



Building a Better Christchurch Together

April's Community Forum focused on Community Transport with presentations from Erica Pretty, Community Transport Development Worker from Dorset County Council, as well as our own Dial a Bus and Neighbour Car projects, and looked at some of the challenges and solutions for those with limited mobility and finances in Christchurch.

Lindsey Aldington and her communications team from Aster Homes also gave an update on where things are with the redevelopment of the Magistrates Court/Police Station site as they are very keen for the residents of Christchurch to help shape what will be a landmark site for our town. Along with a mixture of 106 properties, including one and two bed flats and two and three bed family homes, and retirement homes, of which will comprise of a combination of affordable rent, shared ownership and open market sale aimed at all age groups. There is also considerable enthusiasm for a multipurpose community building on the site. This would however require a change of use class in planning terms so CCP Chair Sandra Prudom encouraged all those who would like to see something that would be of benefit to future as well as current generations to both engage with Aster's public consultation on 15th May at the Kings Arms Pavilion between 11.30am-8pm, and also to write to Christchurch Council expressing the desire for a building which could be a genuine hub for the community, bringing together many of the voluntary services and organisations which seek to improve the quality of life for Christchurch residents – **a one stop resource centre for all that is Christchurch!**

We hope that everyone will really engage with the planning process to ensure that this significant site can leave valuable legacy for future generations. It would be wonderful to see a building in the centre of Christchurch that could host large and small events, be available to the many community groups needing space to meet, whilst providing office space for the voluntary sector organisations offering services to our community, and could also do so much more than that. If that vision appeals to you put pen to paper and write to your Council asking them to support it when it reaches the planning stage.

Our next Community Forum is in July - check website for confirmed date.....when following on from our last Forum, we will be focusing on the bigger picture around the issues of travel and access to our town, particularly given the new developments in the pipeline.

We hope to see you there!