2023 Report of the Council to the Annual Meeting of Electors

As Vice Chair of SWANCC, I would like to welcome and thank you all so much for joining us this evening to participate in the Annual Meeting of Electors, it is always exciting to meet everyone in one place and share each other’s news and ideas.

Over 2023, SWANCC has focussed significantly on the 7 themes of the Community Plan and developing a comprehensive Environment Strategy for the area.

With indomitable spirit Environment Champion Cllr Jacky Godden, with Cllr Steve Campkin and residents Jackie Willis and Steve Kellam has led planting initiatives over recent months with a spectacular display of daffodils and spring bulbs across the area, particularly Newtown Green which was a delight to all of us and certainly lifted spirits during what has been a particularly rainy start to the year. It has been delightful to see so many volunteers getting involved and benefiting from participating in this project. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all.

The Planting group will be continuing over the coming weeks to plant 22 areas of wild flower seeds with the overarching aim of improving biodiversity in the area, you will notice areas are specifically selected to be no mow to allow the wildlife to recover from the winter and thrive over the spring months. All of us look forward to the display of flowers this will bring.

Furthermore, SWANCC have hired a litter picker, Wayne who is so welcome within our community and has done a sterling job gathering litter and reporting fly tipping. It is particularly noticeable now and he is very much appreciated. Thank you to the SWAN Litter picker group for your continued unwavering efforts over the last year which gives SWAN the best look and feel to the area.

The Allotments have carried on the past year, a contract has been agreed for works to provide disabled access beds and reduce the flooding issues to allow parking is planned, however the heavy rains have delayed this. SWANCC do look forward to its completion and seeing equal access to all over the coming year.

Rising costs has impacted every one of us, SWANCC budgeted £8400 towards rising cost support in the area, providing grants of nearly £4000 to maintain the after-school club at East Stour primary and the Salvation Army Summer lunches and holiday activities it was tremendous to be able to arrange to host the Eat Well Spend Less Roadshow in SWAN and to have so many partner agencies supporting the event. SWANCC put £1000 towards the Eat Well Spend less roadshow and it was a privilege for each of us to be able to serve our community in this way. Thank you to Lauren and Rhonda at the Salvation Army for the extra shopping and cash and carry trips it is really appreciated. Thank you so much to the WI for serving drinks and assisting with the posters and all the help you gave for the preparation of this event. Thank you for working with this Council to make it such a success.

Ahead, is the upcoming and very exciting Railway themed Vintage Festival 1st July 2023 with a wide range of entertainment and activity planned. SWANCC look forward to meeting as many of the SWAN residents as possible to share in this exciting day.

This is just a synopsis of the work SWANCC has carried out if you would like to learn more you would always be very welcome to attend the Council on the first Monday of the month to keep up to date with the many functions of this Community Council.

Thank you