

## Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council

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**From:** Ian Pilcher <cllrpilcher.swaffhamtc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 08 July 2022 11:17  
**To:** Stewart Bell  
**Cc:** JUDY ANSCOMBE; Town Clerk | Swaffham Town Council; Deputy Clerk | Swaffham Town Council; Susan Pilcher; Ian Pilcher  
**Subject:** Re: Dementia Care

Many thanks, Stewart for your kind response.

You echo the sentiments of many people who are experiencing health anxieties. Yes, probably Finance would be a first port of call, but I would presume representation to Full Council before any decision is (or not) approved. We are working closely with Norfolk (very helpful) and Judy has kindly suggested a link to Breckland that might be helpful.

Judy is fully conversant of the situation, because (her) Richard is very helpful to us. I can assure you that, we are undergoing a structural review. I would NEVER allow MBC to receive any funding that might be wasted in a black hole. You can trust me that tax payers funds would never be put at risk of waste.

The reason for raising this now, is preparatory to participation in our potential post-Covid renewal plans. We need to explore all options as part of the analysis. So very grateful for any prospect - at the very least of due deliberation.

Kind regards - see you next Wednesday.

Ian

On Fri, 8 Jul 2022 at 10:10, Stewart Bell <[cllrbell.swaffhamtc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrbell.swaffhamtc@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good Morning to you Ian

Thank you for bringing this to my attention I must say I agree with you .

I would have to discuss with Judy Richard and Helen to find a suitable place on a forthcoming agenda. My immediate reaction would be the Finance meeting of the 25th but would have to confirm .

It is a very strange thing how mental health and dementia do not have the cash support needed unlike GP practices which seem to be very well funded but are top heavy with staff finding a reason why you can not see a doctor !

Any way have a good day

Regards

Stewart

On Fri, 8 Jul 2022 at 07:43, Ian Pilcher <[cllrpilcher.swaffhamtc@gmail.com](mailto:cllrpilcher.swaffhamtc@gmail.com)> wrote:

Good morning Stewart

As you know, I and colleagues work to support the Merle Boddy Centre, to give provision of Dementia and Mental Health Care, for Swaffham and surrounding villages. Indeed, the MBC is specifically identified in the Neighbourhood Plan (page 56/6.5.2). This suggests something of recognition and importance for the role of MBC in the community.

The future of the MBC as a going concern, is presently the subject of intensive fiscal care, having suffered difficulties during and post Covid. The team of volunteer Directors and Supporters are presently engaged on business scrutiny, with potential positive support from Norfolk County Council.

However, the future is certainly balanced on a threshold, as fiscal reality is assessed and possible reorganisation is considered and evaluated. It is a 'fight' to maintain services and the future of the amenity. We need appropriate support and there must be a role for both Swaffham and Breckland Councils, to play a part in this cause? Presently, NOTHING is forthcoming from either - apart from a reasonable Tenancy arrangement with Breckland.

I quote Item 6.5.5 of the Neighbourhood Plan. 'As the town grows (and that is certainly the case!), provision of services **must** be addressed, in particular \*\*\*\*\* and Social Care.

So please may I/we seek a debate in Council - along with Breckland Councillors - to identify and deliver a fiscal response to this 'obligation' and the present circumstances? There must be a case for such as a specific interim Grant and/or ongoing Annual Support Grant? It has been said that Swaffham is a responsible Dementia care community. Well, apart from volunteer activity and revenues from those in need, there is absolutely NOTHING forthcoming from the two Councils.

Where can we, could we or should we go forward from here? We at MBC will appreciate an opportunity for such debate and to present fiscal analysis to show the situation as it is.

With thanks and Kind Regards  
Ian

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Cllr Ian Pilcher

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Cllr Ian Pilcher

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