

**Report to
Leisure and Community Policy
Development and Review Panel**

Date: **6 March 2013**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **PROVISION OF A NEW MULTI USE GAMES AREA FACILITY AT
PORTCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTRE - CONSULTATION
OPTIONS**

SUMMARY

Following the completion of the new Portchester Community Centre, demolition of the former community centre and removal of the tennis courts, it is proposed to continue to the redevelopment of the site of the old Portchester Community Centre by consulting on options for the potential provision of a new multi use games area.

RECOMMENDATION

The Leisure and Community Panel are asked to comment on the options proposed for consultation and consider if these are appropriate and whether any other options should be considered.

INTRODUCTION

1. Significant progress has been made on improving the community facilities in the immediate vicinity of the Portchester Community Centre. The new Community Centre opened for business on the 7 January 2013, the existing community centre has been demolished and the area is being returned to open space and the site of three tennis courts and single basketball court have been removed and returned to open space.
2. The next phase of the project at this site is to consider the options available for those areas of the site that have been returned to open space.
3. This report proposes the options to be put forward for consultation and the proposed consultation method for consideration by the Panel.

OPTIONS

4. It is proposed to seek local community views on the following options for the land covered by the former tennis courts, the former community centre and the existing car park:-
 - a) To provide a new enclosed multi use games area (MUGA) of up to 600m² to allow for a range of sports to be provided, e.g. tennis, basketball, football. This to be located on the site of the former community centre
 - b) To square off the existing car park to provide an additional 30 car parking spaces with a further option to extend the existing car park to the divide between the former two tennis courts and provide approximately 20 further car parking spaces.

If the extension of the car park onto the location of the former tennis courts is favoured then it would impact on the location for the bin store and electricity cabinet for the breast screening unit which are planned to go on the site of the former south east tennis court
 - c) To provide a multi use games area (MUGA) of up to 600m² to allow for a range of sports to be provided, e.g. tennis, basketball, football. This is to be located to the north of the site between the former tennis courts and the circular path.
 - d) To landscape the area and leave as public open space to complement the existing parkland at this location.
5. In specifying a MUGA the type of sports to be covered and therefore which equipment is to be provided and how this will be managed need to be specified and agreed. For example if tennis is an option then posts and a net are required but these will need to be taken down and stored between games to allow the use of the MUGA for other sports.
6. The consultation therefore needs to consider not just whether a MUGA should be provided but what sports should be included and how these can be managed.

7. It is suggested that consultation covers the following potential MUGA activities:-

- Tennis
- Basketball
- Football
- Netball

CONSULTATION

8. It is proposed to consult with the following the stakeholders on the alternative options:-

- a) The Petangue club who operate from the existing terrain at this location.
- b) Westlands Medical Centre.
- c) Portchester Community Association who have a tennis club operating as a section within their organisation.
- d) Portchester Community Centre limited who manage the new Portchester Community Centre and the community tennis courts at Portchester Community School.
- e) Portchester Bowls Club who lease the existing bowls ring at this location.
- f) The residents of Clive Grove, Shrubbery Close and Westlands Grove.
- g) The ward councillors from the Portchester East and Portchester West wards.
- h) Hampshire County Council who own the freehold of the land on which the former community centre was sited.
- i) The Development Management Division of Fareham Borough Council.
- j) The local Police.

9. It is proposed to consult via letters / questionnaires to the consultees and by means of a display of the options at the new community centre where officers will be present to answer any questions that may arise.

10. The consultation will be seeking the stakeholders views on what should be provided, where it should be provided, what sports (if any) should be catered for and the means of managing the recreational facility.

FUNDING

11. The Executive at their meeting in October 2012 approved funding of £60,000 in the Open Spaces Improvement programme towards a new MUGA facility in Portchester.

12. There may be some residual budget from the project to provide the new Portchester

Community Centre, although this will not be known until all works have been completed and the final account is agreed.

PROGRAMME

13. Subject to the views / feedback from the Leisure and Community Panel, it is proposed to conduct consultation in April and provide feedback to the panel in July. The implementation of the agreed option will be dependent on the agreed option, the possible need to obtain planning consent and the availability of funding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The approved open spaces improvement programme includes an allocation of £60,000 for the proposed MUGA facility at Portchester.
15. Should the Panel wish to proceed with option B, which includes the extension to the car park, then the funding for this element would need to be agreed. Potentially this could be funded from any residual balance from the Portchester Community Centre budget but this is subject to their being sufficient residual budget available once the final account is available.

RISK ASSESSMENT

16. In designing a MUGA there is a risk that in trying to be flexible to accommodate a number of sports, that the level of compromise required to meet the demands of a particular sport can result in the MUGA becoming unsuitable.
17. There is a risk that there will be insufficient residual funding in the Portchester Community Centre accounts to fund the extension to the car park should this be the preferred option.

CONCLUSION

18. To follow on from the construction of the new Portchester Community Centre and demolition of the former community centre, the opportunity is to be taken to consult on the possible provision of a new multi use games area at this location and possible extension of the car park. Alternative options for consultation are presented and the Panel is asked to consider if these are appropriate and whether any other options need to be considered.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Gareth Satherley, Leisure Development Manager (Ext 4476).

Appendix A - [Indicative Plan](#) showing Options A, B and C.