

Proposal: To distribute the Council's Community Engagement portfolio to ensure maximum effectiveness and value within the community.

Points to consider:

- i. The evolution of the role:
The role of the Community Engagement Officer was a new role to the Council this year. Having had an opportunity to meet with all the groups who have had previous representation from the Parish Council, we might wish to assess the effectiveness of our current distribution going forward. In particular to consider whether better targeted deployment of our own resources can be a more effective way of providing support where it is most needed.

- ii. The current resources of groups within the portfolio remit
Drinkstone War Memorial Institute
This is a vibrant and active committee, with 10 trustees, including the Chair, Deputy Chair and nominated Parish Council member. It maintains a full calendar of large and successful events for the community, in addition to its role in managing external bookings for the Village Hall. It holds regular monthly meetings at which upcoming events are discussed, as well as matters pertaining to the maintenance and running of the Village Hall. There are sufficient members present having a right to vote to allow full and democratic consideration of matters raised during meetings. The historical presence on this committee of a parish councillor at a time when this number was considerably reduced now appears to be superseded. The argument might now be put forward to look at redefining the position of councillor membership on this committee from Trustee to supportive participant by attending meetings or receiving minutes and providing input when requested.

Drinkstone Educational Charity

This is a smaller committee, with 7 Trustees and meets on a quarterly basis. It works hard to ensure equitable and transparent distribution of monies from its fund to best support the young people of Drinkstone. It puts aside monies from the charity to pay for the hire of the village hall for the youth club, however there are no youth club sessions currently running. It has also put forward a 50% contribution towards the initial and reprint of the Drinkstone Footpaths leaflet which is matched by the Parish Council contribution. My impression is that the Charity is looking for more visibility within the community so that more younger people and their families are aware of the support that they can offer. As such, it would seem a good fit with the PC Community Engagement portfolio and may be a key consideration when reviewing our own resources.

The Church Committee

This also appears to be a well-supported committee involved in matters related to the parish church's involvement within the community. I have had introductions to many of its members, but there has been no particular request,

thus far, to attend any of its meetings. The presence of a councillor at these meetings would thus appear to be on an *ad hoc* basis, at meetings requiring such representation. Parish councillor representation may not, therefore, necessitate a designated councillor holding a specific portfolio and, instead, becomes a shared role, with councillor attendance based on the area of support requested by the Church Committee.

iii. Adapting to change: Creating a more effective and adaptive portfolio

I thought we could approach focussing resources on Children and Young People this way, as the Children's Charity seems the least dynamic between the Church and Village Hall committees, yet it is an aspect of our village that could be more pro-active and may even become a stimulus for even more effective community engagement and integration.

Thank you for your help and support in this – sorry to be a troublesome newbie!!!

Sonia 😊