

## Monthly Round-Up

### Kingsgate Park Outdoor Gym

Members of Yate Town Council were joined by the Friends of Kingsgate Park and local residents on Thursday 16th January 2020 for the official opening of the outdoor gym equipment in Kingsgate Park, Yate.



An instructor joined us battling against the rain and wind to give guidance to those attending how to use the hydraulic equipment. The Head of PE, Steve Revett, and a group of year 9 students from Yate International Academy joined us during their lunch break and were given a group workout in the pouring rain by the instructor, making use of all the equipment in turn.

Councillor John Ford, Chair of the Play Areas and Properties Project Steering Group commented:

'The new gym equipment in Kingsgate Park means people of all age groups from 14 years onwards will be able to exercise in the open, enhance their fitness, health and longevity. Another enhancement in the park since being taken over by Yate Town Council'.

Judith Cameron, Chair of the Friends of Kingsgate Park, further commented:

'Despite the rain a good number of Councillors, Friends and park neighbours came to the official opening of our gym equipment. It has been used by people of all ages since it was installed at the end of last year. Come and try it out - it is good fun.'

The project was made possible by funding via S106 monies from South Gloucestershire Council.

Cllr Rachael Hunt, South Gloucestershire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Tourism, said:

"South Gloucestershire Council is committed to improving our communities and providing the spaces and facilities for local people to be active, and Kingsgate Park's new outdoor gym equipment will be a real asset for residents. I am very pleased that we've been able to secure this funding from local developers."

The Town Council would like to thank everyone who joined us for the opening and supported the project which is a great addition to the park. Look out for information about plans for further public induction sessions in the warmer months.

# Howard Lewis Play Area Refurbishment

On Thursday 16th January 2020, Yate Town Council officially opened the refurbished Howard Lewis Play Area on the Ridge estate in Yate.

The Town Council consulted with local residents, nearby schools and users of the play area to find out what they wanted included in the new play area.

The new design includes play equipment, which has been designed for use of the wider community and includes paths to improve accessibility and mobility around the site. There is a mixture of natural play features such as the timber trail and formal play equipment such as the trampoline and swirl accessible roundabout.



Councillor John Ford, Chair of the Play Areas and Properties Project Steering Group at YTC commented:

‘Howard Lewis play area has benefitted from a refurbishment with exciting new play equipment and pathways to help with keeping feet and pushchairs clean. This has been several years in delivery, but consultation with local school students and residents has given a new lease of life to the play area that offers lots of fun and seats for relaxation’.

The project was made possible through S106 monies which came from South Gloucestershire Council.

Cllr Rachael Hunt, South Gloucestershire Council’s Cabinet Member for Communities and Tourism, said:

“I am delighted that South Gloucestershire Council was able to negotiate this funding from local developers, which has delivered a range of new play equipment and accessibility improvements at the Howard Lewis Play Area. It is important to provide spaces for people of all ages to be active and enjoy the outdoors. As a council we are committed to improving our communities, with almost £10 million having been invested into our open areas and green spaces since 2015.”

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## Happy to Chat Benches

On Thursday 16th January 2020 in the wind and rain at St Mary’s Green, Yate Town Council officially launched the ‘Happy to Chat’ Scheme in Yate.

The idea is to promote conversation and social interaction amongst our residents and visitors. Yate is such a friendly town, we are sure people will already be chatting to strangers, but we hope this scheme will encourage further interaction.



As part of the Town Council's 'Yate Ageing Better' initiative, one of the recommendations is to look at how we can further tackle loneliness and isolation throughout the community.

For the first phase of the 'Happy to Chat' idea in our community, the Town Council has put 'Happy to Chat' signs on benches at St Mary's Green, Kingsgate Park, Brinsham Park and also intends to do at Abbotswood as part of the play area project where works are due to be completed very soon and opened to the public in early February.

Councillor John Gawn, Chair of the Yate Ageing Better, Health and Well Being Sub Committee commented:

'The idea of the Happy To Chat Bench is for people to go and have a conversation of just say hello in a bid to combat loneliness and isolation, it's a good way to get people talking. Yate Town are rolling out these benches in their parks and other green spaces'.

The Town Council's Pop Inn Café for the over 50s also has a 'Happy to Chat' Table and we will be writing to local doctors, dentists and cafes to encourage them to introduce similar 'chat' areas within their premises.

The 'Happy to Chat' benches have proved to be successful in other communities in this country as well as across the world in Canada and Australia. So, if you see someone sitting on a 'Happy to Chat' bench, sit and have a chat.

Councillor John Ford added:

'Give it a try, it is brilliant for socialising, something with our busy lives, encapsulated in cars, we tend not to do too much of in the modern age'.

If you have a suggestion of where else we can put a sign please contact Yate Town Council.

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## Serviced Offices Available for Lease

Are you looking for a new office space? Are you a charitable or community organisation?

Yate Town Council currently have 2 serviced offices available for lease:

- Celestine Room at approx. 442 sq ft
- Parnall Room at approx 342 sq ft

For further information about these office spaces, please contact Yate Town Council.



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For further information regarding any of the articles included in this issue, please contact Yate Town Council on:



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