

**JAMES BINNS**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

### **Project With Sports England**

- I am today participating in a project the Council is undertaking in conjunction with Sport England and the Chief Culture and Leisure Officers Association to further the links between the health sector and leisure. This involves building on our existing contacts and increasing awareness between the sectors. In this way we can help more people become more active. The intention is to produce the findings and an action plan by the end of the municipal year.

### **Table Tennis**

- Members of the Panel may recall the presentation on table tennis at the last panel meeting. It is pleasing to report the "Never Too Old for Ping Pong Gold"! Took place on the 3rd October 2015 with more than 100 participants over the age of 65 taking part. The oldest player at the tournament was 95 year old Mrs Rita Tanner from the Waterside representing the New Forest, competing for the second time

The tournament was organised by Waterside Table Tennis Club, which was named the second best table tennis club in England by Table Tennis England. Table Tennis England also made the Club's Chairman and Development officer Colin French 'Volunteer of the Year 2015' Finally, New Forest has applied for, and been successful in, an application to be an England Table Tennis Priority Zone

### **New Forest Dementia Forum**

- New Forest Dementia autumn/winter newsletter has been printed and will be distributed to libraries, NFDC Information Offices, Parish/Town councils, community pharmacies and GPs. Our dementia groups across the New Forest have folded due to the cut in funding from Hampshire County Council, however, working with our partners through the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Board, and other voluntary organisations, the Health and Leisure Department at NFDC are trying very hard to try and get these up and running again. They provide an invaluable service for those suffering with dementia, and also give respite to the carers of sufferers, usually a family member. My department will do what we can to try and get these going again.

### **New Forest Health and Wellbeing Board**

- New Forest health and wellbeing action plan currently being refreshed following workshop on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Priority areas will continue to be Starting well, Living Well, Ageing well and healthy communities. There will be emphasis on mental health due to increasing cases of dementia in the New Forest, but also focus will be given to mental health.

### **Waterside Cancer Centre**

- Waterside Cancer Support Centre has asked me to convey their thanks to the Parish for all of the Council's hard effort and partnership working with the organisation. The organisation recently held its fifth birthday celebrations and was very busy, showing the centres popularity within our community, but why its essential service is so important for our residents.

### **Wheelchair Rugby**

- I would like to pay tribute to Jamie Burton from NFDC who, through partnership working with collaboration, managed to set up a wheelchair rugby team based at Totton Leisure Centre. The only cost to the Council was time, and so we are grateful to our partners for providing equipment, such as the wheelchairs, free of use. I am reliably informed that members of this team came from across the Waterside, including Hythe, and have been very popular. Members from this team and subsequently trying out for the 2016 Paralympics in Rio.

### **NFDC Corporate Plan**

- The new corporate plan is making its way through all of the overview panels within the Council and will soon be presented at a meeting of Full Council for final approval. The key themes are 'our place', 'our priorities', and 'our plan'.

### **Child Poverty Task and Finish Group**

- Councillor Kate Crisell had hoped to report back herself but owing to her being ill she has asked me. The task and finish group has conducted its report and has fundamentally concluded that transport is one of the biggest issues when it comes to the prevention of child poverty. The report suggests that a lack of service provision is not the issue, however, getting to this provision where residents can receive friendly advice and guidance is a key contributing factor to child poverty. NFDC will subsequently be looking at our investment in community transport and a review of that investment would be timely to understand its impact. This is such a large area of work that although the task and finish group have concluded, a new group of councillors has been set up via the Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel charged with continuing to monitor and look at this issue.