

## ***Update for the Corsham Area Board***

<b>Name of Parish/Town Council</b>	<b>Corsham</b>
<b>Date of Area Board Meeting</b>	10 November 2020

# Update for the Corsham Area Board

## Headlines/Key successes

- Two Hours Free Parking/Town Centre Recovery Plan – The Two Hours Free Parking scheme will continue until at least the end of the financial year. It's been well-received by local businesses, and Town Councillors have been carrying out footfall counts to allow us to monitor the numbers of people in town. The Town Council has also published its Recovery Plan for the town centre on its website (<https://www.corsham.gov.uk/covid-19.php>) and created a sounding board of local representatives to help monitor progress.
- StoryTown – As a result of the coronavirus crisis, much of this year's StoryTown weekend (co-produced by the Town Council and Bath Spa University's Paper Nations team), celebrating Corsham's story-telling talent and which ran from 16-18 October, had to move online. There were workshops on writing poetry, getting your novel published, finding inspiration for your song writing, writing for wellbeing and more. The live-streamed concert by The Bookshop Band (courtesy of The Pound) has so far been viewed 10,000 times. And there were still, socially-distanced, opportunities to take part with others, including the Smile Inside workshop on the High Street, an exhibition of artwork inspired by people's tales from lockdown and a poetry takeaway at The Pound. Local schools got involved with their own StoryTown projects, with nearly 1,000 children taking part. You can view some of their work here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/190646171@N02/albums>
- Covid-19 Response – We are now referring anyone calling for help and support (numbers are currently very low) to NHS Volunteer Responders. We have also contacted our volunteers to say that if they are still caring for people in their community but are finding it difficult if they've returned to work for example, then to let us know and we can also refer those they're helping to NHS Responders.

## Projects

- Remembrance – Sadly, Corsham's traditional Remembrance Sunday parade and church services are unable to take place as planned, but the day will still be marked with pride and respect, with organisations laying their wreaths at the war memorial throughout the day to avoid crowds gathering. A 'Remember at Home' scheme has been publicised for both 8 November and 11 November, encouraging local residents to stand on their doorsteps at 11am for the two-minute silence. Members of Corsham's Royal British Legion will still lead a socially-distanced two-minute silence in the Martingate at 11am on 11 November.

Please do visit the Garden of Remembrance on Stokes Road, where the town's WW2 memorial is situated. As part of this year's VE75 commemorations we commissioned local artist Anya Beaumont to reinvent the entrance gates, and they are now strewn with metal poppies and have received great praise from local residents.

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- Youth Cycling Survey – As part of its ongoing work to create a Cycling Strategy and improve the cycling experience in the town, the Town Council has been encouraging young people to take part in a short survey. Their answers to questions about how often they cycle and what facilities they'd like to see will help us ensure their views are incorporated into the strategy.
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- Public Art – The Town Council is currently working on three separate public art projects. Work on the new installation at the Cross Keys junction has been delayed by the coronavirus crisis but is now well underway. With the help of The Brunel Shed, the Town Council is planning to install two quarry trucks as part of a display highlighting Corsham's quarrying history on Park Lane. And, most recently, a new piece of artwork has been commissioned to enhance the Valley Road entrance to Springfield Rec.

### Forthcoming events/Diary dates

- Christmas in Corsham - Obviously this year's restrictions make it impossible for the usual Christmas Lights Switch On to take place, but - as long as the government guidance does not change - the lights will still be up, the Christmas Window Competition will still take place, there are plans for a Best Mince Pie competition amongst the food businesses, late-night shopping, a festive activity trail around the town (with The Pound) and a spectacular piece of art work at the Town Hall. Watch this space!
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Signed:



Date:

28<sup>th</sup> October 2020