

Notes of the Meeting of the Sevenoaks Community Centre User Group

Held on 14th October 2015 at the Community Centre, Otford Road, Sevenoaks TN14 5DN at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Simon Raikes (Chairman), Cllr Andrew Eyre, Cllr Marilyn Canet, Alan de Turberville (Probus), Mrs Myra de Turberville (KNADFAS), Bryan Richardson (Sevenoaks District Arts Council), Janet Davies (Sevenoaks Day Nursery)

In Attendance: Hugh D'Alton (Assistant Town Clerk), Liz Hodgson (Community Centre Administrator)

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Robert Piper, Linda Larter (Town Clerk), Richard Teare (Knole U3A)

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2015

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2015 were accepted as a true record.

2. Quality of Service Feedback

Alan de Turberville (Probus) re-iterated his appreciation of the service provided by the caretaker, Martin Dix, which had been expressed at the meeting held on 13th May 2015. He commented that one of the ovens had not been working and that the hob was in a grubby state at one of their recent meetings. Cllr Eyre said that he would pass these comments on for action to the caretaker via Liz Hodgson.

3. Update on Development Plans for the new Community Centre

Theis and Khan, based in Tunbridge Wells, had been the winning architects of the RIBA competition to design the new community centre and had been contracted to work on the initial feasibility study. Sevenoaks Town Council is working to secure the release of capital funds from the sale of the Raleys site before progressing beyond the feasibility stages.

Hugh D'Alton said that Sevenoaks Town Council would then begin work on more detailed plans for the new centre and he expected there to be more user group meetings in the future so that members could give their input on what they hoped to be included in the plans for the new build.

Bryan Richardson asked if the Bat and Ball Railway Station building was to be incorporated in the plans for the redevelopment of the site. Hugh D'Alton said that Sevenoaks Town Council was in discussion with South Eastern, who currently own the building, with a view to taking it over on a long-term lease. Cllr Canet said that the installation of a payment by card only ticket machine would hopefully help reduce vandalism.

If the Town Council proceeds with taking over and renovating the building uses could possibly include a community café shop, space for start-up businesses and publically hireable spaces.

Cllr Raikes commented that it was likely that there would be an increase in use of the Bat and Ball station over the coming years and that the regeneration of the Bat and Ball area would be supported by Sevenoaks Town Council and Sevenoaks District Council.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the User Group had been planned for 9th December. Members agreed that there would probably be insufficient news on the developing plans for the new community centre and therefore it would be best to hold the next meeting on 3rd February 2016.

5. Schedule of Meetings

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

3rd February 2016

23rd March 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20pm