

Notes of the Meeting of the Sevenoaks Community Centre User Group

Held on 13th May 2015 at the Community Centre

Present: Cllr Robert Piper (Chairman), Cllr Marilyn Canet, Cllr A Clayton, Cllr Roderik Hogarth, Cllr Ed Parson, Derek Hill (Probus), Maureen Haslam (Sevenoaks Friendship), Bryan Richardson (Sevenoaks District Arts Council), Christopher Court (Treasurer KNADFAS), Delphine Otto-Bruch (Hollybush Montessori), Sheree Cox (Zumba), Janet Davies and Hugh Kirby (Sevenoaks Day Nursery)

In Attendance: Linda Larter (Town Clerk), Liz Hodgson (Community Centre Administrator)

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Simon Raikes, Cllr Andrew Eyre, Hugh D'Alton (Assistant Town Clerk), Nick White (U3A)

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 January 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2015 were accepted as a true record.

2. Quality of Service Feedback

Members all agreed favourably on the service given by the Sevenoaks Community Centre and in particular the efficiency and helpful work carried out by the caretaker, Martin Dix. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Martin Dix, which was accepted.

Adequate provision of car parking spaces was raised as a problem when large groups met and it was noted that the field space to the rear of the Centre could be made available for additional parking when demand required it.

3. Date of Next Meeting

The scheduled date for the next meeting on 24th June 2015 was agreed by which time the successful architect for the RIBA competition would have been announced.

4. RIBA Competition

There had been 72 entries from both national and international architects for the architectural competition administered by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) on behalf of Sevenoaks Town Council for the redevelopment of the Sevenoaks Community site. 5 teams had been shortlisted and those attending the meeting were invited to view the conceptual designs after the meeting closed.

Cllr Hogarth said that consideration should be given to the ability for the new centre to run cost efficiently. Other members' suggestions included the provision of a café within the centre and for the large hall to be fitted with suitable acoustics and be divided up to accommodate smaller group meetings.

The designs would be available for public viewing at the Sevenoaks Community Centre on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th May and would also be available online via a link on the Town Council's website. The public would be invited to fill in a feedback form on the 5 designs and could submit these either on line or by hand to the Town Council by 18th May.

An independent quantity surveyor has been appointed to oversee the plans and a judging panel would meet in early June to select the winning entry, which would be announced on 8th June 2015.

It was noted that the RIBA Competition and exhibition was to select an architect and not a final design. Once the architectural team was appointed a full design for the new centre would be worked on engaging as many people as possible in the process.

5. Schedule of Meetings

All meetings to take place at 7pm in the Bar Room at the Community Centre.

24th June 2015

12th August 2015

14th October 2015

9th December 2015

3rd February 2016

23rd March 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm