

## Policy & Resources Committee

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**Date:** 12 February 2019  
**Title:** Reports - External Organisations

### Thame Barns Centre (Cllr Dodds)

Nothing further to report as at 11 February 2019.

### Citizens Advice (Cllr Austin)

Nothing further to report since Jon Bright's presentation to Council late last year, when the key issues were covered, including the number of clients using the Thame Advice Centre. The CA is very grateful for the Town Council's continuing support which is very important to them.

### Health Hub (including Community Hub Pilot) (Cllr Champken-Woods)

#### Health Hub

Still moving slowly forward. Important news is that Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT) have appointed a Joint Estates Lead which should enable more communication between the Parties which is good.

#### Community Health Hub (BHT)

This is moved from Pilot Status to Development status. The Pulmonary Clinic has been able to open for another day saving patients going to Stoke or Wycombe Hospital, Chemo therapy is going very well in Marlow and they hope to extend this to Thame in Conjunction with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

### NALC (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk continues to circulate the weekly NALC Bulletin, and regular OALC and SLCC newsletters, so Councillors are already aware of all current NALC campaigns and activities. It is good to note that the Local Government Finance Settlement 2019/20 has not constrained parish precepts.

The Town Clerk will be attending the NALC Spring Conference on Monday 11 February 2019 and will no doubt circulate his notes afterwards.

We are not currently aware of any issues specifically relevant to Thame Town Council.

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

#### The provision offered by the Centre

There are two bases for activities, the main centre in Southern Road, Thame and the satellite centre in rooms at Chinnor Library. Through these bases the centre offers a full programme of universal (open to all parents of under 5s) activities each week and they are also used fully by NHS midwives, health visitors and speech and language therapists. This partnership with health professionals provides a 'one-stop shop' of advice, support and activities for all parents with pre-school children from birth to 4yrs old. The centre staff continue to work closely with Oxfordshire Early Help support team and children's services and the centre is often hired by social services for contact meetings and other case review meetings.

The two major challenges facing the Centre

The trustees and Family Centre Leader acknowledge that the future sustainability of the Family Centre is dependent on two key factors:

1. **The local community recognising the positive impact that the work of the centre is having on the lives of all parents and pre-school children in our area.**
2. **Attracting the funding needed to manage the running of the centres in Thame and Chinnor and having effective plans in place to achieve this.**

This report aims to address these two challenges.

The impact of the Red Kite Family Centre

Measuring impact is an imprecise science for a service such as that offered by the centre but there are some key indicators that we can use. These are:

- The number of families registered and engaged with centre activities as a proportion of the total eligible population.
- Feedback on the quality of services offered.
- Plans for future expansion of provision.

Registrations

The total number of children currently registered is 1651. This number includes those registered with the former children's centre. The total number of 0-4yr olds in Thame and Chinnor according to ONS (Office for National Statistics) data is about 1100. The above figure will include some children that have now started school and also some that are from Buckinghamshire.

For the year April 2017 – March 2018 there were:

158 new registrations in Thame  
 31 new registrations in Chinnor.  
 47 out of county new registrations

From April 2018 to November 2018 there were:

77 new registrations in Thame  
 28 new registrations in Chinnor  
 15 out of county new registrations

Any parent who has visited the centre at least once can register themselves and in practice most attend many more times than this as is demonstrated below.

With new housing development in both Thame and Chinnor it is thought that the total number of under 5yr olds has increased significantly since the last ONS data was collected. Given the level of demand for registration and the limited capacity of our centre premises the trustees have decided not to accept any further registrations from out of county. (N.B. Buckinghamshire do currently still have children's centres although we know their future is under review.)

**We are confident that these registration figures demonstrate that between 85% and 95% of eligible parents have registered with our centre.**

Community Engagement events are a very important way for us to raise the awareness of everyone in our community about the work of the centre. The monthly breakfast clubs for dads and male carers have proved very popular and 24 young parents have engaged with the lunchtime cooking club for them and their children.

### Conclusion

We hope that this report demonstrates the invaluable service that the Family Centre is offering to the growing number of families with young children in Thame and how proactive the trustees are being in ensuring that the Family Centre has a sustainable future. We are extremely grateful for the on-going commitment of the Town Council to give financial support. Whilst we are working hard to secure funding from a wide range of sources, including the local business community, the council's support is seen as a vital element in helping us to build a sustainable model of operation.

John Hulett, Chair of Trustees, February 2019

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

Two recent meetings of the Business Forum have taken us to new venues. In early December we were privileged to visit the new DAF HQ at Haddenham, and our meeting last week took us to the BOC plant in Thame.

The December meeting in particular was very well attended and discussion on a range of issues was lively, even venturing to introduce Brexit to the agenda. Nothing political but understanding the concerns of local business, the plans they are making, and any opportunities for mutual support and cooperation.

It was also decided at last week's meeting to shelve the Open Doors event for the foreseeable future, as insufficient numbers were willing to commit either to exhibiting or to providing operational support. Hopefully there will be an appetite to resurrect Open Doors at a future date.

Good news is that two Thame companies, Windles and Sylo Associates, have been shortlisted for the South & Vale Business Awards.

### **Thame & District Day Centre (Cllr Midwinter & Cllr Champken-Woods)**

As reported at CLR as part of the Cricket Club update, things are moving ahead. The builders are now in building the Office for the Manager. All the required equipment apart from a couple of minor items have either been delivered or will be in the next couple of weeks. Everything is on track for a move to operational at the beginning of March.

I am pleased to say that The Day Centre has been able to secure grants to cover both the equipment and the office building costs.

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

Nothing further to report as at 11 February 2019.

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

We have one application in that has been approved from last year, this will be progressed after April when the weather has improved.

We will only install stones between April and October to minimise the impact of the weather.

We will also have Surman and Horwood enamel all the existing engravings to improve legibility.

The criteria for inclusion is detailed on the Thame Youth Memorial website and provided directly to anyone that asks for inclusion, as part of the application form.

We will arrange a steam clean in the spring to bring everything back to the best possible standard and will be trialing protective treatments after that.

### **Thame Youth Projects Group (Cllr Fickling)**

The Committee were very pleased and thankful that Thame Town Council agreed to provide a grant of £15,000.00 for 3 years at the last meeting. There has not been a committee meeting since then.

The Youth cafes are having a good term with approx. 60 young people attending the years 7-9 cafe on a Wednesday and around 10-12 young people attending the years 10-11s on a Tuesday. A former Youth Cafe attender now volunteers with the young Youth Cafe.

Activities include tile painting, table tennis, computer games, table top games, pizza making Graffiti wall are popular.

Volunteers to help at the cafe are always welcome if any Councillors or Town Hall staff would like to do so.

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

Extract of Minutes from meeting on 9th January 2019 - 12pm at Racquets.

1. **Website:** Becky has a meeting on Tuesday 15 January with Andre happy for him to suggest a website layout. Need to confirm the time frame in which he can turn this around, would like it completed within a 2-3 month period. Confirmed Sonja has the 21st Century Thame Twitter feed and she has shared it with Becky. Will revisit the subject of social media on the website once it is up and running.
2. **Green Living Plan update:** The RSA is compiling the data from the consultation. No results have been published yet, but all respondents have been acknowledged. The Local Plan is out for consultation, it's on the SODC website, available in the Town Hall. There will be a stall on the market and may be in the Library.
3. **Thame Equipment Bank:** Peter Harris has installed new racking in the container, making for easier access and tidier storage, he still has some more to install. He has also gone through all the chairs, there are now 94 available to hire. **Great job Peter!!** Helena had an issue printing off the booking form prior to the collection of the items she had rented. She suggested that the website needed some adjustments. Sue told us that the forms are rarely used and that in the future a paperless system might work better.
4. **Thame Carnival:** The first Thame Carnival meeting will be on Wednesday 30 January at 7.30pm at Racquets. We need more volunteers. The theme this year is "Save our Planet" and the suggested charities are the Red Kite Family Centre and Thame Youth Projects. ACTION: Sharon to place an event on Love Thame and the Carnival Facebook pages then share out to the wider social media pages to get more volunteers.
5. **Taste of Thame:** Proposed date 25 May 2019. Becky has a meeting on Thursday 10 January to get a plan of action. 21st Century Thame supported event. £400 received from funding bid. An event that has a "food trail" to encourage people to go into shops for tastings.
6. **Thame Tidy:** Date 30 March 2019 - 10am - 4pm ACTION: Sharon to send out the date on Mailchimp full list.
7. **Leaflets:** Map of Thame expanded to A2 to find a distribution route for leaflets. Becky has the costs for leaflet distribution. A "Thame leaflet" is being distributed to 8,000 households and B&B's to promote Thame amenities to visitors. Can we add a 21st Century Thame advert onto

it? Historic walking trails leaflets are more available closer to Thame rather than a more generic leaflet. Lin has spoken to a number of Thame shops who are interested in stocking the walking trails information. The electronic walking trails are going to be "gifted" to the Thame Museum for them to market as well as the "Global Treasure App" needs to be renewed as our free trail has expired, wasn't promoted as the Witches' Ball hasn't been outside Parkers due to the refurbishment of the building. The "Trail Tail" is free. Becky has passed these details to Lin to help marketing the trail. Stock of stands at the museum, so we don't have to buy any. Lin to ask the Margaret at the Museum if we can use their spare ones and where the stand are. Helen Johns also has a list for the Midsomer leaflets, which she updates. Needs a better distribution team to get all the leaflets out to businesses in a more efficient way.

8. **Presentation Evening** – To be arranged for when the website is up and running. Leaflet for the new houses. Have the people who have been supported by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Thame to stand up and do 5 minutes. Really need more volunteers for specific jobs etc. **Action:** Discuss at next 21st C meeting.
9. **Cows:** The responsibility for the cows has been returned to 21st Century Thame. The artist would like one, offer him the Market House one which requires some work. Place the one from the AGA shop at Market House instead. Jackie Nichols would like one for an art project for John Hampden School, offer her the one outside the Falcon. **ACTION:** Lin and Becky to co-ordinate.

Date of next meeting – Thursday 28th February 2019 – 12 noon - Racquets.

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

Unfortunately I was not able to stay for the whole meeting this week but various small grants were made and a grant of £10,000 to Thame & District Day Centre for the Office build.