Social Media	Facebook
Digital Skills - Social Media	Facebook Messenger
Digital Skills - Social Media	Social Media Platforms
Digital Skills - Social Media	Snapchat
Digital Skills - Social Media & Career Enhancement	LinkedIn
Digital Skills - Career Enhancement	Digital Career Searching
Digital Skills	Zoom calling/meetings
Digital Skills	Cyber Security
Digital Skills	Data Protection & Cookies
Digital Skills	Emails
Digital Skills	Online sign up

5 Car Parking

Martin has made contact with Mike Rigby, portfolio holder at SCC responsible for parking, identifying that shortage of parking is a key issue which WCCT members wish to be addressed. He has received an initial reply confirming that currently there are spaces in Watchet as follows

29 Anchor Street
42 Harbour Road
59 Market Street
51 Swain Street
15 West Pier

Mike has asked his parking Officer to evaluate the situation for reporting back to WCCT.

In the meantime, John arranged a visit from this SW&T officer through the good offices of the SW&T events officer to experience the car parking problems actually in Watchet, especially related to events. During the visit Martin explained the challenges of controlling appropriate access to E. Quay by Marine Group and berth holders, and a visit to the Mill site illustrated the challenges for community group attempts with site manager to use the access road and site for parking during events. SW&T were encouraged to facilitate consultation and collaboration between the mill site owners, local community, businesses and Watchet Town Council to assess what might be achievable in both the short temporary and longer terms. This suggestion was passed on to WTC at the October E&P committee meeting. The amended plans for the Mill out for current comment include a public parking area for 53 spaces where we recommended that the potential for increase should be explored. Traffic management should also be considered in relation to the B3191 re-rerouting requirements.

6 Website update

Sara and Andy have carried out a comprehensive review of the website which has been built by the web building contractor we have engaged and have produced a report which we hope to turn into a set of specific instructions to the contractor with a view to the site going live shortly.

7 Hidden Disabilities

We have a wonderful group of volunteers who are attending a trial workshop WCCT is delivering on behalf of the Sunflower Scheme. Once we have received feedback and made any adjustments, we would like to invite the membership to attend. If this is something you or any of your members would like to take part in, please email carly@watchetconnects.com to register your interest and provide days and times that best suit you. We can then let you know directly when workshops are happening and send further details.

8 Local Community Network

Martin recently engaged on behalf of WCCT with the consultation being undertaken by the new unitary authority with respect to its planned implementation of Local Community Networks.

Somerset Council will cover a large geographical area. Council Leaders are mindful that there is need for a model for communities where local voices are heard, partners are brought together, and decisions are taken with the benefit of local knowledge and experience. That's why all the Somerset councils support the development of Local Community Networks (LCNs).

LCNs will be established in every part of Somerset. They will be Committees of the unitary Council, supported by dedicated officers and managers, with formal decision-making powers and influence. They will enable the Council, partners and communities to work together to address local issues and priorities, support health and wellbeing activities, and improve outcomes for residents. LCNs must be affordable and have the potential to develop their role alongside the new Somerset Council in the years to come.