



Riseley Children's Centre & Community Hub Chairman's Report

September 2023 – August 2024

The Village Show gave the RCCCH an opportunity to connect with the community, promote our agenda and fund raise. We were pleased that the Show Committee decided to add us to their list of benefactors.

We used the opportunity to promote our activities and connect with the community—particularly young people. All under 16s again received free burgers and drinks and we had an area for young people to chill out, play games etc. We also used the opportunity to promote our groups and activities and engage with the village. Through this, we managed to further the profile of the Hub and the RCCCH as an approachable, interactive and valuable community asset.

Over the last three months the trustees have been busy exploring new opportunities and ways to support the village through health and well-being activities.

Our collaboration with the Tibbs dementia trust continues and sessions have become a popular, regular group assisting and supporting people with memory issues and their carers. It is hoped that the popularity of the group will enable us to reduce or cease their subsidy and they will be able to become self sufficient from November. It is, however, important that the group continues so there will be no pressure from the trustees to do so unless it's achievable.

The summer holiday club we ran in conjunction with The Nest was a success and pretty much all the four-day places were filled. The decision to subsidise the event – reducing the per day/per child fee from £40 to £10, clearly helped make it affordable for more village families. We will be looking to host similar children's events in the future.

Recently we have begun to work with Evolve to provide adult education courses and we will be hosting a 12-week Digital Skills course which teaches computer competence and online confidence. With the more services like banking, utilities, pensions and other services going online and increasing numbers of scams, the course aims increase confidence and security. If successful, additional adult courses are planned.

We are also still looking at providing the space for well-being sessions on anxiety (particularly that in teenagers), relaxation and mental health. Our plan is to run these sessions for free initially and then review results and feedback.

We have continued with monthly 'Saturdays at the Hub' programme of events. We ran a safeguarding course, Hair at the Hub hairdressing sessions and have a Scalextric



event booked for October. We have also initiated a Saturday morning table-tennis club. This is in its early stages, but we are hoping to have this soon run as a new village club helping to improve/enhance cognitive health and physical activity.

Enabling better health and fitness also remains one of our key targets with Slimming World, Martial Arts classes and Pilates. The Over 65's gym is proving very popular with an increasing membership for the 3x weekly sessions. The Hub also continues to host the free 'One Big Table' community Sunday lunch.

The recent new school term has seen the re-start of Bus Stop Café and Friday Night Hang Out youth club. Together these two clubs have attendance of an average of 30 -35 young people per week and greatly improved community interaction with young people.

A major project over the coming months will be further improvements and updating the décor of the Hub's main area and the storeroom. Over the last year and half, we've got a better idea of what needs to be improved or added to accommodate existing groups and enable further expansion. On this, special thanks need to be given to Councillor Jowett who has completed the small kitchen helping to vastly improve the usability of the venue.

Unfortunately, operational costs have continued to increase – particularly the cost of utilities – and while we are confident we have sufficient funds, we are bracing ourselves for higher than anticipated costs over the winter months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their support over the last 12 months and your commitment to deliver on our objectives of supporting and improving the well-being of all Riseley residents.

Martyn Wady
Chairman of Trustees

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