

**Policy & Resources Committee**

---

<b>Date:</b>	<b>1 August 2017</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Reports - External Organisations</b>

**Thame Barns Centre (Cllr Dodds)**

As a fellow trustee, the Town Clerk reports that the AGM went smoothly on 13 July 2017; the accounts are attached as a separate agenda item, with another annual surplus of £13.731 saved towards anticipated roof repairs (page 2 of which provides a good update on general progress); Daisybelle (who has gone through some revitalisation herself) is to have a calf; the church will be seeking a replacement trustee, after the retirement of Julia Hussey, who is thanked for her contribution.

**Citizens Advice (Cllr Austin)**

The quality of CA advice is now assessed every three months by the national Citizens Advice assessor. South & Vale CA have scored over 80% since this process started. This reassures CA South & Vale that the quality of advice is sound.

CA served nearly 10,000 clients in South and Vale last year, a thousand more than 2015/16. CA will be undertaking a recruitment drive for new volunteer advisers in November to meet this increase in demand.

The CA is very grateful to Thame Town Council for their consistent support. Jon Bright will attend the P&R Committee meeting on 31 October 2017 to give an update on how its service performed in Thame last year.

**Health Hub (Cllr Champken-Woods)**

I have also reported on the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust Community Hub as I am the Town Council's rep on the Stakeholders Group.

There does seem some confusion regarding the future of Thame Community Hospital (TCH) and, separately, the progress towards a new Health Centre for Thame. The new Health Centre is known as "the Health Hub". The proposal from Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT), which they have christened a "Community Hub", is a six month pilot scheme, which started at the beginning of April in the existing Community Hospital site. It focuses on a daytime assessment service, mainly for the frail elderly in Thame and the surrounding area and, in parallel, in Marlow. BHT point to 3 main reasons for this new direction:-

- Many patients simply stay healthier if they can be treated at or close to home
- Patients tell BHT, in research, that they want to stay in their own homes
- It is part of the NHS Five-year Forward View (i.e. Plan)

BHT's new Community Hub is putting these aims into practice with the following services;

- Frailty Assessment Clinics - GPs can refer patients to specialist clinics to help frail, older people to stay at home and avoid an A&E visit / hospital admission

- Outpatient clinics - 5 more specialities (orthopaedics, care-of-the-elderly, falls, oral surgery and palliative care) now offer clinics in the community
- Voluntary sector and "signposting" - plans to offer advice, support and the signposting of patients, so they can find the right support and services

The community Hub is going well. The Plan was for 167 patients to be seen in the hubs across both Marlow and Thame Sites, the actual numbers have risen steadily from 61 in April to 137 in May and above target 169 in June, July is also above target so far. The Stakeholders Group has suggested to BHT that the Pilot be extended to 12 months in order to see how it copes with the winter pressures.

This Community Hub is not the same as a new Health Centre for Thame. The new Health Centre - or "Health Hub" is the GP Practices, both Rycote & Trinity's vision for a large hub for health, wellbeing and community - is a project for the next few years. It will replace the existing Health Centre on East Street and integrate a number of existing and new services.

The planning for this is on-going and I attach an outline of the planned facilities as well as this document. I can say that the practices are meeting with Montpelier Estates in the near future to discuss moving the project forward. Also another delaying factor is the forthcoming merger between Trinity Practice and Wellington House Practice which is based in Princes Risborough. The other delaying issue is that The Thame Health Hub is not top of either of the Commissioning Groups (Oxford & Bucks) as they are prioritising struggling GP Practices in other parts of the area.

One thing which would help to take this forward is to write the Health Hub into the next iteration of the Neighbourhood Plan.

#### **NALC (Cllr Dyer)**

The Town Clerk continues to circulate the weekly NALC Bulletin, and regular OALC newsletters, to all Councillors so there is nothing further to add. NALC continue to promote a number of national campaigns, with Ministerial meetings and Government lobbying as appropriate, supporting the interests of Town and Parish Councils. Subjects include improvements to Neighbourhood Planning, retention of business rates, and localism / devolution, and Thame Town Council are pro-active in contributing to these initiatives.

In April Thame hosted a meeting of the Oxfordshire Larger Local Councils Group, welcoming representatives from Witney, Faringdon, Henley, Abingdon, Grove, Eynsham, Kidlington and Bicester, and we were also joined by Jonathan Owen, NALC Chief Executive. Discussions ranged across Neighbourhood Planning, devolution issues, precept capping, Unitary proposals, civil parking enforcement, and many other common issues and challenges. The next meeting will be held at Bicester on 4 October.

#### **Red Kite Family Centre (Cllrs Emery & Wyse)**

Separate report attached as 11e.

#### **Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)**

The Business Forum met on 4 July, hosted at Meadow View Park, and received a briefing from Oxfordshire Business Support to introduce new OxLEP funding for business growth. Other discussions ranged from employment land provision, through the problems with poor mobile reception, to the continued refusal of SODC Economic Development to share the data and analysis from their Business Survey earlier this year. The next meeting is in mid-September, with John Howell hopefully attending.

**Thame & District Day Centre** (Cllr Midwinter)

The next meeting is scheduled for 26 July, report to follow.

**Thame & District Housing Association** (Cllr Butler)

Nothing received as at 26.7.17.

**Thame Youth Memorial Trust** (Cllr Lambert)

Nothing received as at 26.7.17.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Thame** (Cllrs Emery & Fickling)

**Notes from the meeting of 21st C Thame on June 29th 12 noon at Racquets.**

Apologies: Linda Emery, Peter Woodman, Tyrell Gillman, Sue Martin-Downhill

Present: Dave Cookson, Becky Reid, Helen Johns, Helena Fickling, Shelagh Larard, Natasha Kendall, Sonja Francis, Dave Laver.

1. Minutes 11th May: Signed off
2. Any update on usage of funds from Small Business Saturday?

Helen updated that she and Rosie have met with Carmichael. They are still keen to be involved with Young Entrepreneurs competition, but can't take responsibility for running the competition. Helen and Ruth will also talk to the Windles Group and a local law firm to explore their interest in being involved with the YE competition. This is a potential for 2018.

3. Leaflets:

Helen and Tyrell have been working on distributing the Midsomer leaflets. It would be helpful to get a formal distribution agreement in place. Do we have a full list of locations where leaflets need to be distributed and can we agree a rota for this?

4. Noticeboards - any update?

Becky says she has not have feedback from Hazel yet but will chase this up.

5. Town Centre Working Group: Does this now have members?

Becky updates that they are still working through how this group will look and will inform 21<sup>st</sup> C on progress of this.

6. Business Town Team: Becky wanted to discuss how Thame4Business will link with the Business Town Team. Becky expects part of what will be included is running workshops/events that are focused on topics that draw town centre businesses together.

As part of this, 21<sup>st</sup> C have agreed that we would host one of these events and make the Noggin workshop the focus of it, as having retailers from the centre of town who can play a part in a joint discussion/learning process about how data can improve their footfall, takings etc. could be very beneficial to the town as a whole. 21<sup>st</sup> C is aligned on the metrics we need to collect and Becky will then feedback next week on moving this on following the meeting with the Town Centre Working Group. She says she has had 30 local businesses express interest in being involved in the business forum so we could have a really good sized audience for the workshop. Actions that will be needed are to publicise the event (Becky will ask if Noggin have any promo material or case studies we can use) and sell it to local businesses (in person and through the town council). The format is likely to take around half a day and we would run this in the Town Hall. We are looking to run this from September onwards.

7. Treasure Hunt app: Now ready for testing. Becky will contact Tash and Shelagh who have offered to trial the app. Sue is also trialling with her children. Becky asks us to be honest in our feedback and the clues. We also discussed if we can involve local retailers in providing a prize? Perhaps we could get the trail to finish at a local coffee shop and offer a prize of a free cake or muffin?
8. Town Centre Wifi: Becky comments they are looking at developing an art trail that would be supported by augmented reality. Becky suggests we may be able to get funding for both Wifi and the AR and will update us on this. James Taylor is supporting Becky on the project. Helen comments that she has successfully arranged funding for various arts projects previously and will share her contacts with Becky. Becky is also meeting with Elephant Wifi next week regarding free Wifi in the town centre.
9. Regarding the other Local Legends prize, it was felt we did not get great value from the Real Town prize and therefore Helen and Becky are looking at this with Revive and Thrive.
10. High St Food events - any update on retailers getting involved during the food festival?

Sonja has spoken with a few local businesses and notes that the Aga shop is keen to be involved and will be running an event with demonstrations. Tash will circulate a list of food venues in Thame and then when people have visited them they can mark the sheet and note the outcome. Shelagh and Sonja suggest we do a food trail around Thame and create a leaflet to support this. It was felt businesses are more likely to commit to this and so it should be fairly easy to implement. Shelagh offers to put a draft together to share back with the group.

11. Additional agenda items from SMD:  
Equipment bank :

Building storage in containers – Peter Harris getting quotes (PH & SMD)  
Purchasing 2 canopies, 6 side panels – Peter Harris getting quotes  
Paying my O2 bill June, July and August  
Carnival: Small profit on Carnival – still awaiting some advertiser payments

12. Helen and Tyrell submitted an agenda item about shopfronts. They wondered whether it is possible to run a shopfront competition as a good idea to re-stage for 2018? Obviously funding would need to be found, but it could provide a boost to the retail community in Thame, and it's several years since the last competition was held. Dave updates there is no more funding (the project was actually match-funded) for shopfront improvement and Helena comments that the uptake was poor last time. Becky will however ask about Co-Op shop frontage as this is particularly in need of updating. In connection with this it was noted

that new restaurants and cafes will be opening in Thame and that the waste management needs to be considered carefully as Prezzo bins continue to be an issue. The manager is in communication with the Town Clerk and therefore we hope a creative solution can be found soon.

13. Midsomer: Helen updates that the application for the plaques is now on the website. The decision will be made by 11th August. Dave will be supporting this within the Council as will Helena. Becky updates that the Midsomer website is now being managed by SODC and Becky is meeting with other Market Town Coordinators to streamline this across the site. Helen comments the tour group are disappointed with the take-up and are looking to drive further awareness using signage (tour today!) for example. Becky shares a coaches guide leaflet and suggests we take out a listing that costs more but provides a double-page spread and will support driving awareness and adding this to their trail. Becky will find out if we can get included in the booklet.
14. Welcome packs for new estates. Becky will check the warehouse to see if we have any left over and if we can update them.
15. Accounts: Does anyone know who can support on this? Tash will pick this up with Reciprocate and update the group.
16. The cows: Sonja asks is there a budget for repair and refresh? 21<sup>st</sup> C does have funds for this, just let us know the quote.

The next meeting will be a 12 noon on Thursday 10th August at Racquets.

### **Welfare Trust (Cllr Champken-Woods)**

There has been a meeting of the Welfare Trust in July and one award was made but due to the circumstance this must remain confidential.