

Councillor Ed Parsley
13th September, 2023

Dear Ed,

It was lovely to meet you at the Benhill Community Fun Day on 2/9/23. Thankyou for taking the time to explain to me about your role and how you may be able to support the community work which is happening and ongoing.

This is the reason why I am emailing today. I hope you get some support for our community colleagues at Sutton Community Dance.

You may be aware that they are having protracted problems with the procurement of their new lease? They are trying to negotiate their rent, which currently has been proposed at a high commercial value. A cost they can't afford.

Sutton Community Dance, do so much for our community in Central Sutton. As you know they are an inclusive dance centre, who's ethos is to serve the community. They provide free classes to those who may find it hard to pay. Their ethos fits with the LBS strategy and also the Sutton Place strategy on reducing health inequalities.

We know that exercise, dancing and community connections all help support people's mental health, which we know people of all ages are really struggling with.

Feedback from our Benhill Day suggests that there just isn't enough provision for activities for older children in the area - SCD provides this.

The St Nicholas Centre is an ideal location for them. it is easily accessible, central and has good parking. It brings foot fall on to the high street which can help the remaining businesses there. Parent's can drop their children off for their lessons and spend the next hour or so running their errands or getting a coffee.

I'm not sure what your remit may be to support SCD, but I would be very grateful if you could look to see what support is available to allow them to stay in their current venue?

As the Central Sutton Integrated Neighbourhood Team Chair, and GP in Central Sutton, I wholeheartedly feel that it would be Central Sutton's loss, if SCD had to move. It would also be a detriment to our community, who use it and access it so readily.

Adam, please add anything that I have missed.

Kind Regards

Dr Naomi Bennett

GP Partner | Robinhood Lane. <https://robinhoodclinic.co.uk/>

Central Sutton PCN Clinical Lead for Community and Proactive Care

Central Sutton PCN Health and Inequalities Lead | Sutton Primary Care Networks - end Aug '23