

Chair report – Wacky AGM 20/11/19 – Charlanne

There are going to be a lot of thank yous in this report, my final one as Chair. I have benefitted from Wacky childcare for the last ten years, and I'm pleased that I've been able to give something back over the last 3 of those on the committee, and the last 2 and a half as chair.

I'd like to start by thanking you all for your support. Obviously Wacky exists to provide after school and holiday care for your children, and your continued support of Jo and the team, as well as the committee, is greatly appreciated. Over the last 12 months we've introduced a number of changes, particularly a new fee structure to bring our prices closer to other local clubs, and we've also continued to build on the Wacky community feel with the second summer barbecue as well as the regular celebrations for the children.

We'll hear from Jo shortly about the staff activities with the children this year so I'd like to focus – again – on thanking Jo, Rachel and all the staff for all their hard work providing stimulating and entertaining care for our children both after school and during the holidays. A warm welcome to Kelvin, who seems to have settled in really well. I'd like to particularly thank Jo and Rachel for their sterling effort manning the Wacky stall at the Feast, which is a big commitment from them and is very much appreciated. By having a stall we are eligible to apply for funding from the feast – this year we were given £500 to put towards new outdoor play equipment.

Moving on to the Committee – we were delighted to welcome a total of 3 new members this year, Stefano and Laura at last year's AGM, and then Cris who joined us as a co-opted member to focus on the website. We'll be hearing from Stefano shortly as he took on the role of Treasurer but I'd like to thank all three new members for bringing fresh views and energy to the committee. It is really important that we keep bringing on new people for those different viewpoints and to challenge the way we do things. I'd also like to thank the rest of the committee for all their support behind the scenes to keep Wacky running, from managing interactions with the cleaners to manning the barbecue to acting as liaison with the school and much much more. I'd particularly like to mention Alison and Lisa who will also be stepping down from the committee this year. Alison has been secretary of the committee for the last 3 years and has done sterling work to keep track of all the varied discussions we've had, while Lisa has been our go-to person for all sorts of recruitment and HR questions, in addition to being co-chair and all the responsibilities that entails. I say this every year but I really couldn't have done the chair role without you.

Two more things before I hand over to Jo.

You will recall the planning situation that we were asked by the council to start work on plans for a new building. Over the last year our planning sub-committee incl representatives for Rainbow and the school governors, have been sourcing quotes for a new building, but in the meantime we are starting to work towards an extension of the existing planning consent which will be needed in the next year. As always we need your support, particularly if you can help through any expertise or moving forward as we look further at specific fundraising.

Finally the committee has recently started to look into possible alternative ways of managing the overall running of the club, to remove some of the immediate reliance on the committee and to provide better support to the staff in terms of the day to day operational management of the club.

It's very early days in this review and of course we will be providing you as parents with updates as these progress and opportunities to ask more detailed questions but in brief the main alternatives being reviewed are – for the school to take over the club; or to bring in an external provider to run holiday clubs; or to outsource the overall management of the whole after school and holiday club setting. Obviously each of these has advantages and disadvantages compared with the others, and it's definitely too early to be able to say which route will be best at this stage, but we are continuing to explore all of them and we'd be happy to hear any thoughts you as parents may have about the relative options, either by email to chair@wackyclub.co.uk or if anyone has any thoughts they'd like to share now that would be great.

With that I'd like to once again thank all the committee, staff and parents for all your support over the last year.

Thank you.