

Town Development Manager Report
For Town Council Meeting 25th March 2024

1. *Neighbourhood Plan Review*

New Milton Town Council has begun its process to review the Neighbourhood Plan. Although in the very early stages, a review is due to update and align current policies with the Local Plan. New Milton Town Council is working very closely with the NFDC Local Plan Review, which also began earlier this year. The review will look to consider issues such as a local list to raise the status of certain buildings in the area, where we can progress on modernising community hubs and factor health and wellbeing and include measures to address affordable housing options in the town. A review in line with the Local Plan is expected to take around two years to achieve.

2. *Ballard Lake Sensory Walk*

Public Health Hampshire are currently working in partnership with several green space partners as well as several Town and Borough Councils to look at opportunities around offering sensory walks linked to improving mental wellbeing. One of the locations being considered to host a sensory walk is Ballard Lake in New Milton. A survey was sent out to voluntary and community groups across Hampshire in January – February 2024. Of the respondents who completed the survey, 53% of them have a visual impairment, 44% are neurodiverse and 38% suffer with a sensory processing disorder noting 96% would be interested in using mapped sensory walks. In March, representatives joined New Milton Town Council to look at mapping and identifying 8 potential sensory moments around the lake. *Discussions with representatives from West Hants CCG, the NHS and other interested parties continues.*

3. *Ashley Parade Regeneration*

Town Council has now been awarded funding to help regenerate the pavement along Ashely Parade. New Milton Town Council received £15,000 from the Levelling Up & Regeneration fund and will match fund with a further £15,000 from CIL to meet the costs of improving Ashely Parade in a bid to support business owners. The land in front of the parade is privately owned by each landlord and has been out of the council's remit to improve, but with schemes such as the Levelling Up & Regeneration fund, New Milton Town Council has been able to apply for funding and find a means to support otherwise struggling business owners and improve facilities for the public. I have been in touch with each business owner as we look to begin the regeneration in spring.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

27.03.24

RISK ASSESSMENTS 2024-25

The Town Council uses an updated version of Local Council Risk Assessment (LCRS) software program that was originally installed to help identify and address a small number of potential risks.

The program now covers up to 50 risk areas from allotments to websites identifying 300+ potential risks facing local councils. Some risk areas such as burial grounds and cemeteries do not apply to New Milton and are discounted. For 2024-25, over 50 risks are identified.

This latest Risk Assessment review was undertaken by the Town Clerk/ Estates Manager. The likelihood of each risk arising and the impact on the Council were considered in turn. If the likelihood was low it scored 1 medium 2, high 3. If the impact was low it scored 1, medium 2, high 3.

By way of exception reporting 28 main risk areas are highlighted below:

1. Allotments – Covering inspection of 5 allotment sites & over 100 plots.
2. Bonfires – Public safety, control of numbers attending events via SAG.
3. Bonfires – Ensure adequate Risk Assessments & Insurances in place.
4. Bus Shelters – Ensure cleanliness plus ongoing repair & maintenance.
5. Bus Shelters – Complete replacement programme nearing completion.
6. Car Parks – Reduce fly-tipping / ensure safety NMTC gravel car parks.
7. Commons – Ensure safe grazing, maintaining security of open access.
8. Computing - Homeworking protocol introduced as & when appropriate.
9. Data Protection –GDPR compliance / ongoing system security checks.
10. Flooding – Minimise risk, work with Environment Agency NFDC / NPA.
11. Staffing - Resource maintained via TDM, YSM and new youth workers.
12. Governance – General Power of Competence (GPC) is being retained.
13. Land – Protect all Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).
14. Land – Long Meadow proper also has Village Green status protection.
15. Meetings - Duty to hold all meetings in a safe and secure environment.
16. Recs – Reporting ASB / vandalism via New Forest Safety Partnership.
17. MUGA / Rec areas – Ensure adequate security measures are in place.
18. Play Areas – Ensure adequate and regular inspections are carried out.
19. Community Facilities – Plan / provide new youth / family HUB facilities.
20. Skatepark – A Multi-agency approach / CCTV to tackle ASB problems.
21. Insurance – Ensure all assets and potential risks have adequate cover.
22. Car Boots – Employ Supervisor to oversee risk on behalf of operators.
23. Investments – Monitor and review Quilter Cheviot investment of £250k.
24. Youth Club – Ensure continuation of weekly youth service on the Rec.
25. Succession Planning – Plans are in hand for key members of the staff.
26. Town Development Manager – Admin of Neighbourhood Plan review.
27. Youth Services Manager – Remit includes running Ashley Youth Club.
28. Public Events - Continue to support community events where possible.

RECOMMENDED:

That Town Council adopts the Risk Assessments for 2024-25.



**Making
the most of
your money**

Future Services Consultation

Tell us your views on proposals to change some services we deliver to you after April 2025 – like:

- Road maintenance and winter gritting
- Public transport
- Streetlights
- School crossing patrols
- Parking charges at rural countryside car parks
- Homelessness support
- Library stock levels
- Adult social care contributions
- Grants for voluntary and community organisations
- Funding to Hampshire Cultural Trust
- Household Waste Recycling Centres



**Have your say between
8 January and 31 March 2024**

Visit hants.gov.uk/future-services-consultation
or scan the QR code to give us your views

