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AYLESHAM GARDEN VILLAGE NEWS

YOUR NEWSLETTER FOR THE WHOLE VILLAGE - OCTOBER 2020

OPEN FOR BUSINESS!



AYLESHAM WELFARE CENTRE IS BACK WITH NEW OPERATORS!

The Aylesham Welfare Leisure Centre (AWLC) is open once more and its new operators are looking forward to meeting you. The centre is now being run by Invicta Community and Leisure which is part of the West Faversham Community Association, a registered charity.

The centre is covid-secure and visitors are reminded to follow the health advice when using the facilities. Numbers will be restricted to adhere to government guidance. Here's what's currently on offer:

- The gym is open and has been given a fresh new look. You can take advantage of its longer opening times and take up contract-free gym membership for £25 a month. Please follow the link to the leisure centre website at www.ayleshamwlc.org to sign up and to book your induction which is mandatory for everyone signing up, including past members.
- The sports bar is serving hot food daily including hand stretched stone baked pizza. All are welcome. The bar's opening hours are from 12 noon to 10pm Monday to Saturday, and 12 noon to 6pm on Sundays. It's family friendly with children allowed until 8pm.
- The centre is open for coffee and cake every day from 10am, and we offer homemade cream teas on Monday and Tuesdays.
- Our popular youth club runs every Sunday from 6pm to 9pm
- Fitness classes and planned activities will follow shortly.
- Please feel free to pop in and have a look around!

James Browning, Chief Executive of West Faversham Community Association, said "It's been great to have had so much positive feedback on the new look of the centre, and support for the services we have already started to offer such as the youth club, and food parcels. We are very much looking forward to starting up new services in the future."



BECHANGE COMMUNITY HUB REOPENS ITS DOORS

Bechange Community Hub has re-opened its doors and the team is inviting people to attend their drop-in services and to keep an eye on their Facebook page as they begin to restart their community activities.

During the lockdown, the centre had to close to the public, and launched its food support project for those people who were unable to get out or to access food and basic supplies. They produced and delivered over 9,100 hot meals during the lockdown, with the help of local partners and volunteers. This service has now been reduced, as lockdown continues to adjust, but still delivers 135 meals a week to local residents who are in need of this support.

The Bechange team has been busy getting the Community Hub at Ackholt Road ready to meet Covid Safe standards. New signage, barriers, a one-way system, and hand sanitisers are all now in place to ensure anyone who visits can remain safe.

Angela Doggett, the Manager at Bechange said: "We are so pleased to be able to offer our drop-in support services again and these will be running every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning. If you can't make the drop-in service, then you can always arrange an appointment with one of our support workers.

"We really hope people remember that they can visit or call us if they are seeking support around finances, housing, benefits, employment and training, or family issues that they may be facing in these difficult times. We are here to help."

Bechange is one of the organisations that has benefitted from an award from the Dover District Council Summer Community Grants Scheme. DDC has allocated more than £30,000 to 31 different community and voluntary groups as part of the scheme, including a grant of £763 to Bechange. For more information on the grants, please see the DDC website at www.dover.gov.uk/news and see the Press Release on 'Council Steps Up Community Grants'.

Nicky Cox (left) and Angela Doggett (right) from Bechange are pictured above receiving a cheque from DDC Cabinet Member for Community, Cllr Nigel Collor.

For more information on Bechange, please see www.bechange.org.uk or see their Facebook page, or contact them on 01304 840134.

RENEW61 GROUP IS A FRIENDLY SPACE

*Enjoy the
Sensory Garden*



An antidote to the Monday morning blues, which offers a chance to socialise, try out new skills or enjoy a quiz, is one of the attractions of a friendly group, which meets at Aylesham's Baptist Church.

Renew61 is the name of the group facilitated by minister Laura Moncaster and anybody is welcome to drop by between 10am and 12noon every Monday. All precautions have been taken to make these sessions covid-secure.

The group has been meeting at the church – you do not have to be religious to come – for nearly three years. Originally known as Mental Health Fight Club, it took on its current name last year, there are usually a dozen to 15 regular attenders.

'It's OK not to be OK', is the group's philosophy. It's OK to sit, chat and enjoy a cuppa but it's also OK to do some art and craft, play a board game, answer quiz questions or try your hand at needle felting, creative writing or even bath bomb making. None of this is compulsory and if anybody wishes, there is a quiet room to hand as well for prayer and reflection.

Laura explained: "The group offers people a chance to get out of the house and meet in a safe space. We also have monthly drop-in services (first and third Mondays of the month) provided by Live Well Kent and the Shaw Trust who are able to offer advice on health and wellbeing, housing and help getting back into employment.

"Now that the church is being redecorated, we have more usable space so I'm hoping we can hold additional sessions here which could centre around supporting people who have depression.

"We have been lucky enough to be granted funding by the Coop's charity fund for our meetings and it has also sponsored our new sensory garden, beside the church."

If you would like further information about the group, please email Laura via laura.m15@hotmail.com or simply pop along to a group meeting on a Monday morning.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As lockdown measures continue to adjust, DDC continues to work with partners to help and support communities. For the latest information on Council services, please see www.dover.gov.uk

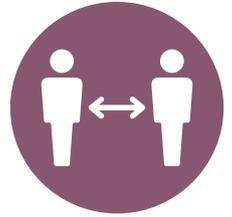
For the latest information on national guidelines, please see www.gov.uk/coronavirus - remember to wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



Wash your hands



Wear a face mask



Social distancing

An advertisement for the NHS COVID-19 app. The top part is a blue banner with white text: "Download the NHS COVID-19 app today". Below this, it says "The free NHS COVID-19 app is a vital part of the NHS Test and Trace service in England, and the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service." There are two buttons: "Download on the App Store" and "GET IT ON Google Play". Below the buttons, it says "Get help downloading the app." and "Public health emails and text messages are being sent from 26 September. Read more in our common questions." The bottom part of the advertisement is on a white background with black text: "Protect your loved ones. Download the app." followed by "The new NHS COVID-19 app, now available to download for free in England and Wales, is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community." and "The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in. It uses proven technology from Apple and Google, designed to protect every user's privacy."

The free NHS COVID-19 app has been launched as an important part of the NHS Test and Trace service. It is now available for download from Google Play and the Apple App Store.

The message from the NHS is the app is the fastest way to see if you're at risk from coronavirus, the faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community. The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing, local area alerts and venue check-in. It uses proven technology from Apple and Google, designed to protect every user's privacy. For more information, please see the GOV.UK website.

SPORT AND LEISURE FEASIBILITY STUDY



THE
SPORTS
CONSULTANCY

The Sports Consultancy has been commissioned by Dover District Council to undertake a feasibility study that will involve assessing and analysing both the leisure and community needs of Aylesham, and will include a business review of potential facility development at the Welfare Leisure Centre. There will be local engagement with community groups and representatives in Aylesham as part of the feasibility study.

As more new homes are built in the village, additional funding (£850,000) will be available shortly as a result of section 106 money required from the housing developers as part of the original planning approval.

This funding was required to provide a new sports hall and facilities at Aylesham and District Welfare Club, to create indoor sports hall space. This was to be paid by the developers once 771 new homes had been built and occupied. With this number now approaching, the feasibility study will ensure the proposed expenditure reflects changes in current and future need identified within the local community.

Separate proposals are currently being considered for a community hub building in Aylesham that has been put forward by a different community group, in partnership with the Parish Council.

The potential for the two developments to be co-located will be reviewed. This will identify whether there are opportunities for both to benefit from efficiencies in terms of capital development, management and operation.

In addition to the section 106 money linked to indoor facilities, there is funding still available (£142,947) for open space/sports facilities to be developed on the playing pitches at Aylesham Primary School and Ratling Road, to meet a community need that was identified in Dover District Council's playing fields pitch and outdoor sports facility strategy in Aylesham.

Finally, a further sum of £97,758, to be received when an additional 150 planned houses are built, has been proposed to help upgrade the 3G pitch at the leisure centre. These further sums of funding will also be considered during the study.

The results will be analysed by The Sports Consultancy and a proposed plan will be drawn up, in consultation with Dover District Council.



We all know we should eat more healthy food and do more exercise, but this can be challenging if where we live doesn't make it easy – cheap fast-food outlets, little access to fresh produce and lack of space can all make it harder. To make matters worse, there is also evidence that there's a link between weight and unemployment: often the longer a person is unemployed, the higher the rates of obesity. To tackle these problems in a holistic way, Dover District Council and Your Leisure Kent LTD are delighted to be working together to bring ASPIRE to the district.

ASPIRE – a 3-year project funded by the European Regional Development Fund – will be based at Bechange Community Hub and will encourage and help local people to access local healthy food and build up their job skills, increasing their employability and health and wellbeing. DDC, Your Leisure and Bechange will work with local people to create a growing, cooking, learning hub where other services, such as NHS One You and Wellbeing People, can help participants to achieve their goals.

Bechange manager Angela Doggett said: "Many people think healthy eating is unachievable on a budget, so the project will give participants skills and knowledge to grow and prepare fresh food to show this is possible.

"There will be opportunities to learn new skills and gain qualifications along the way – horticulture, bee-keeping, food preparation, food hygiene and woodworking among them.

"ASPIRE will also boost people's mental health and raise self-esteem so will make a real difference to those taking part, setting them on the road to a healthier lifestyle and employment."

Cllr MJ Holloway said: "ASPIRE promises to be an innovative scheme which will help many people across our district lead healthier lifestyles, learn new skills and find a way back into employment".

A group of villagers recently took part in a walk around part of Aylesham to review the local amenities and food outlets. The data from this walk will be fed into the project.

For more information about ASPIRE and for details about how you can get involved or take part, please contact: samantha.stanley@dovergov.uk or ian.barker@yourleisure.uk.com

STREET GAMES TAKEOVER

Street Games looks to encourage inactive young people (aged 14-19) to build regular activity habits by providing easy access to free exercise sessions.

The scheme encourages young people to help design these sessions that they can enjoy taking part in, and also focuses on tackling wider issues such as mental health, anti-social behaviour and social integration.

Weekly sessions will run in Aylesham with dates to be confirmed very soon. There will also be details of a brand-new satellite session focused especially on girls in the near future that will be launching alongside these existing sessions.

The original Street Games started in late 2019 and were proving to be popular in the district but were unfortunately disrupted by the pandemic. We are looking forward to re-introducing them and engaging with those young people who were already taking part as well as attracting some newcomers.



BUILDING BACK IN AYLESHAM



Boulevard Courrieres 'link road' street scene with Key Frontages



With just a brief pause during lockdown, construction of new homes is underway in earnest at Aylesham Garden Village.

The latest plans for the development of 250 new homes and associated infrastructure have been submitted to Dover District Council by Barratt Homes and Persimmon Homes. The plans will see new 105 new homes built either side of Abercrombie Gardens.

The principle of housing on these parcels of land was agreed by the Council in 2012 and successive outline permissions have renewed that commitment. The Council will consider the layout and design only in its assessment of the applications.

Abercrombie Gardens will continue to provide an important amenity space for the local community and will be maintained and improved. A planning application including landscaping works, paths and seating areas, has recently been approved.

A variety of designs reflecting the Aylesham house style, including distinctive hipped roofs, are planned. The majority of buildings will be two-storey, with some three-storey buildings at key points to frame the public realm.

In total, the development alongside the Abercrombie Gardens area will provide nine one-bed flats, 33 two-bed flats, 39 two-bed houses, 22 three-bed houses, and 2 four-bed houses. There will be 65 affordable properties.

New pedestrian links will connect the new homes with Market Place and Abercrombie Gardens East and West. Soft and hard landscaping will complement the development.

Fifty new affordable homes are proposed by Barratt Homes on land to the east of Cooting Road.

A further 97 new homes are proposed by Persimmon Homes on land abutting the new community woodland to the west of Ratling Road.

This part of the development will provide nine one-bed flats, 30 two-bed flats, 28 two-bed houses, 27 three-bed houses, and 3 four-bed houses. There will be 24 affordable properties.

The woodland area to the west of Ratling Road is to include native woodland, amenity grassland and wildflower planting, a highway drainage infiltration pond, and footpath connections. On the opposite side of Ratling Road are proposals for new allotments. Further detailed information for these areas is currently under consideration.

In addition to the above, an application for improving the existing Milner Park play area with improved equipment and enhanced landscaping is under consideration, and landscaping works and an informal play area has been approved by Dover District Council at Hill Crescent.

Development contributions continue to be collected from the developers to pay for infrastructure associated with the new development. These contributions will go towards schools, social care, and long-term maintenance of open space areas in Aylesham.

Details of the reserved matters planning applications can be viewed on the DDC website under planning references 20/01004, 20/01005, 20/00416 and 20/00879.

Aylesham Garden Village News

is produced by Dover District Council's Communications Team who can be contacted via pr@dover.gov.uk

Full information about the council and its services can be found online at www.dover.gov.uk

If you wish to report antisocial behaviour of any kind, please phone Kent Police on 101 and leave a voice message or call Dover District Council's Community Safety Unit on 01304 872220.

Fly-tipping and dog fouling issues can be reported to the district council via 01304 872289.

You can email civil enforcement officers via envcrime@dover.gov.uk