

Tarvin Community Centre Committee of Management Report of the Chairman for the year ended 31 March 2020

1. Introduction

2019/2020 was a very successful year for the Centre artistically, socially, financially and administratively. This success can be put down to three things. First the hard work and commitment of the Committee, some of whom had assumed new roles following the retirement of our long-serving previous Chairman. Alan Wilkinson's outstanding contribution was marked at last year's AGM by the renaming of the Wilkinson Lounge. Secondly, increased demand from a diverse group of users for the Centre's excellent facilities, and finally the enthusiastic support of the community for Centre events. These last two points can be illustrated by noting that when Covid-19 forced the closure of the Centre on 23 March 2020 over 30 bookings, which would have generated over £3000 in income, had to be cancelled and on 13 March over 160 children attended the last live show of the year – "Ugg, Ogg and the World's First Dog". **I thank you all.**

2. Improvements

The Committee has continued to invest in the Centre and so has the landlord, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC). The Committee bought new chairs for the Edna Rose Room and sold surplus chairs to a community centre in Liverpool. The website has been upgraded and an electronic payment card system purchased. The CCTV system has also been enhanced. In December the carpet in the foyer area was replaced with a much higher quality carpet. The Committee also agreed to commission improvements to the stage including new curtains, new lighting and new flooring. This work will be completed in 2020/21. Finally, some planting of trees and shrubs, a condition of the planning permission for the storage shed, was implemented.

CWaC has invested in a new gas central heating system which went operational in March 2020 but will not be fully commissioned until 2020/21. The new system will be much more efficient than the old oil-fired system, which the Committee welcomes as it is responsible for 51% of the cost of the gas consumed.

3. Maintenance

Most maintenance is the responsibility of CWaC but the Committee is the main conduit for raising issues that need resolution. This can be a very time-consuming and frustrating process because CWaC no longer has the capacity to respond quickly. However, the work of the Committee's Building Officer

and our new caretaker in pressing CWaC for action has been successful. The main causes of concern during the year have been grounds maintenance, car park flooding, blocked drains and roof leaks.

The Committee has paid for the floor of the Hall to be sanded and revarnished, and it has never looked better. The Committee also agreed to have the floor of the Edna Rose room professionally cleaned and that work was completed in 2020/21.

4. Caretaker

As mentioned above we have a new permanent caretaker, Chris Leavy, who works in the Centre every weekday morning. Chris's appointment has transformed the Centre. Not only has he improved the cleanliness of the Centre, both indoors and in the grounds, he has also decorated, undertaken small improvement jobs and established excellent working arrangements with the many CWaC contractors who attend the Centre from time to time. **The Committee is very grateful for his hard work and commitment.**

5. Conclusion

2019/20 was the most successful year in the life of the Centre. The number of users increased thanks to the efforts of the Bookings Secretary who goes "the extra mile" to sell the Centre to potential hirers. Some bookings now require the Committee to provide traffic management because they are so well attended! Our events have been very well supported thanks to the enthusiasm of our new Arts Officer who settled very quickly into the role. Our new Secretary ensured that the Village Quiz had more teams enter and was a huge success. The stewardship of the Treasurer has ensured that the Centre is very strong financially, and our accounts were once again signed off by the independent examiner without amendment. Our media presence is strong and we are reaching a greater number of potential users/attendees. We are grateful for the continued support of Tarvin Parish Council and for a grant from the Co-op's Community Fund.

Finally, although Covid-19 did impact on the Centre at the end of the year there is absolutely no doubt that when restrictions are lifted the Centre will once again become the focus of community life. Tarvin should be very proud to have a Community Centre with such wonderful facilities but that is only achieved by the commitment of a dedicated group of volunteers that I am proud to lead.

Ted Lush, Chairman Tarvin Community Centre Committee of Management

August 2020