

Ward Update

<p>Apsley and Corner Hall</p>	<p>Residents have been enjoying utilising the local green spaces in the ward. In particular there has been increased use of Durrants Park, where Boxmoor Trust have a beautiful planter and some play equipment for residents to enjoy.</p> <p>It is a beautiful spot where you can sit by the canal and reflect, which is so good for mental well-being.</p> <p>It has been lovely to see a new park for children to enjoy opened by The Marina. It is wonderful to see children and parents enjoying some quality time together, keeping active.</p>
<p>Bennetts End</p>	<p>Bennetts End Overflow Car Park –</p> <p>The GP Surgery at Bennetts End continues to be a hub for social prescribing for GPs across Hemel Hempstead. The Surgery itself and the neighbouring Bennetts End Community Centre provide classes for patients prescribed physical activity as part of either their rehabilitation or as part of avoiding costly long term medical alternatives, such as medication.</p> <p>The Female only HealthyUgym on Kimps Way offers these classes and they are taken up by patients from across the area.</p> <p>Patients often park and are encouraged to park at Bennetts End Surgery as it is far better to leave the spaces at Bennetts Gate Shopping Centre free for shoppers.</p> <p>You will know that the Overflow Car Park is in a terrible state of disrepair. The Borough Council own the land and have estimated a long-term cost to repair the Car Park at £100k. However, a short-term solution is estimated at £25k. This issue currently sits with the Portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods, Cllr. Bromham who is also a Leverstock Green Councillor.</p> <p>I have suggested contributing a large percentage of the Bennetts End ward Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards the short-term Car Park fix to avoid more patients falling in that space over the coming Winter.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I do not have sufficient funds to cover the entire cost, nor should my ward CIL cover the cost as patients are sent from across Hemel Hempstead to social prescribing classes at Bennetts End Surgery.</p> <p>If we cannot find a reasonable solution, I will have to request that social prescribing is scaled back at Bennetts End because the Car Park is becoming dangerous. This would be a shame as this type of health care is universally seen as the way forward</p>

Gadebridge	<p>I would like to bring to the Health Committee's attention that the residents registered to Parkwood Drive Surgery, which mostly covers the areas of Warners End and Gadebridge, have been having a great deal of difficulty in accessing routine appointments at the surgery for a long time.</p> <p>Appointments were only being released on a fortnightly basis and if you missed the release you could end up waiting a month or more to make a routine appointment. In addition to this, patients are waiting an excessive amount of time in the queuing system for their calls to be answered. A 'Patients of Parkwood Drive' group has been set up by Tom Lainton who is the Admin of the Hemel Hempstead Community and Conversation group. I would like to know what help and support the committee can offer Tom and myself in liaising with the practice to find a solution to these issues.</p>