

Community Engagement Working Party Meeting

Report of the Community Engagement Working Party meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 29th January 2024.

Present: Cllrs K Pearce and A Clifford and S Bailey (St Andrews Church)

Parish Council Manager: Miss J Leech

Assistant Parish Council Manager: Miss E Frost

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Burditt, C Ibbotson, W Read and C Holmes (Girl Guides).

2. To receive disclosures of interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Christmas in Countesthorpe 2023 debrief

The Christmas in Countesthorpe 2023 event was discussed, with it being deemed an overall success, and thanks expressed to everyone involved.

It was noted that, should the event be replicated in future years, certain elements would need to be reconsidered:

- Method for collection of food donations – Whilst the actual amount of donations received was successful, and the groups involved had made great efforts, the majority of the donated items had been delivered directly to St Andrews Church.
- Volunteers and groups – The involvement of the groups, including the Girl Guides, Cricket Club and U3A Ukulele was instrumental in the event's success, as well as the contribution from Active Arts and those who volunteered their time.
- Additional/alternative Christmas tree lights
- Format of entertainment
- Day/time of the event – Feedback had been received which suggested that the event could have been held at an earlier time as the finishing time was a little too late for some of the younger children.
- Alternative methods of publicity

4. Festive Fronts competition review

The Festive Fronts competition was also discussed and deemed a success with positive feedback being received from the judges involved.

It was felt that the competition should be repeated in order to see if it gains traction and grows, however, it was noted that an alternative scoring method may need to be considered if more entries were received.

Other considerations would be to issue a personal invite to local Businesses and to consider dividing the categories further into lit/non-lit decorations.