

November 2015

Councillor Peter Armstrong

1. Community Bank (Credit Union)

Since the beginning of 2015 I have been in talks with a Credit Union to have a presence in Hythe and Dibden. Once elected as Parish and District Councillor the scope has grown and I have been in regular meetings with a Head of Department at NFDC and the Credit Union to facilitate this across the District.

In January 2016 we plan to start in Hythe. It has the potential to then spread across the New Forest District area. This exciting development will give local residents an established not for profit organisation which is regulated by the Bank of England. It will enable residents to save and give an opportunity not to rely on loans from high cost lenders. Some financial budgeting advice will be part of this and ability to have "jam jar" accounts.

This is an agenda item where I will be briefing the Parish with more details and answer any questions. For anyone who cannot attend they are welcome to contact me.

2. "Clean for the Queen"

As most of my Parish colleagues will know I have been litter picking my local estate most weeks for the last 3½ years and organised a Spring Clean in March 2015.

When I found out about the initiative that Keep Britain Tidy is planning across the UK, I initiated/shared this at District. The title "Clean for the Queen" relates to the Queen's 90th Birthday next year.

As a result of initiating/sharing this both the District and the National Park are on Board for Spring 2016. All Parishes and Town Councils are being invited to also take up the Challenge in their respective areas.

More information will be forthcoming and an agenda item is being planned for the December Parish Meeting.

Another Initiative Underway

Liaising with the Department of Work & Pensions regarding Skills Training within the Parish.

Update on Netley View Estate

Fencing work continues and the 1st of three new car park areas is underway. The District Council has agreed to a planting scheme with Trees and Shrubs around the estate. One interesting aspect is the plan to plant some specimen trees at the front of the estate related to the names of some of the roads – i.e. Beech, Cedar, Elm (disease free variety), Maple.

Big thanks to the Parish maintenance team for planting bulbs at the front of the estate ready for next spring.

Residents' Concerns and issues

A steady stream of enquiries which has included problems with a couple of Housing Associations.