

Community Bank (Credit Union)

The Credit Union has had a successful start on 12th January and had five new members in the 1st four weeks. A number of shops and businesses are now aware with some displaying flyers. The Library and some local Churches have also been kind enough to display a flyer. Need of building momentum mainly by word of mouth, social media and then see this spread to other areas. For extra flyers pop in on a Tuesday from 10-12.

The Credit Union recently gave a presentation to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the District I was also present.

“Clean for the Queen”

I was invited to Applemore School to speak to their Eco group along with an officer from NFDC and HCC as the District's Litter Champion. Keep Britain Tidy in their 1st UK Newsletter of the campaign wrote a short article giving me the Title of “Hampshire Litter Hero”!!

For the Parish - Four start/finish venues have been arranged in areas that need a tidy up. For further details please ring me on 02381 781 395.

New Forest Business Partnership – See Outside Bodies Report

Update on Netley View Estate

Fencing work continues and the 3rd of three new car park areas will soon be underway. The District, in making the Estate their Improvement Estate of the Year, has made a significant difference in an area of the Parish that had been needing this for many years. Their investment of over £300,000 is noticeable.

The bulbs planted by the Parish are now showing through. A few problems have arisen with older Youths in the new play area (which was installed and opened just before Christmas). Joint working between the CCTV operators and our own Community Officers will hopefully improve this situation.

Pleased to report the Local Residents group has been adding more numbers to their ranks and recently put together their second Newsletter which they distributed to all homes on Netley View.

Residents' Concerns and issues -

A steady stream of enquiries continues.

District Responsibilities

I am part of the Member Development Board which has met to discuss other training for Councillors (and will be in the future). Previously I led and spoke at a Members' Training session when I was a Manager in Local Government.

Being on the Planning Committee continues to involve a lot of correspondence and reading - 170 pages in January and 120 for February. We have also had a day discussing Policies this month.

The Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Panel had a presentation from HCC Officers responsible for the Waste Recycling Centres. We eagerly await the consultation document which is due in March so we can all make our strong views known about retaining these services in the New Forest. We were also clearly told no decision is imminent.

During February I have also attended Chairmanship Training along with other Councillors.

I also attended the Day of Caring at Exxon along with other Local Councillors. To personally congratulate all those present who took part and see their enthusiasm to do it again was inspirational and a credit to Exxon.

Cllr Peter Armstrong – Outside Body Report for February 2016 Parish Meeting.

New Forest Business Partnership

Since being elected last November to represent Hythe and Dibden Parish I have attended my 1st meeting of the New Forest Business Partnership (NFBP) on 14th January.

The New Forest has more businesses than either Southampton or Portsmouth (albeit it a lot are small). Members of the Board represent a range of backgrounds/businesses/organisations across the New Forest. The majority of administration is done by the District Council. Further information/website - www.nfbp.org.uk/about/

Part of the Business unit at the District deals with Brand New Forest. Website – www.brandnewforest.com

We already have another six businesses signed up in Hythe Town Centre to this scheme with others showing a keen interest. This is something all local business can join for FREE (and local tradespeople) and will further promote Hythe as a destination.

I have spent time with District Officers and our Parish Development Officer in helping to create some “joined up thinking” with the new market/ local businesses and NFBP/BNF. We are also looking at events to benefit and equip local businesses. There will be more to come on this.

One other benefit for the Local Parish by being on the Board of the NFBP has been getting invited to the Totton Education Forum with the new owners (NACRO) of Totton College. Two meetings have already taken place along with other invited representatives. We have had discussions on a number of subjects. The new owners are keen to work with local communities and create a College of Excellence which will benefit the local area.