

The newsletter for the people of Marsh Farm

FUTURES NEWS

working for all the community

Spring 2014

Futures Cafe & Futures Fun Factory Re-Open For Business

Marsh Farm Futures took another step towards fulfilling its commitment to local provision. Futures Fun Factory & Futures Cafe based within Futures House re-opened on 1st February after short spell of closure.

The Cafe will be serving breakfast, lunch, hot and cold meals, teas and coffees throughout the day.

Opening times will be from 10.00am to around 4.00pm. The cafe aims to provide catering needs of local residents, businesses within the building and Fun Factory customers.

Futures Fun Factory also re-opened on the same day as the Cafe after refurbishment. It's a fun place for young children from the age of 0 to 14. This is a much loved place by young families and is open 7 days a week. The facility offers safe and secure

environment for children to run around and enjoy. Birthday parties and group bookings can be arranged at very competitive rates. There is an additional designated sensory area dedicated for children with special needs. It's definitely worth a visit.

www.futuresfunfactory.co.uk



Futures Cafe Customers Enjoying a Brunch



Fun Factory Staff waiting to Welcome you

A word from MFF Chief Executive



Cafe and the Futures Fun Factory from Active Luton and both of these ventures are now being run in-house by Marsh Farm Futures. If you have not tried the menu at Futures Cafe then I would personally recommend it, especially the cooked breakfast, it's delicious.

As 2014 gets underway we are working hard to increase lettings in the building and continue the provision of free services for the local residents and the community at large. We have also now taken the reins of the Futures

The Fun Factory is also well worth a visit if you have young children as it's had some new equipment for the very young and a full redecoration of the space at the end of January. We are looking to formally launch both of these

services in the near future, so hope some of you can join us.

Finally work is getting underway for the central area redevelopment and we are looking forward to the improvement in the infrastructure and housing in this part of Marsh Farm. We hope you find information in this newsletter helpful and look forward to working with many of you on these and other important initiatives in the year ahead.

M. Rafi
Marsh Farm Futures CEO

MFF Partner Services at Futures House

Service Provider	Type of Service	Time/ Day of the week	How to access the service
CAB Citizens Advice Bureau	FREE legal advice provided by CAB	9.30am – 12.30pm	By appointment only Call MFF team on Tel: 01582 512555
Well Springs & Job Centre Plus	Job Club - job search, applications, CV's and training opportunities.	Every Tuesday 9.30am – 11.30am all ages 12.00pm – 2.00pm 2.00pm – 5.00pm all ages	Call into Futures House front desk.
Enterprise Club MFF & WENTA	Business Networking, business advice and support to those running/starting own business	Last Wednesday of the month 9.30am – 11.00am	To book a place Call WENTA on Tel: 01582 433700
Job Centre Plus	Employment support, benefit advice, job searching Daily drop-in service	9.00am – 4.00pm Mon, Tue, Thu, Friday Wed 12.00 – 4.00pm	Call into Futures House front desk and contact JCP on ext. 115
BROOK Sexual Health Advice (Free advice to under 25's)	FREE <u>CONFIDENTIAL</u> advice, information, support, Contraception, pregnancy tests	3.00pm - 6.00pm Every Thursday	Call into Futures House front desk and contact Brook
LBC Customer Services	Council tax, Housing Benefit, Advice on Council services etc.	8.30am to 5.30pm Monday - Friday	Call into Futures House front desk.
Luton Cultural Services Trust	Community Support, Room Hire to community/self help groups, partners	Monday – Friday day & evenings	For more information please contact CDS Team on Tel: 548360
Councillors Roy Davis Don Worthing	Surgeries for residents to raise their issues with elected members	10.00am – 12.00am 1 st & 3 rd Saturday of each month	Call into Futures House front desk on surgery day.

Marsh Farm Futures will soon be recruiting - Front Desk Staff - Administion Officer
Application Pack & Further information will be available on our Website www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk.

Futures Business Voice launched

Over 40 diverse businesses attended the launch of Futures Business Voice event held on Wednesday 4th December. "The event was a resounding success" said Richard Cooper Chairman of the newly formed group. **Futures Business Voice** is set up as part of Marsh Farm Futures (MFF) initiatives to work closely with the Business Sector.

Ishaq Kazi, Programme Manager for MFF and the main organiser of the event said "it's the businesses that create jobs and run the economy and it is therefore crucial to support local businesses.

The key purpose of the Futures Business Voice is to inspire entrepreneurship, identify the business needs and solutions to support business growth and sustainability".

Futures Business Voice is sponsored and supported by a number of organisations including Luton Borough Council's Economic Development Team, NatWest Bank, Quality Solicitors Alexanders and business support agency WENTA.

Mohammed Rafi, MFF CEO commented, "The feedback received from delegates has been very encouraging and positive to set up the Business Voice. We have already secured membership interest from those present as well as those who were not able to attend. We are very pleased to have had a fabulous response".



In picture above Richard Cooper on the right, Chair of Futures Business Voice, Laura Church, Head of Business and Consumer Services and Mal Hussain from Economic Development team and other business participants below.



Local businesses including social businesses can apply to join Futures Business Voice

by contacting Ishaq Kazi on 015821 512555 or e-mail: ishaq@marshfarmfutures.co.uk.

FREE TO JOIN

GRANTS FOR GROWTH

Grants4Growth provides finance for growth, helping businesses invest in new technologies and equipment, creating and safeguarding jobs, improving their efficiency and reducing their carbon footprint. Grants4Growth Bedfordshire is being managed by the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), with Business Broker James Stancombe co-ordinating the local programme.

Grants4Growth is a free grants programme for small and medium sized businesses; it includes both capital and revenue grants. Capital grants are available for business wanting to:

- Invest in technology or processes that facilitate growth, improve resilience or create/safeguard jobs
- Put in place efficiency initiatives in the form of waste, water or energy efficiency, recovery or reduction
- Invest in technology and processes to reduce the environmental impact of operations.

Find out more by talking to Business Broker James Stancombe on 01234 436100, 07920 246813 or via email james@semlep.com. For more details about SEMLEP visit www.semlep.com



www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk



Marsh Farm Futures has now set up Futures Young Voice for Area North, this will help not just to address issues/concerns of young people but through talking with them, they will be able to advise us what projects are needed in the area.

Around 15 young people are now part of the group. "I have worked with them and supported them in submitting an application for funding to the Your Say Your Way event and they have been successful." Said Cathey McShane, Community

Involvement Manager.

Futures Young Voice met in January and formally agreed terms of reference and adopted Equalities statement. Futures Young Voice will now lead on various programmes for young people with the support of MFF and various other partners/agencies, these will include workshops, around Drug & Alcohol, Gangs & Knives, Motivation and Self Confidence, Employment and Training, as well as social drop in sessions and a Youth Surgery once a month to

coincide with the Cllr Surgeries, so that they can feed straight into the local Councillors or ask for advice should the need arise.

For further information and to get involved call Cathey McShane - Futures House - 01582 548 360



Joan Cartledge, Vice Chair and Ann Orr Volunteer - 2 of our volunteers running The Food Bank.

to Contact Foodbank call 07796 603 760



Enhance Your Business

A programme of free seminars, workshops and networking opportunities, supported by Nat West Bank, WENTA, Quality Solicitors Alexanders and Luton Borough Council delivered between October and December 2013. The programme organised by Marsh Farm Futures was well received and attended. The workshops included:

- Introduction to Entrepreneurship and Business start-up. Is it for you?
- Funding your business – what are the options?
- Business Planning – is it necessary?
- Marketing using Social Media- Can I really make use of it?
- Women into Enterprise/Self-employment



Women Enterprise Day



Workshop Participants

Look out for our new Business Focused Training Programme 2014



www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk



Luton Citizens Advice Bureau are back at Futures House, after a short break.

CAB will be holding weekly outreach sessions at Futures House **Every Monday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.**

The service is free, confidential, impartial, independent and for everyone in the community.

A fully trained outreach worker will assess your problem and identify the service you need and the best way for us to help you. This could be by giving you the right information to enable you to solve your problem

yourself. Or it may be by making you an appointment to discuss your query further – either in person or by phone.

Our team of skilled advisers offers practical support and assistance on a wide range of problems including:

- Debt
- Welfare benefits
- Employment
- Housing
- Relationship breakdown
- Immigration

To book an appointment, please contact Marsh Farm Futures on 01582 512555.



Need free advice?

Everything from benefits, debt, housing, employment, etc.

Outreach Surgery Confidential session by APPOINTMENT
Every Monday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Starts Monday 10th March

At Marsh Farm Futures, Futures House
The Moakes, Luton, LU3 3QB
Tel: 01582 512555

This service is provided under the Luton Advice Network Transition Project and funded by the Big Lottery.



On the 1st October 2014 the Council-run Community Centres staff and operations transferred over to Luton Cultural Services Trust. This exciting change is the start of a new chapter of partnership working for communities and community development in Luton.

For North Luton the transfer applies to Futures Community Halls. The Council staff who haven't transferred are concentrating on managing the relationship with Luton Culture and leading on the following key programmes and priorities.

- 'Your Say, Your Way' i.e. Neighbourhood Governance in Luton
- The Council's volunteer Programmes
- Delivery of on-the-ground community cohesion solutions

Monitoring of community development projects across Luton and management of the Community Involvement Theme for London Luton Airports Limited's Community Funding programme.

Within the centre it is business as usual, with signage, invoicing and other procedures changing over to Luton Culture, to give a unified look and full integration into the new organisation.

Community Organisers pay a visit to Marsh Farm Futures

Marsh Farm Futures recently hosted a visit from Community Organisers. As part of Community Organisers training programme within Locality, Community Organisers undergo the option 'Go Deeper', listen to residents in their homes, on the street and where they gather, and they listen to public service and third sector workers, small businesses and local institutions to help develop their collective power to act together for the common good, as identified locally.

The visit was a key element to organisations who work 'closely with their community to provide hands on approach to making an effective, positive change'. The visit focused on learning about Marsh Farm Future's work, a tour of Futures House and a lengthy discussion on community and youth issues. Some of the attendees travelled from Bristol, Newcastle, Wiltshire and London.

Mohammed Rafi, Marsh Farm Futures CEO commented "this was an excellent opportunity

to meet Community Organisers and exchange some thoughts and ideas on how to engage and serve the local community; I am very pleased we hosted this visit and I want thank Locality for arranging this".



Community Organisers

Marsh Farm Futures will soon be recruiting - Front Desk Staff - Administion Officer
Application Pack & Further information will be available on our Website www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk.

Central Area Redevelopment

Planning permission for the redevelopment of the central area was secured in October following much hard work by the Steering Group and Council officers.

Since then the detailed work to move these outline plans into a clear program for action has carried on in the background. This requires a large amount of architectural and technical design and surveying works and the team at the Town Hall has been enlarged to enable this to happen. The first stage of the new development will involve the realignment of Northwell Drive and the creation of a new access for the proposed retail development which will be located on the cleared Purway Close site. This work commenced with alterations outside Lea Manor School in February 2014.

What will happen next?

In preparation for release of contracts for the building works various surveys will be taking place over the next few weeks and these will inform final design works. The steering group will be involved in the selection of the contractors for the construction work and we have agreed to include training for residents and use of local labour where possible as a pre requisite for the developer.

The Council has also allocated a Senior Project Manager Abu Nasir (abu.nasir@luton.gov.uk) to oversee the development and are also in the process of recruiting the project team. Alan Thompson, project lead, marshfarmcentralarea@luton.gov.uk



A sketch of different type of housing planned.



The works will involve:

- 1) The removal of the triangular grass island at the roundabout in Northwell Drive near to the sports hall.
- 2) Adjustments to the kerbline and pavements to the front of the school at the roundabout to give the new road width and works for the new zebra crossing that will link the school with the redeveloped area.
- 3) Adjustments to the kerbline and footway alongside the Futures House car park.
- 4) Removal of the traffic island at The Moakes junction with Northwell Drive and temporarily surfaced.
- 5) Alterations to the road levels and the installation of the new mini-roundabout facility where the triangular island was removed in Northwell Drive.
- 6) Installation of road lining for the new road layout in Northwell Drive and the temporary arrangement in The Moakes.
- 7) Switch traffic to the new layout, i.e. two way traffic using the North East side of the original roundabout and traffic to and from the Moakes utilising the new mini roundabout junction with Northwell Drive.
- 8) Complete the kerbing work to the West side of Northwell Drive at the roundabout near to the Redgrave Gardens junction.
- 9) Once the 1st phase of the Marsh Farm Central Area Redevelopment is complete The Moakes will be stopped up to traffic and the mini roundabout will serve the Futures House building and car parking for the new retail units.
- 10) Introduction of traffic calming measures to 20 mph limits.

In addition the Council has engaged specialist retail advisors to work with the shopkeepers to look at what the new shopping parade should contain and how these new units should be let. Meetings have been taking place with all retailers over the past few weeks.

Local Entrepreneur

A Young Marsh Farm law graduate ditched the idea of a safe job in the law profession and started up his own business.

The Business Social Network was created by Richard Gore, 22, who lives in Marsh Farm. Richard Gore is a former Lea Manor student and recent Law graduate and attended Enterprise Club at Marsh Farm Futures, facilitated by WENTA.

"My decision to establish this network was to take away the terrifying stigma attached to networking and to encourage people who need networking the most

to get a greater understanding of the concept. People rarely understand how valuable people are to their individual journey in life and I want people to understand how supportive establishing, developing and honing their own personal network can be.

I personally created this network to change the way the majority of people viewed networking. I no longer want "networking" to be viewed as this taboo word that people tell you to do that is never done because of excuses and fear of interaction. I want people to understand, not dread the concept

and become experts at communication and no longer fear what they do not understand."

Richard Gore is working hard to make sure the Business Social Network is known nationally and strives to establish other business ideas in the future.



For more information contact : richard_gore@hotmail.com

Futures Job Club

A community organisation is set to run free clubs to help people in Marsh Farm Luton get back into work. Staff of Well Springs Community Services (WSCS) are working in partnership with Marsh Farm Futures (MFF) and Job Centre Plus. The aim is to help the local community to find employment in tough economic times. They are now offering free weekly drop ins and workshops to boost the job-hunting process for unemployed people by equipping them with the tools, skills and confidence on their journey to finding work through Futures Job Club.

The Job Club will offer different sessions every Tuesday:

All ages
9.30am – 11.30am

18 – 24yrs
12.00pm – 2.00pm

All ages
2.00pm – 5.00pm

The Job Club will run weekly community sessions that combines one-to-one consultations, group support and an optional practical 8 week employability course that covers topics such as identifying strengths, CV writing and interview techniques as well as CAP money coaching course for adults and young people designed to help people budget, save and spend using a simple cash base system.

Job Club Manager Anneth Bryan, who will be leading the workshops, said: "With more people facing long-term unemployment, there is a real need for a personal service which provides practical and emotional support for people to find work again. The Job Club at Futures House is designed to do just this." She added: "We hope that we can help people to gain the confidence and skills they need to find employment, particularly for those who may have been out of

work for a long period of time."

For more information contact Anneth Bryan,

admin@wsprings.org.uk

Telephone :

01582 968 245 /07442 498 989



Annual Christmas Dinner – another resounding success.

Marsh Farm Events Committee delivered the annual Christmas dinner for 50+ residents. The event supported by Marsh Farm Futures, Luton Culture, Marsh Farm Outreach, local schools and Heywood House, put on a fantastic event attended by over 150 guests. Dave Crean MBE, commented "this was a wonderful collective achievement". I want to thank all the guests, volunteers and organisations that contributed. I also want to acknowledge kind donations from Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation and Marsh Farm Futures".



Futures Community Garden – "Green Fingers" needed

Marsh Farm Futures has identified a small piece of land at Futures House to be used for growing vegetables for Luton Foodbank. We want to involve local residents, to help grow and distribute food to those who most need it. Can you help? SEE BACK PAGE...

Marsh Farm Futures will soon be recruiting - Front Desk Staff - Administion Officer
Application Pack & Further information will be available on our Website www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk.



www.marshfarmfutures.co.uk





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www.spartatelecom.com

Space in
your home...



Room in your heart?

Children come in to the care system for many different reasons. Some just need a bed for a few nights while we help their parents through a crisis. Others are casualties of family breakdown. Or victims of abuse and neglect. All desperately need stable, safe and loving homes. With people just like you

*Foster caring can be challenging
but it is immensely rewarding.*

And we are with you every step of the way with support, guidance and training.

We will also support you financially.

Visit our website or call us to find out more.

No pressure. No obligation.

But we'd love to hear from you.

It could be the start of something wonderful.



01582 54 75 69
www.luton.gov.uk/fostering

Help us find more foster carers

We want local people to think about fostering and to provide children in care with the stable loving homes that they need.

The number of children coming into care continues to rise and we have increased the amount of advertising extensively over the past few months and have had a positive response with more people enquiring about fostering.

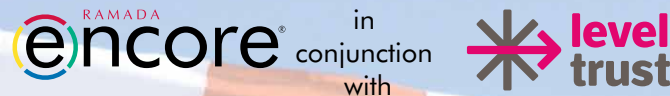
However, we still need to do more and need your help. We want you to speak to people you know about fostering. It may not be the right time for you but someone you know may be ready to offer a

loving home to a child in need.

In return we promise to be open and honest and respect your confidentiality throughout the process.

You can visit our website www.luton.gov.uk/fostering or like us on facebook Fostering with Luton Council or telephone 01582 547569 for further information.

Kind regards
Luton Borough Council Fostering
Services
Jennifer Macmillan
Marketing Officer



Cordially invite you to
St George's Day Lunch

in the company of guest speaker

Marvin Johnson

Luton Town Football Club Legend having
made 440 appearances for the Club

on

23rd April 2014

12.30pm for 1.00pm

£39 per person, proceeds to Level Trust

R.S.V.P.

Tony Giauna - General Manager
Ramada Encore - Luton Airport Hotel
01582 218111

Dress Code:
Smart casual

Futures Community Garden "Green Fingers" needed

Marsh Farm Futures has identified a small piece land at Futures House to be used for growing vegetables for Luton Foodbank. We want to involve local residents, to help grow and distribute food to those who most need it. Can you help?

VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED- contact Marsh Farm Futures:

email - info@marshfarmfutures.co.uk