

Town Development Manager Report For Town Council Meeting on 8 August 2022

1. New Milton Community Centre

Recently held a meeting with Paul Berkeley the Community Centre Publicity and Marketing Manager and Coastal Medical Partnership social prescriber, Olly Leicester. We were advised by Paul Berkeley of the aims of widening use of the Centre, including a new Arts and Crafts centre to provide bespoke facilities to hirers such as art room equipment. This would complement other facilities and services in the town. Any potential hirers wishing to enquire about this opportunity are invited to contact the TDM who will pass on their details to Paul.

2. Socially prescribed cookery courses

We are nearing completion of the third 4-week low carb cookery course with up to 10 participants on each course. Statistical medical data is being captured by local GPs on attendees and will be reviewed after this first tranche of courses. The feedback from attendees continues to be extremely positive with reports of significant improvements in both mental and physical wellbeing as attendees adopt new, healthier cooking and eating habits.

These courses are supported by a WhatsApp group, led and managed by our cookery teacher, Natasha Beatty. Members of each course are invited to the group, building a solid mutual-support group that encourages continuation and development of healthy eating habits. The course is further supported by a free, monthly *Low Carb Lifestyle* support group for the surgeries' patients, led by the CMP, with the next session being held on Friday 12th August at 10.30am at the New Milton Memorial Centre. Anyone interested in coming along should contact olly.leicester@nhs.net

3. Green Routes

NFDC, within their Green Infrastructure work, identified five potential improvement projects in New Milton although funding would need to be found for any work. A meeting is being arranged with NFDC to consider the feasibility, benefits and costs of each potential project.

4. Youth & Family Centre

The Town Council has signed an Option to Buy Agreement for land south of Gore Road that gives the Town Council priority purchase on the land - assuming planning permission is achieved for the development of a Youth & Family Centre.

5. TDM appointment

We are looking forward to the arrival of Chiara Rabbito who will be taking over the role of Town Development Manager at the end of the month, with a handover period being arranged.