

Hawkhurst Community Centre- An Open Meeting

16th February 2015



Hawkhurst Community Centre

- On 16th February, a brainstorm was held for any interested residents to discuss the proposed Hawkhurst Community Centre
- This was an opportunity to look at key aspects of the project, and ensure all needs were taken into consideration before the project reaches its next stage
- Councillor Newman led the session. Chairman Peter Dartnell set the scene with an overview of the history of the project

This document

- This document records the key points made at the session
- It is split by Facilities, Location, Funding, Design Type
- A further topic around splitting the location was then discussed

Facilities

- Activities which need to be catered for
 - Private social functions
 - Football club
 - Tennis court and MUGA
 - Youth Club facilities
 - Playgroups and ability to make a mess
 - Access to changing room
 - Pilates/Yoga etc
 - Badminton
 - Flowers
 - Men's shed
- Room needs
 - One large room for up to 200 but can be made smaller
 - Smaller rooms for meetings, pilates etc
 - Changing rooms which can be accessed at all times centre is open
 - Storage for regular users
 - Ability to cater for large and small events
 - Catering needs range from heating up, ability to do coffee to doing the full catering for a large function
- Design considerations
 - Excellent acoustics, lighting, wifi and plugs
 - Ability to get things in and out easily
 - Well designed and light parking
 - Environmentally robust and low running costs
 - Outdoor seating
 - Accessibility
 - Soundproofing
- Potential income streams and additional activities
 - Medical centre
 - CAB
 - Café
 - Shop

Location

- Current concerns
 - Too far from the high street
 - Could the centres be split – sports at the moor and rest in centre?
- Potential locations
 - All Saints Church
 - Allotments opp Springfield
 - Golf Club
 - Fowlers
 - Woodham Hall
 - Bowles
 - Davies Yard
 - Legion
 - Back of Tesco
 - Community Hospital
 - Circus Field, Highgate Hill

How can we afford this?

- Funding options were discussed
 - Sell Copt Hall
 - Sell our assets
 - Grants
 - Community involvement- buy a brick
 - Increase rent on Victoria Hall
 - Local Benefactor
 - Sporting Grants
 - Lottery
 - Sponsorship from Businesses

Design considerations

- The following design considerations were discussed
 - Efficient and low maintenance
 - Solar panels
 - Affordable
 - Be realistic in scale
 - Debate around whether two stories has more space or one storey
 - Mock Georgian
 - Underground parking

General points

- Do not duplicate facilities already available in Hawkhurst
- Should the rents only cover running costs not capital costs?

Should we split locations between those activities which need changing rooms and sports fields and those that don't

- Pros

- Less cars in one place
- Sport and community needs are different animals
- Can do sports funding alone
- No problem with weddings and football
- Smaller central location needed
- Ability to deliver different catering needs

- Cons

- No shared parking
- Are two more expensive? Capital and running costs
- Running two projects is more work
- Space in the village is at a premium

Next steps

- Councillor Newman concluded the meeting saying that these comments would be documented and considered as part of the development of the Hawkhurst Community Centre and the Neighbourhood Development Plan