

Hawkhurst new community centre

Frequently Asked Questions

June 2019

1. Why do we need a new community centre?

The current centre, Copt Hall, is beyond economical repair and a new community centre is required. This has been supported in all the recent village surveys such as Health Check and NDP 2016.

2. Where is the new community centre going to be built?

The preference is for a site near Highgate, but no sites are available. Therefore, it was decided in January 2019 to build the new community centre at King George V Playing Field.

3. Why that location?

We have undertaken feasibility studies on up to 17 sites over the years.

By late 2018 only the King George V Playing Field site was available. We did a SWOT analysis of this site and a potential development site in the new TWBC Local Plan.

Potential site near Highgate Hill – developer led

Strengths	Weaknesses
NDP – preferred site near Highgate Good public transport links Potentially good access “level” along main ridge Available utility services	HPC do not own land Developer led Timescale - When? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When site agreed• When site available• When building available• Parking, adequate Public Works Loan required
Opportunities	Threats
Developer contribution of Land Developer contribution of building Developer contribution of funding Shared site with parking / doctors surgery etc.	Public perception – development led Will come with additional housing development Alternative call on land / money Lack of control of project

King George V Playing Field

Strengths	Weaknesses
Good open space – link to community facility Space for car parking Land is owned by Council Not dependent upon development Utility services on site Playground on site	NDP – preferred site near Highgate Hill Away from Highgate Hill Limited public transport links Part of site held in trust for sport and recreation Public Works Loan required
Opportunities	Threats
Available now Could help regenerate The Moor – community shop? Access to developer funding	Perception – all village facilities at The Moor Layout dependent upon working with Fields in Trust

The conclusion was King George V Playing Field was the more practical site and this helped inform the Council’s decision in January 2019.

TWBC have included the King George V Playing Field site for a new community centre in their Local Plans since 2006.

4. What will be the impact on King George V Playing Field?

We will keep the two football pitches but also aim to enhance the playing surfaces and provide new changing rooms. The land used for the community centre will be the existing building, car park, garages etc.

5. Will we still be able to play football?

Yes, the two pitches will be retained and improved.

6. Will it be the home to Hawkhurst FC and Hawkhurst Juniors FC?

Yes, the aim is to have improved playing pitches and new changing rooms for the teams to use.

(note during the building phase the pitches will be in use and we will provide temporary changing so football can continue)

7. What about the playground?

We aim to upgrade the playground as part of the project.

8. How much will it all cost?

We have agreed a brief and are currently engaging architects, we will then have a better idea of the cost. It is estimated to be around £2 million. We will keep you updated.

9. How will it be paid for?

It will be a mix of funding: Council reserves, sale of the existing Copt Hall, funds linked to Copt Hall, section 106 developer contributions and Public Works Loan Board funding.

The Public Works Loan Board funding will require a local referendum supporting the project.

10. Who do you think will use it? Who is it for?

We want it to be a real community resource, for everyone in Hawkhurst to use.

11. What will happen to the Copt Hall?

Once the new community centre has been built, the Copt Hall (WI Centre) will be sold to raise money to help pay towards the new Community Centre.

12. When will it be built?

We are aiming for the following –

Design by December 2019

Permissions by December 2020

Built by December 2021

13. What will happen to the other Halls in the village?

The Copt Hall (WI Centre) will be sold, but Dunks Hall, Royal British Legion etc. will remain.

14. Why don't you use All Saints Church?

All Saints Church is owned by a developer who is developing apartments. It is therefore not available.

15. Why can't it be the Victoria Hall?

It is a listed building which limits size and flexibility plus there is no parking. The Kino rents it and runs a popular and successful cinema.

16. Who are HCT 2018?

Hawkhurst Community Trust 2018 are a new charitable community trust set up to operate the new community centre on behalf of the community.

17. Are HCT 2018 linked to the Parish Council?

No, HCT 2018 are a completely independent charity.

18. When is HCT 2018's AGM?

5th September 2019

19. There were some plans for village halls – didn't we go through this before?

Yes, but some time ago and we want to make sure the new community centre reflects the needs of today and the future.

20. What will happen to the tennis courts?

They will be retained; we are hoping to upgrade them into a Multi-Use Games Area.

21. How many car parking spaces will there be?

We are aiming for around 50 car park spaces.

We will add to this list of questions as they are asked