

Aston le Walls Parish Council

Open Meeting

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

### **Aston Tot's and Toddler's**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

My name is Nadine Hassan, and I am here representing Aston Tot's and Toddler's, a weekly baby group run during term time on a Wednesday in the village hall, for Aston le Walls village residents and the wider community.

The group was established in 2022. We have a dedicated group of mothers, grandparents and carers from neighboring villages such as Byfield, Woodford Halse, Chipping Warden and Northampton who regularly attend our sessions. We have observed a low uptake in participation from Aston village residents however, we have noted this is possibly due to conflicting schedules with work commitments on the day of the group, and a small population of under 3-year-olds in the village.

Last Autumn we were invited to run some of our Wednesday sessions in St. Mary's School. This proved to be highly successful, giving mums, grandparents and carers the opportunity to engage directly with educational professionals such as Mrs. Vale Early Learning Lead at St. Mary's, Mrs. Concannon Head Teacher at St. Mary's and additionally, during one of our sessions, we were pleased to welcome Mrs. Hawkins an Early Years Advisor, in the Early Years Team at Oxfordshire County Council. Feedback from those who attended these sessions was overwhelmingly positive.

The team plan to continue running the weekly baby group until the summer break, when they intend to pause the group primarily due to the planned village hall re-build.

Looking ahead, after the village hall re-build, it is uncertain whether the original team will re-instate the group. They are actively exploring alternative options to ensure the baby group continues to provide a much-needed service to families in our community.

Thank you.

End of my report.