

**Policy & Resources Committee**

---

**Date:** 30 July 2019  
**Title:** Reports - External Organisations

**Thame Barns Centre** (Cllrs Deacock & Dodds)

The AGM will take place on 15 August 2019.

**Citizens Advice** (Cllr Austin)

The two main issues for Citizens Advice at the moment are:

- To recruit more volunteers as advisers, receptionists, admin support, IT support. This is in response to increasing demand from local people and the increasing complexity of the workload. Anything the Town Council can do to publicise this need, the better.
- To raise more income from major donors in South Oxfordshire. We are about to start a campaign on this in September.

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

The Health Hub is slowly progressing with both CCG's on board but Buckinghamshire CCG seems more engaged than Oxfordshire. But the both recognise that it needs to happen. It is planned to have a further meeting in September

**NALC** (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk attended the OALC AGM earlier this month, on which he has already reported separately, and he 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. We are not currently aware of any issues specifically relevant to Thame Town Council.

**Red Kite Family Centre** (Cllr Emery)

Brief historical context Following the decision of Oxfordshire County Council to cut funding to the majority of its locality-based children's centres and to concentrate its statutory services in a few regional hubs, it was decided to establish a local community run charity to continue the work of our local children's centre. The Red Kite Family Centre charity was set up in January 2017, trustees were appointed, and the centre opened with its new leader and staff team in place in April 2017. Since then it has been operating very successfully and this report highlights its main achievements and the value it brings to all families with young children in our area.

Trustees John Hulett (chair) Rosie Pearce Sarah Roberts Mary Stiles Katie English\* Lottie Curry\*

\*The original trustees were appointed when the charity was established. The two people marked with an asterisk joined the trustees in October 2018. Both are currently also parent users of the centre facilities and programme.

Staff Team Amy Spicer – Family Centre Leader Catherine Myles – Early Years Family Worker Helen Burton – Early Years Family Worker Assistant Julie Tattersfield - Early Years Family Worker Assistant Sarah Bradford – Family Centre Administrator

All these posts are part-time and the Early Years Family Worker and Assistants work largely during the school terms. A part-time cleaner is also employed.

Update on services from February – July 2019 and planned services for Autumn 2019

Feedback:

The staff use a 'self-appraisal' wheel to collect parent feedback and data on the specific services run by the centre each term. The wheel demonstrates the impact of the sessions for families as reported by the families themselves. The evaluation asks the families to scale rate outcomes before and after using the centre. As an example they are asked to rate:

- confidence to communicate and socialise with others in my local community - feeling that their child's development is being stimulated and positively challenged and - confidence to ask for support and guidance from the staff.

This term 97% of parents reported a positive impact for their family as a result of using the centre services.

One parent said: "My son and I had a wonderful, life changing experience. Thank you for arranging our pick up and drop off for the last two years, we appreciate all the support and care you have provided us in the Red Kite Centre"

Another said: "Before finding the centre I felt quite isolated and overwhelmed as a first time Mum but now after 2 children I feel confident and a part of the community. Best children's group in Thame!"

An online survey monkey will be published this week (end of summer term) to gain further community feedback on the current centre services and how the local families and partners would like to see them developed.

Services from February to July 2019

Alongside our usual busy activity table we have also been delivering various outreach projects within the Thame community.

Thame Museum

Red Kite have met with Thame Museum to work in partnership to deliver sessions to under 5's. The Museum visited Red Kite 'Stay and Play' with a wonderful array of dressing up costumes so children could see what the museum have to offer. Red Kite staff then visited the museum to deliver a story session to children and volunteers to support the ongoing story sessions being run by the museum. Later in the summer Thame Museum joined us for Thame Play day to continue to engage young children in the Thame community.

Starting from a story

Our popular starting from a story sessions have continued to visit the local pre-schools each month so we can continue to build community links share good practice.

Thame Day care Centre

Red Kite have made some magical visits to the Day Care Centre this term. Sessions have included silhouette cutting, paper aeroplanes, making birdboxes and a singing session with starlight theatre. It has been such a special opportunity to watch the elderly build relationships with the Red Kite Family. The sessions will continue monthly after the summer holidays.

### Thame Play Day

An estimated 500 adults and children visited us for a day of 'free play' on Southern Road recreation ground on July 20th. Local organisations had a chance to showcase their businesses and meet families in the community whilst children enjoyed an array of activities including giant bubbles, soft play, zorbing, bouncy castles and having their hair and nails painted! An enormous thank you to Thame Town Council for their support with the event – another successful year!

### Abingdon and Witney College

Red Kite have partnered with Abingdon and Witney College this term to deliver community led learning. Courses have included Makaton sign language for volunteers, HENRY (a parenting course for health and nutrition in the family environment) and 'FitMums' for new parents returning to exercise. Red Kite were awarded the 'most successful new project' award and one of our parents was awarded 'student of the year award' at Blenheim Palace.

### Summer Holidays

Summer can be a long period for young families. During summer we will again run our Summer holiday club for children aged 3-5 this allows working parents to find childcare for young children but also funds vulnerable families to have places who could not otherwise afford to access such schemes. The Red Kite have also linked up with Chinnor Community Church to deliver 2 summer sessions, a messy play and a teddy bears picnic. We also have lots planned for next term!

### Autumn Term

Our Autumn Programme is now published and we look forward to hearing how some of our children get on at school and welcoming lots of new faces into the centre.

During the last 6 months Red Kite have been working in partnership with Thame Town Council to integrate further into the community and join up services providing activities and opportunities to the under 5's. Becky Reid has been supporting the centre to develop 'Children's Cinema' and following a tremendous positive response from a community survey there are 3 pilot dates planned for Children's Cinema in the Autumn. The project is also supported by Thame Player and Thame Cinema for All.

### Outreach roadshow

We want to engage more of the community in the services we run and we are aware that lots of new families moving to Thame may not know where we are. We plan to run an 'outreach roadshow' in the new housing developments starting in Autumn so families can meet the team and have a taste of Red Kite sessions on their doorstep. More to come!

### Parenting

Red Kite will be delivering a parenting course in Chinnor starting on September 30th.

### Data

We will be analysing the numerical attendance data from all 3 terms over the summer alongside the results of the service user survey monkey and we look forward to sharing this with Thame Town Council in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Thame Town Council for your ongoing support and commitment to deliver our vital services to the families in our community. Both they and we are truly grateful.

Report compiled by Amy Spicer, Red Kite Family Centre

**Thame Business Forum (Cllr Dyer)**

The Business Forum met last week, hosted at the new Cricket Pavilion and which brought the highest turnout for some time, including a few new faces. David Bretherton gave a short presentation to explain the changes in administration at SODC and, as always, planning matters made up a significant part of the meeting. The Forum welcomed the outline planning approval for new employment space and the fact that this will include starter units, and that local businesses needing to expand will receive priority.

Mike also outlined the Business Forum Waste Initiative, which will seek to explore opportunities for businesses to cooperate in waste disposal and recycling initiatives. The aim is to encourage best practice in waste management whilst also reducing disposal and collection costs and maximising the potential revenues from recyclable materials. A number of the businesses present agreed to share details of their current waste arrangements and contracts.

Further scheduled meetings are in September, hosted at Thame Museum, and in early December at Kubota's offices.

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

The move to Thame Town Cricket Pavilion is proving to be a great success with our Clients. We have had difficulties with some pieces of equipment which has been caused by the new location positions but it is in hand and steps have been taken to alleviate the problems. We have a small waiting list of people who would like to attend so the Day Centre is serving a much needed service in our community.

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

Nothing as at 29.7.19.

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

Nothing as at 29.7.19.

**Thame Youth Projects Group (Cllr Tipping)**

Nothing as at 29.7.19.

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

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

Nothing as at 29.7.19.