

Town Development Manager Report
For Town Council Meeting 3 October 2022

1. *Cost of Living Crisis meeting – 16 September*

To inform the role required by NMTC in the cost-of-living crisis, NMTC office staff invited Alison Talbot (Chief Officer of Citizens Advice New Forest) and Ryan Stevens, who is co-ordinating NFDC's own cost of living crisis response, to a meeting to advise on needs and response plans.

Citizens Advice were reporting 100 calls a day when, previously, 50 calls a day was considered high (30 being a normal day) - without having the resources to cope with this unprecedented demand.

Hardship is becoming more mainstream with many people not being in this position before.

The situation is urgent, and they asked for the Town Council to take a role in mapping support services and identifying gaps in access to food, warmth...

Ryan endorsed the need for NMTC to provide local insights to support NFDC's efforts.

2. *Socially prescribed cookery courses*

The courses continue with enthusiastic and appreciative participants – we are running our 4th course. While blood sugar reports show notable falls after starting the courses, it takes many months to prove consistent benefit. It is very much hoped that funding can be obtained to continue beyond March 2023 when the current fund expires. We submitted a bid, on 16 September, to the SW Railway Customer and Communities Fund (CCIF) to win £15,000 that would enable us to extend the courses for a further year.

3. *Green Infrastructure Strategy*

NFDC will be providing an update on their Green Infrastructure Strategy work for New Milton at a meeting at on 30 September. In the meantime, having evaluated recent community feedback, the Green Routes working group has identified a further six routes for survey.

4. *Youth & Family Centre, off Gore Road*

A submission for Outline Planning Permission is being prepared in conjunction with a consultant and the Youth Trust.

5. *Our new TDM*

We are delighted to welcome Chiara Rabbito as our new Town Development Manager.
(We have allowed a further two months' cross-over to ensure an easier handover on this wide-ranging role.)

Suna King

26 September 2022

Chiara Rabbito - Chiara.rabbito@newmiltontowncouncil.gov.uk

Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22

In respect of **New Milton Town Council – HA0188**

1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>.

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with Proper Practices which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2022; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor report 2021/22

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

3 External auditor certificate 2021/22

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2022.

External Auditor Name	PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP		
External Auditor Signature	<i>PKF Littlejohn LLP</i>	Date	21/09/2022

* Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website (www.nao.org.uk)

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022-23

Month & Year	Town Council	Amenities Committee	F & GP Committee	Planning Committee
	Monday	Monday	Monday	Alternate Thursdays
May 2022 29 Jubilee Service	9 Annual Meeting	30	-	12 & 26
June 2022 3 Platinum Jubilee	27	-	13	9 & 23
July 2022 10 Indian Obelisk	-	12 (Tues)	25	7 & 21
August 2022 23 WWII - Clock	8	-	-	4 & 18
September 2022	-	6 (Tues)	26	1, 15 & 29
October 2022 24 Annual Allots	3	17	31	13 & 27
November 2022 13 Remembrance	15 (Tues)	28	-	10 & 24
December 2022 3 Carol Service	-	-	19	8 & 22
January 2023	3 (Tues)	16	30	5 & 19
February 2023	13	28 (Tues)	-	2 & 16
March 2023	27 20 Annual Towns	-	13	2, 16 & 30
April 2023 PURDAH PERIOD	-	-	-	13 & 27
May 2023 (Elections 4 May)	15 Annual Meeting	30 (Tues)	-	11 & 25

**All meetings are normally held at 6.30pm in the Town Hall, 2 Ashley Road, BH25 6AS
Members of the Public are welcome to attend any meeting and may speak as follows:**

- a) If time permits, Town Council meetings will be adjourned at the end for a 'DEMOCRATIC HALF HOUR' during which members of the Public, with the approval of the Chairman, may initiate discussion on matters of community interest and which fall within the responsibility of the Town Council.
- b) Prior to the commencement of other meetings, and at the discretion of the Chairman, a short period of Public Participation may take place. Members of the public may speak on any item(s) appearing on the public agenda, or on any other matter that falls within the Committee's terms of reference.

Annual Town's Meeting is a public meeting normally required by statute to be held in the period between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive) each year. **Note: It is not a Town Council meeting.**
Annual Meeting of the Council - In a year of ordinary elections of parish councillors, the annual meeting shall be held within 14 days of the councillors elected at that election taking office.

