

AGENDA ITEM 13

City Council Community Affairs Meeting 1 June 2020

Divisional Manager Communities and Wellbeing Report

Much has happened since the last meeting and we are now working in a very different way. Like all Councils CDC has shut its offices to the public and only a skeleton workforce are working from East Pallant House. Sue has had to shield but has been doing a sterling job supporting the rest of the team from home.

I am one of the lucky few staff who are coming into the office daily. Very soon after lock down was announced we set up a small response team to support the work of the County Council Community Hub. We have received over 100 referrals for essential food supplies, medication pick ups and welfare checks and chats. Jon and Carol have been integral to the delivery aspect of this. Thanks to the amazing volunteer response in the district we have been able to put every referral in touch with support going forward.

We have seen a small rise in ASB mainly related to neighbours or visitors to the area not abiding by social distancing etc. Business as usual has also been maintained and all my services are running just being delivered in a different way.

We are now looking forward to the recovery phase as lockdown restrictions ease and we will be supporting our Economic Development team in the safe re-opening of the High Street.

The Council as a whole will be reviewing its ways of working and the offer will probably be very different going forward with more emphasis on digital and telephone engagement and more staff working from home in the long term.

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City Council report for May 2020

Well it has been a very interesting few months for me in the City during lock down. My role has been quite a bit different and significantly busier.

I have been also deployed with Housing to add to my duties and have been helping the rough sleeper outreach workers. We have been helping the rough sleepers to self-isolate in bed and breakfasts and hotels and deal with all the complexities that come with that, but on the whole it has been quite successful, but a lot of hard work.

Although the city has been quieter in populous, I have found that incidents of verbal abuse, arguments and verbal confrontation has increase both with myself and food retailers and bank staff. This is where individuals are not happy with the shops queuing system or their social distancing protocols that are in place and this has ended being quite hard on staff that normally are not used to these situations. I have given them all my contact details and have helped deal with them if I managed to get there on time as I am always on foot and also been there to offer help and advice or just being someone to talk to after an incident. A uniformed presence certainly helps a lot especially with a body worn camera. I seemed to have become a queue monitor as well to add to my many other roles, by ensuring that people are maintaining safe distances by queuing in the right direction instead of blocking off the walk way.

During the stricter lock down period with the support of the police I have been patrolling all the parks in the city offering advice about the rules of lock down. I continue to maintain my patrols to ensure that social distancing is maintained and that there are no large gatherings of people from different households.

Cycling in the city has got worse as you can imagine as now everyone is cycling. I still tell people to get off their bikes especially due to long queues and there still tends to be a lot of people in these areas. Again this is another area that leads to the majority of verbal abuse, arguments and confrontation directed at myself, although in majority of cases they still get off their bikes, so in some way there is still a positive result.

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City Council Report May 2020

Chichester West

It's a difficult and challenging time at the moment, but here is a short roundup of incidents dealt with in the past few months:

- One particular address that has been causing a lot of concerns involving: anti-social behaviour, child welfare, animal welfare, overcrowding and noise issues. Liaising with Police, Housing Association, Social Services.
- Referrals made to Community Hub of vulnerable residents in need of help during lockdown.
- Reassurance calls to elderly and vulnerable residents.
- Neighbour dispute – advice given and referred onto Police.
- Dog fouling and animal welfare – advice given and referred onto Dog Wardens.
- Reports of suspected drug activity and doorstep theft. Advice given and asked them to report it to Police as well.
- Theft and attempted entry of side gate to two properties. Advice given and asked them to report incidents to Police.

Thank you for your continued support, keep safe and well.

Sue Long

Community Warden for Chichester West

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Community Wardens City Council report for Chi East and Chi South

May 2020

Hi all, not much to report I'm afraid. Strange times, it has been quite surreal to say the least. Still the show must go on....

Warden Carol and I have been teaming up through the crisis so this is a joint report. We are delivering emergency food supplies and medication. These supplies have been delivered around the district, to the most vulnerable and shielded people that had yet to receive a food parcel.

We delivered food supplies to a lady that was a keen knitter. Pam Bushby had acquired some wool and we delivered it with her food order.

Two individuals have required extra assistance: One gentleman wasn't on the radar as he didn't have a computer, or indeed a phone, to register himself under the shield. Working as part of a team we were able to get him on the list. In the mean time we were able to supply him with some food whilst waiting for a food parcel to arrive. He was also put in touch with the local volunteers that were very quick to act and provide some much needed support.

Another gentleman we delivered to was very unwell. The first time we delivered to him he was very weak, but just about mobile enough to collect his supplies from us. A week later, the second time we delivered, he appeared to have crawled to the front door and was extremely weak. We asked if he was ok but he didn't want to engage with us, and shut the door. He had no idea we were still waiting outside, listening, he was groaning and there was no sound any movement. We then asked him again if he was ok. Again he said he was. He continued to groan so we asked if he needed an Ambulance. He was quite firm that he didn't. We weren't at all happy about this poor gent. We reported to Pam Bushby that he has refused help. Pam consulted with other partners and called an Ambulance for the gentleman he has also been flagged up as a major concern.

A drug dealer in the Charles Avenue area, has been using abandoned cars in which to store his drug supply, he has been raised with the Police. Vehicle details, first name and a description have been passed on.

Residents of John Rennie Road have noticed a rise in possible drug related activity which is being reported as it happens. Stirling Road Bridge area, have also reported a rise in suspected drug related activities.

Jon Logan, Community Warden for Chichester East 07768 207868.

Carol McClung, Community Warden for Chichester South 07776 435506

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Friends of Chartres Report for Community Affairs Meeting June 1, 2020 Updated from Monday March 30, 2020

COVID 19

We have been obliged to postpone all our events for the foreseeable future, but hope that we will be up and running again in the autumn.

Events January to March

Our Annual Dinner was held at Chichester College on February 13, and a Cine Club showing of the film 'Haute Cuisine' took place on February 23.

Exchange

We were due to travel to Chartres for our annual exchange on April 30. Twenty-four members of the Association signed up to stay with host families. Five members of the Lions Club planned to travel with us. Due to the lockdown and travel restrictions, we have postponed the trip to October. We are still not sure that we will be able to travel then, however, cancellation would cause a heavy financial cost for the Association as we have already paid for the ferry crossing.

Schools

A creative writing workshop for teachers participating in our Schools Writing Challenge was facilitated by local author, Greg Mosse on January 29. We were invited into three primary schools to deliver assemblies and to work with classes planning to enter the Challenge. Sadly, the closure of schools during the lockdown has meant that the Writing Challenge is now on hold.

On March 5, two committee members visited the Whyke Road Brownie Pack to help them work towards their Languages badge. We are looking into setting up a link with a Brownie pack in Chartres at some point in the future.

Annual General Meeting

There was a record attendance at our AGM, thanks to a fun evening of fish and chips and a quiz which followed the business part of the evening. It was agreed that Julia Sander should serve as Chairman for a fourth year as new committee members needed a little more time to find their feet before being considered for the Chairmanship. Julia pointed out that the Association had reached an important time and that it was necessary to reach out to engage a wider range of people.

A strategy group has been formed to plan how best to move forward over the next five years. Margaret Brown (Secretary) and John Wilton (Treasurer) also agreed to serve one more year, on the understanding that other members would shadow them with a view to taking over their roles next year. We are exchanging ideas by email at the moment

The committee elected at the AGM is as follows.

Officers

Chairman: Julia Sander

Vice-Chairman: Anne Scicluna

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Secretary: Margaret Brown

Treasurer: John Wilton

Committee members

Paul Everett (Data Manager)

Michael Bevis

Anne-Louise Briggs

Co-opted members

Ellen Haigh

Annie Barnes

Council Representatives

Anne Scicluna

Ray Brown

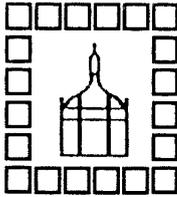
Rosie Speer

David Nason

Kiran Katakaneni

Polly Gaskin

JULIA SANDER (CHAIRMAN)



FRIENDS OF RAVENNA

CHICHESTER

Monday June 1st.

Programme of Events 2019-2020

We held our talk in February. It was given by Professor John Foot and was based on his book "The Archipelago: Writing the History of Italy since 1945". Excellently illustrated and delivered and at least provided us with a good memory from before the lockdown!

Lockdown (March 23rd) onwards:-

- All subsequent meetings, including the AGM in June, were cancelled.
- The visit from 2 Friends from Ravenna due to have taken place in May was cancelled.
- All talks regarding a bursary student have been suspended.
- The membership fees, which were due for renewal on April 1st, have been extended until September 1st.

The future?

We held an informal committee meeting on Friday May 22nd via Zoom and the following was decided:-

- As we had fortunately completed the planning for the year 2020- 2021 we are able to go ahead with the printing of the Programme of Events card.
- Our first meeting is due to take place September 24th and, whilst it looks unlikely at present that we will be able to go ahead, we will make a decision nearer the time. The same applies for the following meetings up until December. I know that for now only 36 can be admitted safely to the Assembly Room and so if this is still in place in September other arrangements will be have to be made.
- We are investigating the possibility of holding these talks via Zoom.
- We also intend holding an AGM before September via Zoom.
- Our proposed visit to Ravenna in October will be cancelled.
- The production of our newsletter Gemelli will continue to ensure our members have not forgotten us!

Hope your virtual meeting goes well.

Best wishes,

Liz Turner

Chairman

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Friends of Valletta



Report to Community Affairs Committee

May 2020

Past Events

Our programme has of course been severely disrupted for this year due to the coronavirus shutdown situation.

We were particularly disappointed that we had to cancel the annual dinner in March at the College, because all the arrangements had been made and members had paid.

We then had to cancel the joint Three cities event which was arranged in support of the Festival of Chichester.

Programme for 2020

Owing to the uncertainty of when the lockdown will fully end we have not made any firm dates for other events this year, but our speakers are aware that we may be able to arrange some meetings at short notice.

However, we have been very fortunate that David Vassallo has been able to locate some interesting historical articles from Malta which we have been circulating by email to members, and this has been well received.

In addition Anne Scicluna has prepared and circulated two editions of our Melita newsletter with various articles from members, which has enable us to keep in touch with members. Again this has been very much appreciated.

Graham Pound

Chairman, Friends of Valletta

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Report to: Chichester City Council Community Affairs Committee
for its Meeting on Monday 30th March 2020
(last report: at 3rd February 2020 meeting)

From: Paula Chatfield, Acting Chair of Chichester Tree Wardens (TW)

Date: 29th May 2020

The context has changed so much since my last report, that it is difficult to know where to start!

Tree Summit

On Friday 13th March, CCC took the timely decision to postpone the Tree Summit scheduled for 2-4th April, which included an invitation-only conference-style day for landowners/managers, and two days of information and tree-themed activities for the all ages under the banner of "Let's Plant a (urban) Forest". As Gareth (Bowen) commented at the time: "A tremendous amount of work has been put in to arranging this event and a huge amount of goodwill shown by speakers, delegates and their organisations." I am pleased that much of this work can be considered an investment that we should still be able to use at a later date (tentatively provisional new dates were to be Thursday to Saturday 15th-17th October in the Assembly Rooms). It was a pleasure to work with Richard Plowman, Sarah Sharp, the CCC staff team, Tree Wardens and other volunteers on this project and we are grateful for CCC's ongoing commitment to appreciating and strengthening the role of trees in the parish.

Tree Wardens and Covid-19 controls

On Monday 24th March, immediately following the Government announcing lockdown controls, the Tree Council issued instructions to all its volunteer Tree Wardens which confirmed that many of our normal activities were inconsistent with Stay at Home – Protect the NHS – Save Lives instructions, and we should not continue with them. Safety measures had already had effect with some Tree Wardens self-isolating/shielding and pro-active/new work almost ceased, including several public engagement projects for new tree planting in Chichester South (Cambrai Avenue, Exton Road, Hay Road, Langdale Avenue, Willowbed Drive). Almost everyone was distracted by other calls on their time resulting from the pandemic, and "business" remains far from normal.

Previous Activities

- 31st January: I visited Mill Farm Plants at Pulborough (<https://www.millfarmtrees.co.uk/>) with CDC officers Sarah Hughes and Jen Pollitt. CDC orders from this nursery.
- Summersdale TWs were undertaking practical work to care for the young trees on their patch (repairing ties, clearing debris, mulching).
- 7th February 2020: Freedom of Information Act request made to West Sussex County Council to establish quantitative and qualitative data on trees lost/planted on highway land each year since 2016/17, so this can be used to inform tree planting strategy (results tabulated overleaf).
- Thursday 27th February: West Sussex Tree Wardens training event was attended by 7 Chichester TWs. The theme was 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (<http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/home/en/>). Some of the issues are highlighted in my Appendix to this report.
- I was invited to visit Lancastrian School to discuss new tree planting as an opportunity for improving school grounds and the children's learning environment.
- 7 new trees were procured and planted by CDC in February at the green in East Broyle with the help of East Broyle TWs.

Current Activities

- We have been concerned about the sustained dry weather and the effect on young trees in particular. WSCC has given us a list of highway trees planted in the last 3 years and we are attempting to identify volunteers able to water them consistently (for the health of each tree). Thanks to the CCC Property team for taking on the watering of several trees in the city centre, including in Market Avenue near Christ Church.
The issue of establishing new trees needs careful thought, as our climate changes, as it is important that we grow, not just plant, our “urban forest”, which is increasingly important to provide shade and urban cooling. We may need to consider funding for tree gator watering bags (£23 each, excl. VAT).
- TW Brian Hopkins is working on updating the online version of the Chichester Tree Trail, at the request of Julie Bolton. He reports no missing trees, although intends to change two to their (same-species) neighbours, as well as make other minor changes. It will not be acted upon by WSCC until the lockdown is over.
- We continue to promote trees and tree care and to participate in conversations with members of the public through social media channels (including Facebook group Trees in Chichester www.facebook.com/groups/treesinchi/) and some of us are now able to be out and about more, looking at trees whilst social distancing.

Results of FOI Request to WSCC re. Highway Trees

WSCC records of changes in number of highway trees (as at 20 th February 2020)*					
Year**	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Number of trees felled	6	44	15	15	30
Number of trees planted (WSCC paid)		11	1	2	21
Number of trees planted (3 rd party paid)		6	4	2	1
Net tree loss (-) or gain (+)	-6 to 20-Feb-20	-27	-10	-11	-8

* It is suspected that tree-felling records may be incomplete and need to be investigated further.
WSCC provided data for trees felled by calendar year, for trees planted by financial year; **2016/17 planted figures are therefore shown under 2016, etc.

Looking forward - Funding Opportunities

- Applications for the Urban Tree Challenge Fund close on 30th June. It had been hoped to involve land owners and managers through the Tree Summit. It is unlikely that we will be able to put together a bid.
- The Tree Council Branching Out Fund – can support school or community groups who have well-planned projects of between £300 to £1,500 to plant trees or hedgerows. There’s a simple application process and successful applicants will receive funding of 100% of the cost (excluding VAT). Young people up to the age of 21 MUST actively be involved in the planting.
<https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/grants-for-trees/>
- Individual Donations to highways/parks tree-planting – WSCC’s deadline for new requests is the end of July. This is so they can have all sites verified and payment received in time to submit a nursery order by the end of August to secure delivery and planting in the winter season Nov-Feb 2020/21.

End



Useful links:

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/tree-care-campaign/>

watering campaign resources

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund>

Urban Tree Challenge Fund

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/grants-for-trees/>

The Tree Council Branching Out Fund

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/biodiversity>

donate a tree – CDC to be planted in one of its parks

APPENDIX - International Year of Plant Health 2020

Keep it Clean! Campaign

Many of our trees are under threat from the spread of pests and diseases. Human activity is a key factor. Biosecurity measures minimise the amount of soil, water and plant material we carry between sites. More information: www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-the-introduction-and-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases

Oak Processionary Moth

STAY ALERT - CONTROL THE PEST - SAVE TREES (and people and animals)

Oak Processionary Moth should not be in the Chichester District, so it is really important to be aware of what it looks like, and if you spot it, report it. Any sightings should be reported to the Forestry Commission via its [Tree Alert online portal](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/tree-alert). Alternatively, email opm@forestrycommission.gov.uk or call 0300 067 4442.

The movement of oak trees is highly controlled to prevent transfer of OPM to areas not already infected. For this pest, in our area, DEFRA's Animal and Plant Health Agency and professional colleagues will want to eradicate any nests that are found.

OPM is a tree pest because its caterpillars feed on the leaves of several species of oak trees. Large populations can strip whole oak trees bare, leaving them more vulnerable to other pests and diseases, and to other stresses, such as drought.

OPM also poses a risk to human and animal health. Caterpillars shed tiny hairs which can cause itching, skin rashes and eye irritations, as well as sore throats and breathing difficulties in people and animals. The risk of exposure to these hairs is highest in May and June.

European Mountain Ash Associated Ringspot Virus

This affects *Sorbus aucuparia* otherwise known as rowan, and some other *Sorbus* species (not ash). It's a foliar pathogen and most visible in late May, June and July. Because it affects the leaves, it can result in reduced photosynthetic ability leading to a lack of vigour. It's often seen on grafted trees and was first found in the 1960s but seems to be on the increase; perhaps because it is widely used in planting schemes and stressed trees are more vulnerable, as with any infection. Secondary pathogens like honey fungus can then cause the eventual demise of the tree.

Although unlike OPM it isn't a notifiable pest/disease, Forest Research and others would like to know about it so if you do see it, please report it via [Tree Alert](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/tree-alert). It can be mistaken for other foliar conditions so **check the signs and symptoms** here:

<https://www.observatree.org.uk/portal/european-mountain-ash-associated-ringspot-virus/>

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Further to the recent online process for the allocation of the April Discretionary Grants, below is the table for the allocations for the grants to each application.

The figures are an average of the amounts put forward by the Members of the Community Affairs Committee and the relevant Ex-Officio Members who responded to the questionnaire.

The Members included were made up of: 5 Members of the Committee and 3 Ex-Officio Members.

Amounts were not entered where Members declared an interest in the particular organisation – in these cases, the averages were taken from the remaining votes.

As you can see, a very large chunk of the available 2020/21 budget of £40,285 has been allocated in this first round.

Arun and Chichester CAB	£1,500.00
Chestnut Tree House	£1,833.33
Chichester Counselling	£2,000.00
Childrens Book Fest	£778.57
Chichester Information Shop for Young People	£2,142.86
Festival of Chichester 2020	£1,625.00
Chichester Youth Adventure Trust	£1,250.00
Home Start	£2,666.67
Lifecentre	£2,245.71
Pregnancy Options Centre	£2,214.29
SPRING	£1,750.00
Stonepillow	£3,283.33
The Four Streets Project	£5,000.00
UK Harvest	£2,860.41
Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester	£2,285.71
West Sussex Scout Council	£1,250.00

TOTAL

£34,685.88

AGENDA ITEM 16

A Discussion Paper on Chichester City Council Grants System

A few of the 'older' councillors have some memory of how the City Council's grants system used to be run, and I would like to compare this with the present system as it has become. There are advantages and disadvantages both ways.

There used to be a very small budget for local grants. This money was dispersed to various local Chichester charitable groups, mainly for pump priming, and to either set them on their feet or for a piece of equipment which would help their cause.

There were a few exceptions, some of which were ongoing, such as Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Festival Theatre, Chichester Festivities and the City Band (to my memory), but these grants were distributed by the Finance Committee, not Community Affairs. However, some time ago it was decided that CA would give all grants from their budget – which was greatly enhanced - and that all would be considered separately each year, as opposed to the former system where the 'specials' did not have to apply each year, but were almost automatic. This 'newer' way has worked well.

Some years ago it was felt that the total amount should be increased in order to help more groups. The purposes were still basically pump priming for new or reviving local charities and small capital projects. Specifically it was stated that it would not be for personal projects or one person wanting to raise funds, neither would it be for ongoing revenue to pay salaries.

Rightly or wrongly this has changed in fairly recent years, and more and more groups (some of whom are not strictly local to Chichester) are asking every year for money to pay salaries to professional organisers. (As I serve on other bodies which give grants, I am aware of one or two who apply each year to the City Council for salaries, as well as other bodies, and are receiving from more than one). The amounts requested and granted are becoming larger and larger. Also, maybe a decision should be made as to what proportion of the budget be used at each grants meeting, thus leaving something for the second tranche.

Also some applicants are not adhering to the deadlines set for the half-yearly consideration, which are clearly publicised, and are asking at any time as 'special favours' – we have two such at this meeting. We appear to be allowing this. In my view this is not sustainable, and leaves almost nothing for the second tranche later in the year. If we look to the District and County grants systems (which of course should not rule the City's one) a deadline is a deadline, and anyone who misses it has to wait or go without. Also in other councils there is a cap of the amount which it is possible to grant to any one organisation.

It may of course be that the committee would be happy to look at applications at each meeting instead of a special meeting twice each year. This was done in the past for a short time, but proved to be time-consuming at each meeting, so that the twice-yearly practice came into being.

I consider that it is time to have a look into all this to ensure that we are helping as many local groups as we can and that any guidelines are practical. Maybe a small working group could look into it and make recommendations to the main Community Affairs Committee?

Anne Scicluna.

CHICHESTER



CITY COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2019/2020

BODY	EFFECTIVE 01/07/18	PERIOD
Brandy Hole Copse Local Nature Reserve Management Board	Councillor Catherine Harry	to 30/06/2020
Chichester City Centre Partnership (BID) Board of Directors	Councillor Sarah Sharp	to 30/06/2020
Chichester Conservation Area Advisory Committee	Councillor Anne Scicluna	to 30/06/2020
Chichester District Association of Local Councils Chichester Sub-District	Councillor Sarah Lishman	to 30/06/2020
Chichester District Car Parking Forum	Councillor Heather Barrie	to 30/06/2020
Chichester in Partnership (formerly) Local Strategic Partnership (CDC)	Councillor Clare Apel	to 30/06/2020
Chichester Information Shop for Young People	Councillor Sarah Sharp	to 30/06/2020
Chichester District Council All Parishes Meeting	Councillor Clare Apel Councillor Cherry Hughes	to 20/06/2020
Chichester Vision Steering Group	Councillor Bethan Norrell	to 30/06/2020
Chichester Welfare Trusts	Councillor Clare Apel	to 30/06/2020
Dear's Charity	Councillor Richard Plowman Councillor Kevin Hughes	to 30/06/2020
Friends of Chartres Executive Committee	Mayor in Office - Councillor Richard Plowman Councillor Polly Gaskin Councillor Anne Scicluna	to 30/06/2020
Friends of Ravenna Executive Committee	Mayor in Office - Councillor Richard Plowman Councillor Anne Scicluna Councillor John-Henry Bowden	to 30/06/2020
Friends of Valletta Executive Committee	Mayor in Office as President – Councillor Richard Plowman Councillor Anne Scicluna Councillor Cherry Hughs	to 30/06/2020
Goodwood Airfield Consultative Committee	Councillor Richard Plowman	to 30/06/2020
Goodwood Motor Circuit Consultative Committee	Councillor Craig Gershater	to 30/06/2020
New Park Centre	Councillor Kevin Hughes Councillor Catherine Harry	to 30/06/2020

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CHICHESTER



CITY COUNCIL

BODY	EFFECTIVE 01/07/18	PERIOD
Oliver Whitby Foundation (C of E only)	Councillor Anne Scicluna	to 30/06/2020
Oxmarket Centre of Arts	Councillor Sarah Lishman	to 30/06/2020
Rolls Royce	Mayor in Office - Councillor Richard Plowman	
St John's Chapel Trust (a 3-year term)	Councillor Anne Scicluna	to 09/06/2022
St Wilfrid's Parish Hall Trust (a 4-year term)	Mr Clive Goodyear nominated as the City Council representative from 1 March 2016 for a 4-year term Councillor Clare Apel	to 2020
Sussex Community Rail Partnership Arun Valley Steering Group	Councillor Debbie Carter	to 30/06/2020
Sussex Rural Community Council (Transport)	Councillor Sarah Sharp	to 30/06/2020
West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC)	Councillor Cherry Hughes	to 30/06/2020