

The newsletter for the people of Marsh Farm

FUTURES NEWS

working for all the community

Summer 2015

RESIDENTS SPECIAL DEAL

As part of MFF's commitment and effort to provide local services, Futures Fun Factory, Luton's premier indoor soft Playpark, is introducing a special deal, 'Marsh Farm Residents Discount Days'. The scheme will operate every Monday and Friday between 10am to 6pm (see details below).

Futures Fun Factory has recently gone through improvements with a new slide, various repairs and new wall colours giving it a bright fresh feel. Further improvements are planned to provide an even better customer experience. "During the last year, Futures Fun Factory has served nearly 50,000 customers, our ambition is to see this number increase further" said Lyndsey Crossley, Futures Fun Factory Manager.

We will be adding new rides and opening our Sensory Room which have colourful lights, strobes, bubble tube etc.



For children with special needs. A few local schools have been invited to test the equipment and advise on changes and additions necessary to meet their children's special learning needs. The Sensory Room facility is expected to be available at the end of September 2015. Further schemes including Fun Factory loyalty card, school holiday play scheme and Childminder Discount Mornings will also be launched in the autumn. Watch this space!

www.futuresfunfactory.co.uk

Marsh Farm Residents Discount Days
(During Term Time Only)

Marsh Farm Residents Discount Days every Monday and Friday, 10:00am-6:00pm

Prices:
1-4 Years- £1.00
5+ Years- £2.00
Adults- £0.50

Please Provide a valid photo I.D and proof of address when visiting to obtain your discount.

Please note that discount only applies for entry to the Futures Fun Factory and not at the café.



Lyndsey Crossley with her Fun Factory Staff ready to welcome customers

A word from MFF Chief Executive



Welcome to the summer edition of the Marsh Farm Futures news. I am pleased to say that we started to operate the Futures Fun Factory in-house last year and over the last few months we have made some key improvements to its operations, its look and feel, as well as employing new casual staff to serve its customers better. As you can read from other articles in the newsletter our business and youth activities are taking shape and I am pleased to say that some of the other projects for residents that were started recently made good progress including ladies exercise classes, IT for over 50's and launch

of Futures Community Voice. I would encourage all residents to take part in the Futures Community Voice as it will aim to discuss local issues and concerns and it will be your voice that matters. We have made some improvements to the Community Resource Room where residents can have free use of the space, hold meetings as well as obtain training and use computers and internet-free of cost.

Marsh Farm Futures is a partner in the Central Area Development scheme and I was disappointed that due to costs the developer was not appointed earlier in the year. The scheme is being redesigned and further consultation and information will be provided to residents at the summer festival on 8th August at Futures House, so please do come and take part and give us your views on the future of your area, Futures House, its services and how the central area can be further developed by Luton Council.

Futures House is almost fully let and providing a valuable resource to the community and I am proud of what we have all achieved so far, despite some of the financial and other constraints on all of us due to reduction in spending to reduce the national debt. With some of the investment we have made in the Futures Fun Factory, the Communities Resource Room and other infrastructure we hope to bring improved services to all living and working in this area. Most of our savings have come through greater efficiency and balancing our books through some tough choices and we aim to further invest in the building and work with more partners to bring services to the heart of the community.

I hope to meet some of you at the summer festival on 8th August 2015. "

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 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Citizen Advice Bureau | FREE legal advice provided by CAB | 9.30am – 12.30pm | By appointment only Call MFF team on 512555 |
| Employability Job Club Job Centre Plus | Employment support, benefit advice, job searching Daily drop-in service | Tuesday 9.00am – 13.00pm 9.30am - 4.30pm | Call in to Futures House front desk and contact JCP on ext. 115 |
| BROOK Sexual Health Advice | CONFIDENTIAL advice, information, support, Contraception, pregnancy tests. FREE Service to anyone under 25 | 3.00pm - 6.00pm Every Thursdays | Drop in Service at Futures House. Enquire at front desk |
| Customer Services | Council tax, Housing Benefit, Advice on Council services etc. | 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday - Friday | Call in to Futures House front desk. |
| Luton Cultural Services Trust | Community Support, Room Hire. Self-help groups | Monday – Friday day & evenings | For more information please contact Luton Culture on Tel: 548360 |
| Councillors Roy Davis Don Worthing | Surgeries for residents to raise their issues with elected members | 10.00am –12.00pm 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month | Call in to the front desk on surgery day. |

Community Resource Room – Free access to residents

Marsh Farm Futures has now upgraded computer hardware and replaced old furniture giving the room a fresh new look. Residents are welcome to use the facility provided it is available. The key purpose of the facility is to allow residents free access to use the resource room and for partners, service provider to deliver services to residents. The Community

Resource room is also available for meetings to community groups at a lower rate and individual users can access internet usage free of charge. Other meeting rooms are also available for private and statutory sectors at commercial rates. **Contact Office Manager Selina Okoli on 512555**



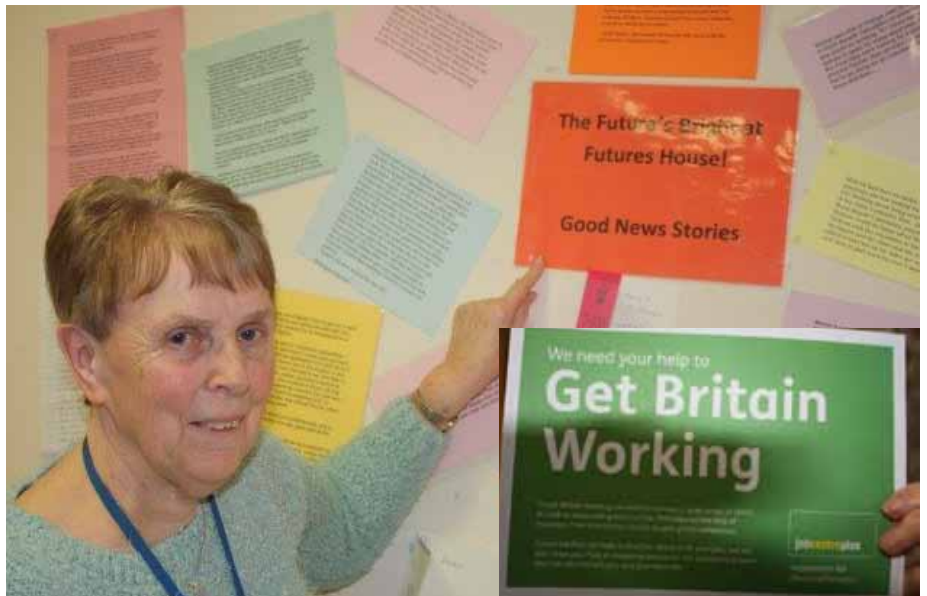
Job Centre Plus (JCP) gets residents into jobs

An example of how the Job Club has already helped one young person.

A young person came into the Job club in the morning session stating that they had an interview that very afternoon but could not remember what time.

After making enquiries, we managed to confirm his interview; however, it was in Bedford. The young person said that he did not have any money to get there. JCP were able to get him a travel permit. On speaking to him further, they discovered he did not have any clothes to wear to the interview.

The Job Centre Advisor then made another phone call, and was able to get him some clothes vouchers for shirt, trousers and shoes. The Community Involvement Manager, took him to pick up his travel & clothes voucher and then took him to the shop and helped him buy what he needed.



Jackie Wright, Lone Parent Work Coach "We're here to help!"

jobcentrplus

SEMLEP Chief speaks to business owners at Futures House



Futures House, Marsh farm was buzzing with activity as business men and women from across the counties listened to talk by guest speaker Daniel Mouawad, CEO of SEMLEP.

The event hosted by Marsh Farm Futures and organised by Programme Manager, Ishaq Kazi had over 40 people from various organisations and businesses in attendance. Other speakers at the event included Marsh Farm Futures CEO, Mohammed Rafi and Chair of the Futures Business Voice, Richard Cooper.

Delegates, some starting in business and others in established businesses, listened as Daniel



Mouawad gave a presentation on SEMLEP funding opportunities and how to access business support. Other speakers included Martin Blower from A plan Insurance and Richard Cooper who gave more information on funding opportunities available to local businesses. "We've had a fantastic response to this event. As part of our long term commitment to support the business sector, we will continue to promote Luton's entrepreneurial flair and host business networking every quarter", said Ishaq Kazi. "It is through events like this that businesses can learn how to be successful. Hard work plays a part but knowing where to go for help and support cannot be overstated. Definitely a worthwhile event and I

look forward to attending the next one", said one attendee.

Daniel Mouawad commented "I am very pleased to be here again at Marsh Farm Futures to see tremendous achievement since the last two years. I will continue to support MFF in their efforts to help residents improve their economic wellbeing. SEMLEP has ambitious infrastructure plans for the area and we are engaging the business and the voluntary sector to help achieve these".

Mohammed Rafi, CEO of MFF commenting on the event said, "We are very keen to be part of the initiatives being delivered by SEMLEP. We are particularly excited to be able to support Marsh Farm residents who are in the early stage of considering self-employment/starting a business and also who have recently started trading".

For further information on business events contact : Ishaq Kazi on 586125

A brief look at activities for Marsh Farm youth and residents

Futures Young Voice –

Youth Drop in – 14 – 17rs
Mondays 6.30 – 8.30pm @ Lea Manor Youth Zone

This session runs weekly with over 20 young people attending and continues to grow. Young people have the chance to meet in a safe space and socialise with friends, play pool, table tennis or just chat. We are in the process of deciding what to do over the summer period, July and August, where times and days will change. All their activities will be publicised on their new Facebook page, and also on the MFF website.

Young Enterprise - Company Programme

This will run throughout the academic year, enabling participants to find out what it's really like to set up and run a business. The young people will make all the decisions about their company, from the company name and product to creating a business plan, managing their finances and selling their products to the public. They will be supported by a volunteer Business Advisor with a wealth of knowledge and expertise. The group will be able to track their progress using self assessment tools and even compete against other schools in local, regional and a national finals.

Ladies only Exercise Class

This is a new class and started at the beginning of June. This class is part of a wider project that Marsh Farm Futures wanted to offer, to help encourage local people to engage in activities that will improve their health and wellbeing at an affordable price. We have an average attendance of between 18 & 20, with new members every week.

Futures Community Voice

Local residents can come together to discuss issues and concerns about where they live, and how they can improve things. Cathy McShane, Youth and Community Involvement Manager said: " We will be supporting this venture at a neighborhood level , helping the group to grow, develop and improve the areas where they live". If you are a local resident and would like to be involved, please contact Cathy.

Learn IT and Go

We are just coming to the end of a three month programme that was offered to local unemployed people, those on low incomes and over 50's. Three different workshops were run and included an introduction to technology, through to browsing the internet, and uploading CV's. We were



Cathy's Corner- Youth and Community Involvement Manager

able to offer this free to the local community because of funding awarded. With funding from 'Your say, your way' we have also been able to refurbish our community resource and training room.

For information on any of the above activities,

please contact Cathy McShane by email: cathy@marshfarmfutures.co.uk or telephone on 586133



Update on Marsh Farm Central Area Redevelopment

By Abu Nasir - Senior Project Manager

We previously evaluated the Tenders which involved nominated members of the Steering Group for the evaluation process. Based on the scoring criteria, Keepmoat were the preferred contractors, however we were unable to appoint Keepmoat at the time as the costs exceeded the budget allocation.

- LBC's Design Team were tasked with Value Engineering the scheme to bring it within budget.
- Extensive design work was undertaken which included regular

input from LBC Planning Department as well as input from the Steering Group.

- The changes discussed at the last steering group were implemented and the revised scheme which we shared with you previously was submitted to Planning
- We are hoping for a decision from the planners by the end of August for Phase 1 of the scheme.
- We believe the scheme is now within budget
- Once planning consent is received, detailed design is scheduled for completion with the aim of entering

into a building contract, subject to an independent review of the budget cost plan and legal advice.

- Providing there are no issues with cost and legalities we aim to enter into a contract in late autumn with a provisional start date early in the New Year.
- The community will be provided with an update during the Marsh Farm Festival on the 8th of August.

I will keep you updated on further progress."