

7.1 Representatives on Other Bodies

Wokingham Waterside Centre (WWC) Meeting on 8 August 2023

Report by Sheila Jordan

Having been appointed as Earley Town Council Liaison, I was given a tour of the Centre and became a Trustee/Director. Andy Croy was also newly appointed on behalf of Wokingham Borough Council.

A Board meeting was held at the Wokingham Waterside Centre on Tuesday 8 August.

The Centre Manager reported that they had had a very successful quarter of bookings, with income and profits improved from the previous year.

The Earley Town Council grant enabled a number of young people to engage with the after school clubs. Additional needs sessions continued year-round. John Willis, Power2Inspire, paddled from Cricklade to Eton raising disability awareness, and the WWC supported him with equipment storage. Both ITV and BBC visited the site to speak to him about his journey.

Whilst there is an industry wide shortage of qualified experienced staff members, the WWC has a strong youth leader base who are being trained and developed in house to progress into instructor positions.

Summer holiday activities (just started at the time of the meeting) had been well received with more customers choosing a full week of activities than in previous years.

One problem for the Centre is the anti social car meets at the Park and Ride car park, just by the centre. Some groups, including Scouts, had returned to camping behind the Centre after covid, but say they will not camp there again as they are concerned about the noise and safety issues. Various residents (including some from Reading across the river) have complained about the noise from the car park and the car racing along the road outside the Centre. The Anti Social Behaviour Team in WBC, and the police, must be given dates and precise times to facilitate viewing of CCTV footage.

Cllr Sheila Jordan
Earley Town Council