

They have also booked venues and planned their first eight workshops with the first workshop having taken place on 11th May. CleeCo are now providing monthly update reports, which can be made available on request.

Bridgwater Quayside Festival - The Quayside Festival is taking place on Saturday 29 July 12 – 6pm in Blake Gardens, Fore Street, King Square, West Quay and Angel Place. The free festival celebrates Bridgwater's roots as a historic riverside port. The festival is being organised by Fuse Performance on behalf of Sedgemoor District Council and Bridgwater Town Council.

This new festival will be a celebration of live music, indoor and outdoor theatre, dance, circus and acrobatics, film, carnival, aerial trapeze, puppetry with performances from local and national artists. There are free workshops and activities to suit all the family. Enjoy local food and drink from local producers and local art and crafts stalls. All town centre businesses are being encouraged to get involved in the festival and have all been contacted.

Fuse have set up a website, Facebook Page and Twitter account in order to advertise the festival. They have confirmed a number of bookings for acts and performers and have also confirmed that Garsington Opera will be attending the event to show an opera performance on a big screen in King Square on the day.

Marketing and Promotion – There is also an additional £5,000 budget available for marketing and promoting the town centre events. A plan for this will be drawn up in the near future, and it is intended that a particular focus will be on promoting the Snowflakes and Shopping event at Christmas and the Bridgwater Food Fair in the early spring.

Town Bridge Lighting - Chris Watts Lighting Design have been appointed to undertake the lighting design for the town bridge. An inception meeting was held on 20th March and key considerations from the EA, SCC, SDC and the Town Council were set out. An initial design and brief has now been circulated to the various stakeholders. Subsequently any licences / permission / audit processes will need to be complete ahead of quotes being gathered for installation. It is currently intended to complete the works in the autumn this year, but this will depend upon the extent of licencing / permission / audit to be undertaken. Once the designs are finalised a firmer date can be provided.

Fore Street – An Invitation to Tender for a design and build contract has been completed and was sent out on 13th April. Tenders are to be returned by Tuesday 23rd May and it is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in August, assuming adequate tender responses are received. Current programme anticipates works on Fore Street could commence in the late-autumn, though this will be dependent upon successfully completing the necessary audit and legal processes associated with working on the highway.

Bridgwater and North Petherton Cycling and Walking: The three schemes continue to progress through the detailed design process with SCC so that they can then be put through the formal tender process in order to confirm overall costs.

SCC have agreed that the schemes would be progressed in the following order:

1. Cranleigh Gardens / Eastover Park
2. Limousin Way to Wills Road (over Stockmoor Rhyne)
3. Wills Road to Rhode Lane

This will allow us to manage risk whilst ensuring that suitable mitigation is delivered in a timely fashion. Assuming all consents are in place it is anticipated that the Cranleigh Gardens element could commence in August/September 2017, with the other schemes following once those works are complete, although firmer dates will be available once tender processes have been completed.

Monitoring: A number of monitoring strategies were proposed by EDF Energy to help manage and control impacts of the project on the area. These are overseen by formal monitoring groups and informal task groups. Updates are provided into Hinkley programme board and monitoring group.

Customers and Efficiency

Customer Access Programme - Progress toward the specification and business case for the council's new platform is now moving on apace with the assistance from CGI who are IS procurement experts.

A full business case will be produced showing the cost of investment and savings to be delivered by the new opportunities for members to consider before we move ahead. The programme board is meeting next week to consider progress and make sure we remain on track.

In the meantime, the new designs for the council website are being worked on by each service. The designs make information more accessible and reduce the amount of time visitors have to click to get to key information.

Clean Surroundings - The grass maintenance regime restarted in March and is now in full swing.

The Team continue to be busy responding to fly tipping incidents. Last year, we collected 1,177 fly tips in Sedgemoor.

The highway/pavement weed spraying contractor carried out a district-wide spray in April.

The street washing contractor will be starting in Bridgwater Town Centre on 14th May.

The summer bedding displays are scheduled to be planted out across the district from the 2nd week of June.

Clean Surroundings continue to provide street sweeping services (2 mechanical sweeping vehicles) at Hinkley Point C for Kier Bam and Skanska.

Beaches - The beach warden service resumed at Easter at Burnham and Berrow, and will continue through to September. The RNLI lifeguards will return for high season (July and August).

Good weather over the Easter period meant a busy start to the season.