

Newbold Verdon Neighbourhood Plan

Community Facilities

Reference 6

Meeting with the proprietor of Heathbrook Pharmacy

22nd June 2017

There has been an independent chemist in the parish for at least 60 years and Jitu has been the pharmacist in the village for 17 of those years. In a recent survey (Housing Needs and Development) the Pharmacy was seen by 98% of respondents as meeting their needs.

The pharmacy only exists in the village because there are sufficient customers coming through the door. In order to retain it, Jitu believes people need to use it. The main pressure on the business is the cost of drugs and the often erratic, unpredictable fluctuation in the price and supply. This is obviously completely out of the hands of the pharmacist but it does cause frustration amongst some of the customers.

The pharmacist's view the general health of parishioners was, understandably, very much in line with the Medical Practice. There were no significant health issues peculiar to the parish but they did reflect the ever ageing population.

When asked what people might do to improve their health, the pharmacist referred to issues of poor diet, excessive consumption of alcohol, lack of exercise, smoking, and excessive salt intake. He suggested some parishioners might benefit from the opportunity to attend regular outdoor exercise classes on the recreation ground or playing fields.

The current future plans for the pharmacy revolve around continuing to provide as good a service as possible, supporting the high quality service of the Newbold Verdon Medical Practice. There is the potential to extend the pharmacy at the rear to create another consulting room but that was on hold at the present.