

## **Report Statement**

### **Report Purpose:**

To update members on community engagement work

### **Author:**

Assistant Town Clerk

## **5.1 Community Engagement Update**

We continue to meet regularly with Town Centre event managers to share best practice, ideas and offer support.

Grant application enquiries continue to be high. Applications themselves have been a little lower than usual due to the summer holidays but lots of conversations have been had with new applicants in preparation for them submitting the forms.

A vacant allotment plot on the Park Grove site is being used by refugees who are living in the town. Called the Garden of Hope, it is a focal point for the community to come together.

The volunteering programme is doing well. Two of our volunteers helped for the first time at the Mayors Community Picnic in South Park. They were such a great help, and we are looking forward to working with them again at future events. We now have 5 registered events volunteers on our database with 2 more expected to be added in the next few weeks.

3 of the 4 defibrillators that we have installed across the town have been subject to an urgent recall. We have requested replacement units while the software is updated. If this isn't possible, they may have to be taken off the national database for up to 3 days while they are fixed.