

## Social Infrastructure: Task Group Report

27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

### School provision

Hampshire County Council (HCC) have advised that, given the housing predictions contained in New Milton's Neighbourhood Plan, no further education capacity is expected to be required.

The Infant and Primary Schools in New Milton were reviewed by the Task Group and it is considered, that both Ashley and New Milton locations are at, or near to, capacity.

Parking and drop off at both Ashley Primary and New Milton Junior Schools are difficult – especially at New Milton as this causes disruption in Lymington Road. Ashley does have some parking by using the Rugby Club and High Ridge Crescent. To alleviate parking, drop off issues and reduce congestion, safe walking and cycling to schools is to be encouraged. This is proposed by: access to the Greenway, walking together incentives, potentially park and ride, and parking penalties.

Regarding Senior Schools, it is considered that Arnewood still has some capacity.

**New Milton Town Council is consulting with the Strategic team of the Children's Services Department at HCC to discuss the local situation in more detail and to identify potential locations for school services, for when the need arises.**

### Health Service provision

The health challenges over the next few decades include living with frailty, poor mental health including dementia, long term illness and disability - all in the context of social isolation and loneliness. This is exacerbated in the New Milton parish with a higher than average percentage of elderly people.

Advice from Dr Nigel Watson, GP at the Arnewood Practice Milton Medical Centre and Chief Executive of Wessex Local Medical Committees, is that there are two issues in terms of provision of health care locally: The ability to recruit additional GPs and Nurses; and having insufficient facilities.

Dr Watson stated: *"Given the housing predictions in New Milton's Neighbourhood Plan, we should be planning for growth of 2,000-4,000 over the next 10-20 years, which would require an additional 3-4 GPs and similar number of nurses."*

He went on to say: *"I believe local practices have managed to recruit recently despite the national picture and will continue to do so, especially if the three local practices continue to work together and collaborate. The main issue therefore is premises and I believe the current capacity is insufficient and there needs to be a new healthcare facility built in New Milton as part of the plan."*

Advice from Amanda Glenn, Locality Manager for West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group (WHCCG) concurs with this advice. The WHCCG Operating Plan for 2017/18-2018-2019 includes the requirement to explore potential opportunities to support the provision of modern, fit for purpose premises in New Milton to ensure Care closer to home. Various approaches are being evaluated including extension of existing New Milton practices, focusing specialisms in each practice, and approaching emergency care location requirements differently to day-care needs.

To conclude: Local practices have managed to recruit recently despite a national shortage of GPs, and it is therefore anticipated that New Milton will be able to do so, especially with continued collaboration between New Milton's three local practices.

**The focus, for the Neighbourhood Plan, is therefore on enabling provision of additional healthcare facilities, encouraging activities to keep mind and body active as well as promoting community and social activities.**

- The site identified in the Town Centre opportunity map as a Health and Wellbeing Centre is suitable for expansion to increase GP facilities as well as provision of assessments and activities that promote wellbeing.
- Town Centre regeneration that creates an Environmentally Enhanced Area would encourage more walking and cycling in and around the town centre as well as increase social interaction and community activities.
- The creation of a Cultural/Arts Hub linked to the Recreation Ground would encourage greater social interaction and community activity.

## **Youth Centre**

A dedicated facility is needed for young people and this is proposed on the Gore Road site.

## **Leisure facilities**

The Neighbourhood Plan consultation in October 2016 identified a need for more leisure facilities in the town – see Section 4. Much of this could potentially be provided with the Cultural/Arts Hub.

Additionally, there is a great need for more restaurants and pubs as well and recreational places to go in the evening.

## **Transport**

There is inadequate bus service within the town, with the result of a reliance in cars. For the older age groups, there are limited affordable options for transport for when driving is no longer a practical option – thus impacting social interaction; as well as practical needs such as health appointments.

An improved evening bus service would also benefit social interaction.