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Recreation & Culture Committee

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

8:30 a.m.

Mount Forest & District Sports Complex – Meeting Room

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.
<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>3. Myrna Hutchison, Chairperson, #GetInTouchForHutch - Proposed Buddy Bench for swimming pool area, Arthur</p>	



#GetInTouchForHutch

June 2, 2016

Wellington North Council

Kenilworth, Ontario

NOG 2E0

#GITFH is a youth mental health advocacy group whose mission is to support youth mental health and emotional well-being.

In 2014 we introduced a new project and began rolling Buddy Benches out to both separate and public schools across the Upper Grand District school board.

To date we have rolled out 8 benches throughout Wellington County from Minto Clifford all the way to Aberfoyle, with several locations in-between and have plans to continue this project into 2017.

The benefits of the buddy bench are that it fosters kindness, empathy and inclusion within the school community and supports the concept that no one should ever feel alone on a playground.

The Buddy Bench project has been extremely well received within the schools by both Administration and Students. In order to ensure that the momentum that has been created within the schools doesn't stop during the summer months, our goal now is to extend the concept out into public play areas.

In order to help us reach that goal, we would like to propose the placement of a Buddy Bench in the Swimming Pool park area in Arthur.

By placing the Buddy Bench in the park, it would allow conversations to continue and new ones to begin between both children and adults alike. During the summer months the playground is a well-used facility and the Buddy Bench would nicely complement and promote the attractiveness of the park area environment.

As part of our normal protocol, we would normally split the cost with those requesting placement of a bench, however for the park area, the full cost of the bench will be donated on behalf of #GetInTouchForHutch.

For safety reasons it will need to be secured and we believe Council as playground owners would know best how to accommodate that as well as cover the costs involved.

Appropriate recognition of the partnership between the township and #GetInTouchForHutch will be shared across our social media and communication channels.

We thank you for your time & consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

With sincere regards,

Myrna Hutchison

Chairperson

#GetInTouchForHutch