

# News flash

JANUARY 2020

Issue No 136



## THE NEW YEAR AND NEW DECADE ARE HERE

### What are your New Year Resolutions?

It is the time of year to consider your future personal plans, what improvements you might want to make in your life or what you want to do differently. Maybe this is the time to join one of our clubs that you have not tried before!

We were delighted to find that our player numbers at the first Eastleigh Hot Shots (basketball club) session in January were nearly doubled. This is a brilliant opportunity to get some exercise, improve your movement and co-ordination whilst having fun.



The sessions are held on alternate Saturdays, starting at 10.00am for an hour. All abilities are welcome and we love absolute beginners! Just wear loose clothes, trainers and

bring a water bottle and subs (£4). We guarantee a good time.

**Maria is now back at our Gardening Club!** On Saturday February 15 she will be hosting the Gardening Club Winter Meeting from 11.00 to 12.30 at Hilldene Community Centre.

If you think this is the year that you want to learn about gardening and growing your own food why not come along? This is their final Winter meeting before the season opens on site at the allotments on Saturday morning, March 14 at 10.00am



Information on all our clubs can be found at [www.ebrmencap.org.uk](http://www.ebrmencap.org.uk)

# **ORCHARD CLOSE RESPITE UNIT**

## **Another reprieve and another Consultation**

Following a previous public consultation on proposals to close one of the County Council's respite services, **Orchard Close**, the decision has now been made to continue to run the service, while at the same time looking at other ways to reduce the overall running costs of providing respite support for adults in Hampshire.

HCC are proposing two ways to do this. These are by:

- Reducing the number of beds at Orchard Close from 13 to 10. This would ensure that current users of the service would continue to have access to the respite support they need, while at the same time reducing the number of occasions that the respite beds were empty
- Opening up the County Council's three other adult respite services - Hindson House, Jacob's Lodge and Newcroft - for use by other local authorities and the NHS. While Hampshire County Council customers would be prioritised, any spare capacity would be used by key partner organisations, and we would charge them for the beds they use.

If adopted, these proposals could save the County Council an estimated £285,000 per year while enabling them to continue to operate a respite service at Orchard Close, as well as at Hindson House, Jacob's Lodge and Newcroft.

## **The public consultation runs from Monday 16 Dec 2019 and closes at midnight on Sunday 9 Feb 2020.**

People can take part by completing the response form online at [www.hants.gov.uk/respites-consultation](http://www.hants.gov.uk/respites-consultation)

If you have any questions, please contact Lynne Sillince Tele: 01962 847267, or Email: [AS.Consultation@hants.gov.uk](mailto:AS.Consultation@hants.gov.uk)

Comment:

We hope that the responses to this Second Consultation will be transmitted to the Councillors who make decisions about the future of Orchard Close. Had it not been for the users of Orchard Close and their carers, making a Deputation to the Council (at the eleventh hour) when the decision to close was being voted upon, the Unit would certainly have been closed down. Councillors said that they were not aware of the arguments for keeping the Unit open, even though many people had taken the time to respond at length to the first consultation.

Many people are jaded by consultations and feel that those who design them, never read them nor take notice of what is said in them.

**Don't let that stop you having your say!**

Let us hope that this time the people who are called upon to make decisions about Orchard Close and its continued use by adults with

Learning Disabilities, will be fully informed about different opinions and options suggested.

The pressure group that succeeded in changing the Council's mind is to be transformed into a "Friends of Orchard Close" group. The unit's continued existence is largely due to the energy and pressure exerted by this group of people.

The operation of Orchard Close is included within the T21 Council savings plan, that means it is secure until the end of 2021.

## THE MAYOR'S APPEAL- UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 25** – Quiz & curry night at the Concorde Club, book through the Concorde Club £12 per person. Maximum of 6 people in a team. [www.theconcordeclub.com](http://www.theconcordeclub.com) Go to What's on, then Quiz nights, there is a "book tickets" button.

**March 21** - Spitfires Band Concert at the Dovetail Centre in Chandlers Ford- Tickets £8

**March 22** – Sunday Hendy Eastleigh 10K Road Race. We are looking for runners who can also raise sponsorship!

There are other events in the pipeline before the end of the Mayor's Term in mid May, more news to follow.

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## SOCIETY DIARY EVENTS

**February 15** – Gardening Club Winter Meet with Maria  
Saturday morning 11.00am - 12.30pm.

**May 23** Saturday – Flagship Art Club Annual Exhibition at Hilldene Community Centre. Community Open Art Competition!

**June 2** Tuesday – The Concorde Club Quiz and Curry night for our society. £12 per person. Book through the Concorde Club direct.

**June 13** Saturday - West End Carnival. Flagship Art Club and friends will be entering the Carnival again. If you wish to take part and join the club for this project in March, April and May, please leave a message at the office.

Give us a call if you have any queries. 023 8048 347, leave your name and tel number or send an email, address below



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