

**Policy & Resources Committee**

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**Title:** Report - External Organisations**Date:** 18 April 2023**a) Barns Centre** (Cllrs Deacock and Dodds)

*Nothing received at 12/04/2023*

**b) Citizens Advice** (Cllr Austin)

Citizens Advice continue to be busy; Tuesday is particularly popular with drop-in clients, and they are trying to increase capacity but recruiting and training new volunteers is particularly challenging.

**c) Health Hub** (Cllrs Champken-Woods and Richards)

Nothing to report.

**d) NALC** (Cllr Dyer)

The Town Clerk circulates the NALC Weekly Bulletin to all Councillors so nothing to add.

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

*Nothing received at 12/04/2023*

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

Another lively and well-attended meeting was hosted by Rhubarb Solutions in February, focussing (again) on employment space, where costs are high, quality poor, and availability critical. It was noted that at the time of the meeting there were no industrial premises available in Thame. Much of the discussion also concentrated on the lack of flexible purpose-built space as starter units for smaller businesses.

A tangential discussion highlighted the need for more hotel accommodation in or near to Thame. Local businesses, including some that run training schools, regularly find themselves accommodating visitors many miles out of Thame at cost and inconvenience to them and at a loss to Thame's night-time economy. A survey is being prepared in an effort to quantify demand with a strong evidence base.

The next meeting, to be held at Kubota on 25th April, will feature a presentation and discussion on employment trends and recruitment strategies.

**g) Thame Senior Friendship Centre** (Cllr Midwinter)

Nothing to report since the previous report.

**h) Thame Youth Memorial Trust** (Cllr Dyer)

A trustee's meeting was held on 13th March. Decisions were made to move the bank account from HSBC to a Metro Bank Community account, and to commence work on refreshing the TYM website. The major topic, however, was maintenance. The existing paving has proven a constant challenge due to the level of care required to maintain a suitable environment for safe use, and so

the Trust are now sampling options and inviting quotations for fairly major works to replace the paving with a more suitable anti-slip porcelain material. It is anticipated that this will be at significant cost, requiring further work on fund-raising and grant applications.

**i) Thame Youth Projects Group** (Cllr Bretherton)

*Nothing received at 12/04/2023*

**j) 21st Century Thame** (Cllr Fickling)

*Nothing received at 12/04/2023*

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

Nothing to report.