



GREAT NEWS!

Charity Survives against the odds

Dear Stakeholder

I am delighted to share with you some of the many strands of exciting news and developments from the charity that I chair, the Caterham Barracks Community Trust. It is no secret that over the past fifteen years as an organisation we, along with many other charities, have experienced some difficult times. There were certainly some agencies that doubted our capacity to survive.

This is no longer the case, although good news always takes longer to spread than bad news, and, dare I say, there are also people who are quicker to share bad news and criticism than news of a recovery. I have picked my moment to share the news with you very carefully. Things have been steadily improving for over two years but instinctively I didn't want to go public too early.

When set up, the articles of the charity required us to provide the following services in the widest sense to those who live, work or study in Caterham.

(Plain English version of the Articles)

1. To improve the conditions of life of people living, working or studying in the area by providing opportunities for recreation particularly for those with special needs
2. To improve the opportunities for education and training for children and adults.
3. To look after and improve the natural or built environment in the area including former Chapel at Caterham Barracks."

FRIDAY CLUB at the ARC



The charity as a legacy was given a number of buildings in 1999 at inception in order to deliver these services or find others to deliver the services. These buildings were in a poor state of repair and the charity had to take very significant loans to make them fit for purpose. There were also inadequate arrangements in place for the ongoing maintenance. This was a poor model as it created a debt and liability that was out of proportion with the capacity to generate income. It is a tribute to the long standing staff team and trustees that despite an extremely challenging history the charity has survived

those difficulties and is in a strong position to serve the community going forward.

Great News!

That is the first part and the most important news, that the charity has survived and will continue to serve the community as it was set up to do within a very much improved financial context. Tandridge Council demonstrated its confidence in the organisation by investing a sum of £300,000 in the form of a loan to allow us to remove the receivers that Linden Homes had brought in.

This clear statement of confidence in the charity was a vital step in getting the message out into the public domain that things were changing for the better. It resulted from several years of radical changes in operating policy. We have now streamlined all loans, many of which were at unfavourable rates due to the financial difficulties imposed by the legacy position, into one loan at a much better rate. So, while we are not clear of debt, we now have a manageable position which is in proportion with the capacity of the charity to generate income.



Great News!

In an average week we have a footfall through the Arc of 2,000 taking part in a diverse range of activities including art, dance, softplay, Friday Club for learning disabled adults and taikwondo as well as those who attend Zodiac Gymnastics. 15 businesses are accommodated in the Officers Mess serviced offices. Two private companies and a children's nursery are accommodated in the NAAFI building. 32 teams use the football pitches. A Children's Surestart Centre currently makes use of the Pavilion. This is a remarkable achievement for a charity that has had to overcome so many challenges and is celebrated by those it serves. There is also the capacity to offer more to the community.

Great News!

We have undertaken a public consultation to discern the vision for going forwards and I am excited to offer you the following preview of what is to come.

'Helping at the heart of the community'

- To become an enabler, facilitator and developer making best use of our assets
- To become a significant contributor to the health & wellbeing of Caterham in collaboration with stakeholders, partners and the NHS
- To identify and develop a range of needed facilities within the landholding of the Trust
- To further develop the status of CBCT as focus for activity

Great News!

If you have ideas about additional services that could be provided get in touch. We will be introducing regular opportunities for you to meet with us and discuss the service provision going forward. There are many opportunities for you to support the charity both as a user of the services or as a volunteer. Your efforts will be vital to the future success of what is your local charity. We have something very special here and are determined that through our efforts and your support it is recognised and valued by those it serves and will serve in the future. We have been consulted nationally and internationally about other projects that aspire to provide similar services. However, at the moment this is a unique charity and it is here to serve you.



Great News!

It is with considerable pride and excitement about the future that I invite you to back your charity.

Jeff Blyth

Chair CBCT

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