

**Coddenham Community Response Group**  
**Notes of Meeting 5:00pm Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023 at**  
**The Coddenham Centre**

**Present:** Nick Mills (NM) – Coddenham PC (Chair), Rod Stanley-Bell (RSB) - Community Shop, David McDonnell (DaM) – Gardemau Trusts, Andrew MacPherson (AM) – Coddenham Centre, Debbie McDonnell (DeM) – Church, Tim Thomas (TT) – Day Foundation

**Apologies:** Helen Norris (Church).

**Notes of Previous Meeting:** November 2022. Agreed.

**Matters Arising/Actions:** None, other than substantive agenda items.

**Coronation/Fete:** Coronation Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May. Would be a 'Toast to the King' at TCC 5:00-6:30 with free initial drink. Donations to be requested on day, DF may cover any shortfall in cost, but not yet confirmed. **Action: AM to bid for Lottery funding.** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 'Coronation Brunch', which won't be 'free' as previously suggested. Many of usual brunch volunteers will be away. **Action: NM will shadow next brunch, then lead. DeM liaising with Morris Dancers (likely cost c£200).** DaM and DeM around on 7/5 and can assist. Claire Butters can attend with ice cream barrow. Agreed that would be good to have some of simpler Fete games available for youngsters, but that young parents should be asked to run these, not just rely on usual volunteers. **Action: Appeal on website and social media, plus personal approach. (WHO???)**

No Fete this year – not enough extra volunteers have come forward to help (only 8 responses to appeal, of which 6 favoured postponing until 2024), and 'usual team' too busy (Coronation, Shop Centenary, Flower Festival etc etc). **Action: NM to put release out re this.** If set for 2024, should be proper, separate Fete Committee to organise. Possible informal 'Village Picnic' on Rec 26/27<sup>th</sup> Aug or (preferably) 2/3 Sept, with pay bar and basic food, plus Bring Your Own. Maybe some low key low cost entertainment. Promote as Community Event. **Action: NM to discuss with TCC Manager.**

**Shop Centenary:** RSB and DaM supporting Roy and Ann Gudgin in organising. They are also generously funding this. Would be on Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> July. 'Village Tea Party', open to all (max c250 people) at TCC, using marquees outside if possible. These need to be erected in preceding few days by usual team. Roy and Ann have organised caterers and traditional Suffolk entertainment. Shop volunteers and others to be asked to help serve, clear tables etc. **Action: RSB and DaM.**

In evening, private party at TCC for Shop volunteers and helpers. Roy and Ann again funding, organising food (same caterers as afternoon) and band. Throughout Sat, and possibly Sun, History Club staging exhibition about Shop and 'Businesses in Coddenham over last 100 years' in TCC foyer. (Sylvia Bickers and Sally Garrod leading). David Oliver kindly organising video on history of the Shop. Shop staff working on day may wear period dress. Media opportunity **Action: AM and NM to organise/make appropriate contact.**

**Rolling 18-month Events Calendar:** NM had circulated a possible format – all agreed. Criteria for inclusion would be, basically, events which public can attend. Editable version to go on website. **Action: NM will organise. (Done)**

**Survey Results and Village Plan:** Had been big task to pull useful info out of responses, but NM had done so and prepared draft. Will circulate next week. Members to consider and give feedback, then meet mid/late March to agree final version. Intended there will be a 'Full' version, published online, plus a two-page Summary. Latter could possibly be distributed in leaflet form or made available at key venues such as Shop, Church, TCC, CC etc.

Five main subject areas identified: (i) Roads/Traffic, (ii) Housing, (iii) Energy Conservation – mostly around dwellings, (iv) Green Spaces and Environment, (v) Alternative hub, pub, pop-up pub etc. A group of interested people needed to lead each of these, ideally NOT existing CCRG members, to boost community 'ownership' of the results.

**Warm Spaces:** TCC has funds from MSDC to host gatherings on Fridays, weekly with soup, and once a month with fish and chips, until 31/3/23. Although Coddendam not, overall, a 'deprived' community, this has become quite a social event, and is attended by many who live on their own. This aspect is important. TCC trying to extend until end April, if MSDC agree use of funding after site visit Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. Initiative to be reviewed after end of scheme re optimal use of funding. Haysel Hse also open 9-5 Mon to Fri, providing free coffee, tea, newspapers. Request for funding from MSDC had been turned down. Only used twice, by same person! **Action: Review and consider for Plan 'Engagement' section AM and NM.**

**Covid Update:** Welcome news that Covid no longer seems big problem it was. Agreed to take off future agendas. **Action DaM.**

**Coddendam Calendars:** About 50 still unsold, despite reduction in price, but costs just about covered. Was an interesting idea, but probably not worth repeating in near future. Some confusion as to which body/bodies had paid for the prizes in the initial photo competition. **Action: AM to check.**

**Environment and SWT Nature Audit Report:** Report is a very useful base line and action plan for all publicly/charitably owned 'wildlife' areas in village. Published on website. AM and Cllr Jane Soanes (PC) leading and seeking some Locality Funding. DaM said Lady Catherine Gardemau Education Foundation (LCGEF) could assist if necessary. Working Parties reinstated, with next on Broom Hill on Sat 25/2.

Thermal Imaging Camera on loan to CPC in March. Increasing number of residents requesting its use to assess heat loss in their homes.

New Nature Info Boards being produced – will be 5, each site-specific. John Woodcock generously doing artwork gratis for these, with text by Brenda Hudson. Would be good to link boards with existing nature trail, which also has info leaflets, written by David and Brenda Hudson and funded by LCGEF.

Carbon Audits now completed for TCC, Shop and Church. Haysel Hse and Country Club also exploring potential. Some useful recommendations being taken forward. Some grant funding possibly available.

### **Organisation Updates:**

(i) TCC: Solar Panels being installed in next couple of months. Disappointed not shortlisted for Suffolk Green Awards. New bike racks at last in place. Changing existing lights for LEDs where possible, with 40 new lights and 10 proximity switches. **Action: AM to pass DaM and RSB details of suppliers and contractors.** TCC still busy with events. Latest new class is 'Ballet for Seniors'

(ii) Church: Toddler Group at TCC thriving, with more local children. Average about 14 per week, with both parents and grandparents also attending. A new volunteer helper, Kath Hardy, had joined. Community Action Suffolk had called in at the group this week and had been impressed. Group had funds and offers of additional equipment, but lacked storage space. New TCC store could alleviate in due course. Church had received little guidance from Diocese on marking Coronation, but there would be a commemorative Communion Service at 11:00 that Sunday.

(iii) Day Foundation: no significant developments.

(iv) Gardemau Trusts: Trust had now applied for outline planning permission for plot of land in School Road, behind old Lock-Up, for small house. Response from MSDC awaited. LCGEF had funded its third Red Cross First Aid course at TCC earlier in Feb (previous courses in 2017 and 2020). Twelve villagers had attended and all had passed. Now held accredited qualification. LCGEF had also recently made substantial grant to Stonham Aspal Primary School for equipment.

(v) Shop: very much 'business as usual'. See above re Carbon Audit and Centenary. AGM being held at Haysel House 7:30pm Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March.

(vi) Parish Council: Precept increase 2023-4 is 3.7%. Cllrs Soanes, Stanley-Bell and Groom formally appointed as Trustees for Broom Hill. Three-Cocked Hat parking area being better marked, litter bin installed, signage improved.

**Parish Council Election, May 2023.** PC website has details and encouragement to nominate ([www.coddenhampc.org.uk/parish-council/parish-council-elections-4-may-2023/](http://www.coddenhampc.org.uk/parish-council/parish-council-elections-4-may-2023/)) CCRG website should have link to this. Posters will go up around the parish from mid-March. Unclear how many vacancies, as MSDC yet to confirm whether or not councillor posts will be reduced from 11 to 7. Decision urgently needed before May. PC pressing MSDC hard for this. **Action: all to encourage parishioners to put themselves forward, especially from outside village itself.**

**Activity Table:** DaM reminded all that next update due in March. Requested submissions. **Action: All to forward suitable examples to DaM by 31/3.**

**Website Update:** AM changing metrics to give more accurate idea of usage. Five most popular areas in Jan 2023: Shop, Collection for Turkey/Syria earthquake, Thermal Camera initiative, First Aid Course, Day Foundation.

**A.O.B:** None.

**Date and Time of Next Meeting:** 5:00pm, Thursday 11th May 2023, at TCC.