

Selsey

A Selsey Vision Steering Group was set up to consider actions required to develop a Vision for Selsey. Alongside this the five recommendations as agreed at Cabinet for delivery by CDC within Selsey were incorporated into the Vision action plan. These are:

1. Develop trails and improve signage
2. Provide New Temporary Commercial Units or Concession Opportunities
3. Employ a Seafood Sales & Marketing Champion
4. Develop and Host Crab and Lobster Events
5. Improve the Public Realm at East Beach, including Wayfinding between East Beach Green and Selsey High Street.

The Sea's The Day project to highlight the Selsey Fishermen was also one of the Vision projects. This project attracted £26,000 in external funding.

Extensive consultation was undertaken with the community to identify priority issues for a Vision. 712 responses were received and have been considered for potential action. Selsey Town Council has subsumed the majority of actions from the Vision within the Selsey Business Plan.

Partners within Selsey were contacted to request feedback on issues in Selsey, with the summary of responses as below:

1. What should the priorities be to assist with Recovery following Covid 19?

Selsey based community support for issues such as benefits/housing and economic development/small business support. Regular surgery type sessions on a weekly/fortnightly basis so that residents and businesses can access support.

The renewed emphasis on walking and cycling and the funding available. From a Council perspective I would hope for speedy moves to develop the cycling strategy for the rural communities. For us as a project team it is about working hard to put all the route, permission and ecological issues in place as soon as we can so a ready made 9 mile route can be built.

Continued regular updates on what initiatives Selsey businesses can access to help them to increase their bottom line, so that STC can signpost businesses to these via our own comms.

Whilst there are numerous funding opportunities for a variety of Covid projects to include mental health, poverty, etc there has been little funding for loss of income for small charities.

I would suggest that CDC funding be broadened to accommodate well-ness projects going forward rather than just support for business. So for one year change the priorities, to allow charities which have a huge social function to get back on their feet

Develop a strategy with the regional Town Councils of how you/ they will go forward with the Vision.

Undertake an analysis of the Selsey Town Council Business plan 2019 -2024, to see what could be salvaged and acted upon, especially in relation to any monies that may not be spent, and could be in the next year- such as Public Art

Positive effects have been seen in the natural environment. Not just due to cuts in emission but also in how people have become more aware of the green spaces round them, and value them more. This has implications for planning.

The plus points of Covid-19 from an environmental perspective include:

- Opportunities to rebuild the economy to include green initiatives.
- Travelling to work – changes in transport
- Cutting down the amount of road travel onto the peninsula
- Opportunities to respond to people's increased awareness and appreciation of the green spaces round them. This can include rewilding and changing grass/plant cutting regimes.
- Working from home more, or in satellite offices.
- To facilitate home working better connections are needed.

The downside has been that MWHG has no volunteers available at the moment, but the project work that doesn't rely on voluntary input has been progressing as usual.

- FLOW work is ongoing either through home working or visiting locations alone.
- MWHG finance is driven by grants not revenue, so has not been affected.
- The Selsey photographic archive project continues through home working.

2. What actions will you/your organisation be undertaking regarding Recovery following Covid 19?

Examining opportunities to support our community through stronger partnerships with our local voluntary sector and local councils at all levels, promoting Selsey to the wider district and nationally, assessing the services we offer to ensure they meet local needs.

Our organisation will have to respond to significant change over the coming months and our discussions have proposed:

- In the short and long term there should be no increase in fees for our regular art, singing, and choral activities.

- to comply with social distancing we will need to book larger spaces for art activities and for one day art workshops.
- In the short term to comply with social distancing no class size will be greater than 15 resulting in additional classes, thus all our professional workshop leaders and creative practitioners will be paid for extra hours worked.
- In terms of action research our proposed September adult singing workshop, our proposed October young people's dance workshop, our November Songs and Arias Sunday tea performance will be postponed until 2021. We will postpone our 2 Christmas Concerts and hopefully undertake them as Spring activity.
- To facilitate planned change we will consult with CFT, Applause Touring and our Brighton contacts to facilitate live streaming of productions and performances, and consider alternative suggestions they may have
- Through valuable consultation with Chichester District, West Sussex Town Council and Selsey Town Council we will research new local funding models that can support our development.
- To accommodate the particularities of our different types of projects, we will assign new roles for our trustees, that will support the interface with our 20 creative leaders.
- To facilitate cohesive management interaction, we will facilitate through Zoom fortnightly Trustee minuted meetings.
- We will also apply to funders for loss of income monies

Many of our volunteers are 70 years plus and would need to be self-isolating. This would mean that those activities organised by the Selsey Dementia Action Alliance, Selsey Carers and the Befriending groups (movies for memories, shop talk, befriending visits) would be suspended. Leading to our most vulnerable people potentially becoming socially isolated. Telephone links were set up so that the daily welfare calls could take place to all on our contact list. Staff and volunteers rose to the challenge and provided a friendly contact during these testing times.

3. What issues re actions/resources/finances is your organisation likely to face?

Loss of hall hire income for the foreseeable future, limited staffing in terms of hours and expertise.

Arts Dream Selsey has lost income from the cancellation of events.

We will also lose money going forward due to having to book larger spaces for art activities, not being able to undertake anything with an audience, or any singing choral activities.

Many local charities such as Arts Dream and Sports Dream have lost money anticipated by holding events this summer. Sports Dream and others are still applying for external funding, but it remains to be seen whether external sources will have funds available once Covid-19 has passed.

Youth work continues in a peninsula wide initiative that includes EWB. There are 14 partners involved who would like to employ a joint youth worker covering all young people in most parishes on the peninsula. Funding will be sought from the National Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund.

The main Covid-19 response locally has been by the Selsey Community Forum using a 'buddy' system. They have engaged with 1700 people per week by making deliveries and phone calls to support the lonely and vulnerable. It has been a really co-operative venture between businesses and community groups.

It is thought charities will bounce back, but next year a downside is likely to manifest itself should a recession take place. A number of new services will therefore be needed to help address arising issues. Current concerns are as follows:

- New services working on the front line to deliver advice about debt, mental health, physical health and work are needed. An issue specifically with the mental health of single adult males living on their own has been identified in Selsey.
- There is a will to preserve the buddy system after the Covid-19 outbreak has passed. A regular partnership is desirable to be a regular grass roots driver for work in the town.
- Family providers are running out of money. They are currently being helped, but ongoing help is now becoming a need. (Food parcels are being provided anonymously for the time being to those who do not want to seek help, but who need it). At the moment grant money can be obtained from the emergency funds currently available. Something for the future needs to be considered because the effects of the current crisis are likely to become more profound as time passes.
- How high street shops will respond in the longer term is a concern.

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Projects arising from the Selsey Vision have, on the whole, been subsumed into the STC Business Plan 2020-2024. The projects that arose during the Selsey Vision consultation in which CDC are involved are the following:

East Beach Green and Wayfinding:

- Improvements to East Beach Green
- Partnership work to secure improvements to facilities at East Beach Green
- Delivery of wayfinding project to improve links between the retail areas, the seafront and the holiday camp

Selsey fishery:

- Partnership work to raise the profile of Selsey's fishing industry and it's produce.

- Partnership work to improve shore-based facilities for Selsey's fishing & diving industry.

Arts & Heritage:

- Partnership work to examine opportunities for establishing a Heritage Centre
- Delivery of a flexible community space for performance, music & the arts.

These are all still our priority projects as all have a focus on our ultimate goal of regenerating the local economy through making Selsey a Chichester District destination to visit whilst protecting our fragile fishing industry. We need to be mindful that all these projects link into and feed into each other-East Beach Green improvements give a focus to this area for walkers, families, water sports enthusiasts, wayfinding and Selsey's fishing heritage/industry. To be a true success this needs to be a joined-up process including all other elements being supported by CDC and STC Officers.

4. What level of support do you consider is needed from partners moving forward?

Active and visible participation in improving facilities and services within the town with particular emphasis on the three Vision issues identified above. It would be great to undertake smaller, linking projects offering the chance to promote the journey between the idea and the reality. With no events staffing or funding now available at STC, an event to promote the fisheries/seafood held at East Beach would be an example of how to link the work done on the Haven/Vision with the promotion of the Fisheries and improvements to East Beach Green and be a fabulous opportunity for engagement.

The type of subsidy that started for electric cars could be mirrored for electric cycles and the conversion kits for existing bikes. This could be linked to the existing Cycle to Work Scheme that offers a tax incentive for cycle purchase.

On the ground an integrated approach to the use of cycle : bus : walking could be developed. Some cycle and bus interchange points on the Greenway route where an essential element is cycle storage. Concern for the security of cycles when left and we must again look into both this and storage.

Integrated "feeder routes" entering the City with the Greenway being one of these.

5. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

Huge thanks and appreciation for the ongoing commitment of CDC officers in their support to STC staff and Selsey generally, particularly to those who have been so effective and efficient in ensuring we have received early funding support in terms of advice and grants in the light of Covid-19.