

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Community Centre User Group Meeting held at the Sevenoaks
Community Centre on Wednesday 22nd March 2017 at 7.00pm

Present:

Jim Garlinge	Otford Bridge Club
Frank Mancktelow	Sevenoaks Area National Trust Association (SANTA)
Bryan Miles	Tea Dance
Bryan Richardson	Sevenoaks District Arts Council
Don Scales	U3A
David Williams	PROBUS also KNADFAS and North West Kent Family History
Cllr Marilyn Canet	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Andrew Eyre	Sevenoaks Town Council
Liz Hodgson	Sevenoaks Town Council
Linda Larter MBE	Sevenoaks Town Council
Cllr Simon Raikes	Sevenoaks Town Council (Chair)

Apologies for Absence were received from: Cllr. Robert Piper, Hugh D'Alton(Sevenoaks Town Council), Pamela Holmes(KNADFAS), Janet Davies(Sevenoaks Day Nursery), Richard Teare(KnoleU3A), Barbara Attwaters(North West Kent Family History), Lady Sue Birch(Sevenoaks Greater World Christian Spiritualist Church)

Cllr Raikes chaired the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting Cllr Raikes requested that all present introduced themselves.

- 485. Minutes of the Meeting of the Community User Group held on 10th August 2016**
The minutes of this meeting were accepted as a true record.

486. Bat and Ball Station Building

A lease was being negotiated between lawyers. As part of the planning process Sevenoaks Town Council must have a bat survey carried out before a planning application can be determined and this could not be done before April. The public would be asked to assist with historical information on the background of the Bat & Ball Station building as well as contributing towards restoration talks and workshops related to the station. A bid for a £700,000 grant has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and if successful the money will go towards the refurbishment of the station building, which will include two meeting rooms, a cafe, toilets and an upgrade to outdoor lighting.

It is hoped that the renovation of the Station building together with the building of a new Bat & Ball Centre will be the springboard to the regeneration of the north of Sevenoaks. A target date of October 2018 has tentatively been set for the completion of the station building.

487. Bat and Ball Centre Development

Draft plans of the new Centre had been laid out at the beginning of the meeting for attendees to view. The Centre would include a hall which was twice the size of the existing Community Centre Large Hall and would be suitable for conferences. This space could be divided by an acoustic screen to provide 2 separate rooms. There would also be a further 2 rooms for hire, a kitchen with bar area, storage and adequate toilet facilities. The new centre would be designed with the disabled in mind

and have environmentally-friendly water and energy fittings installed. Cllr. Marilyn Canet suggested that Cllr. Howard Lester, a member of a disabled access group, could be approached for help in planning for the disabled. It was agreed that Sevenoaks District Council Design Access Group be approached.

David Williams (Probus) enquired about the cost of hiring the new facilities, which Linda Larter (Town Clerk) assured, that apart from rises due to inflation, hire charges would be comparable to existing Community Centre hire charges for existing users.

Don Scales (U3A) enquired about cabling and technology suitable for use with multimedia equipment in the new Centre. Cllr. Andrew Eyre (Stag General Manager) replied that this would be as up-to-date as possible at the time of installation.

Once planning permission was granted, construction would take approximately 9-10 months. It was hoped that the new Centre would be open spring 2019.

488. Quality of Service Feedback

All the hirer groups represented at the meeting praised the efficiency and good service given by Martin, the caretaker.

Don Scales from U3A's technical department said that the WI-FI speed at the Community Centre had only been 0.18 megabytes per second for their meeting earlier that afternoon when the minimum required was 5.00 MBPS to operate their equipment. Don had spoken to Liz Hodgson who had subsequently asked Heliocentrix, the Town Council's support team, for a call out to the Centre to look at this. Heliocentrix had previously called PlusNet out in January to fix a similar problem, which had been resolved at the time. Liz Hodgson was asked by Linda Larter to investigate this further.

Dates of Next Meetings

The next Community Centre User Group meeting would take place on 21st June 2017 at 7pm.

Future schedule of meetings:

02.08.2017

27.09.2017

08.11.2017

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

Signed
Chairman

Dated