

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

Date: **6 March 2013**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS - FAREHAM CATS AREA
NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

SUMMARY

This report presents the outcome of the needs assessment for those wards in the Fareham CATs area and recommends that a master plan to deliver the identified needs be prepared.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Panel note the outcome of the Fareham Needs Assessment and authorise officers to prepare a master plan to meet the identified needs and to deliver the strategic requirement for a community facility in the central Fareham area/

INTRODUCTION

1. As part of Fareham Borough Council's commitment to providing high quality community facilities across the Borough, a review of all of the Council owned community buildings was carried out in 2008.
2. In July 2008, the Council's Executive agreed a broad vision for providing high quality community facilities across the Borough. The agreed way forward being to carry out a needs assessment exercise in each of the CAT's areas and then to prepare a master plan for implementing the outcomes of each assessment.
3. The Executive agreed a phased approach to implementing this, based on the five CAT's areas –

Phase 1 – Portchester

Phase 2 – Crofton

Phase 3 – Fareham

Phase 4 – Titchfield

Phase 5 – Western Wards and Whiteley

4. Phases one and two of the process have been completed. A new Community Centre was opened in January 2013 in Portchester and the second phase identified the Crofton CAT's area as already having a wide range of community facilities and therefore no requirement for any significant or improvement in facilities in the short term be required.

BACKGROUND

5. The Fareham CAT's area is made up of five wards. Fareham North, Fareham North West, Fareham South, Fareham East and Fareham West and has a total population of approx. 34,043 which is expected to increase over the next ten years.

6. **Ward** **Total Population**

Fareham North 6,866

Fareham North West 6,749

Fareham South 6,786

Fareham East 6,893

Fareham West 6,749

7. There are a wide range of community and private facilities available to hire in the Fareham CAT's area, managed either by statutory, voluntary, community or private organisations. A comprehensive list of the different types of facilities available in each ward area, their current usage and availability can be found as Appendix A.
8. The identified community facilities provide a variety of activities and services each day with varying times from 7.00am to 11.30pm. These are provided and delivered

by community led and privately own organisations and volunteers and include:-

- Childcare Provision
- Sport and Leisure Activities
- Support and Advice Groups
- Luncheon Groups
- Young Persons Groups
- Religious Groups and Services
- Generic Meetings
- Entertainment
- Dance and Drama Performances, and;
- Private functions, parties, events and competitions

KEY COUNCIL FACILITIES AND THEIR LIABILITIES

9. Of the council owned community facilities in the Fareham CATs area there are a few with specific requirements. These are detailed below.

X-perience Youth Facility

10. Fareham's X-perience Youth Centre Facility was opened in 1968 and is one of three Council owned facilities across the borough aimed at providing services for young people.
11. The youth centre houses a number of services that support young people in the Fareham area, including Hampshire County Council, the Youth Support Service, the 'Moving On' project, Motiv8 drop in scheme, and an accommodation resource centre as well as a number of other statutory and voluntary organisations that hire and the use the space for meetings and activities on a regular basis.
12. The facility located at the junction of Trinity Street and Osborn Road is in fair condition, although its appearance is tired looking and the flat roof to the structure would benefit from replacement. Adjacent to the centre is the site of the former "Skippers" fish and chip shop which has been demolished although the site has not been cleared.

Fareham Heathens Rugby Club Changing Rooms and Club House

13. The Fareham Heathens Rugby Club are based at the Cams Alders Recreation Ground and have a two storey building that comprises changing rooms on the ground floor and a club house on the first floor.
14. Whilst the building is functionally acceptable, the changing accommodation is not of a high standard and not ideal for segregation between sexes and adult and junior players. The club house generally meets the needs of the rugby club, but being based on the first floor without a lift, the access is not suitable for those with mobility impairment.

Fareham Bowls Club

15. The Fareham Bowls Club is based at Park Lane Recreation Ground and operates out of a small club house with integral changing rooms. The club are keen to expand to provide an additional club house and changing facilities to accommodate more prestigious events and have submitted a matched funding application to enable this project to proceed.

Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club

16. The Fareham and Crofton Cricket Club are based at Bath Lane Recreation Ground and have their own club house and make use of the Councils changing accommodation. The club house is a pre-fabricated building that has reached the end of its life and ideally requires demolition. The Executive has approved funding for a project to extend and refurbish the changing rooms to incorporate a club house and to demolish the existing club house. The works are reprogrammed to complete in 2014.

OTHER POTENTIAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS

17. Within the Fareham CATs area there are a number of community related projects relevant to the needs assessment but which are not directly related to Council owned buildings:
18. The Neville Lovett community school have developed a business plan for a proposal to convert an existing classroom into a community space.
19. As a result of research undertaken in the local community a need for a community facility at this location has been identified. Work is currently being undertaken to develop the business plan and identify funding opportunities to construct this new facility.
20. The site of the former Hampshire Rose Public House at Highlands Road has been acquired by the Hampshire County Council who is currently considering options for providing community facilities on the site.
21. Both of these projects are in the early stages of development but would provide additional community facilities in the Fareham South and Fareham North West wards.

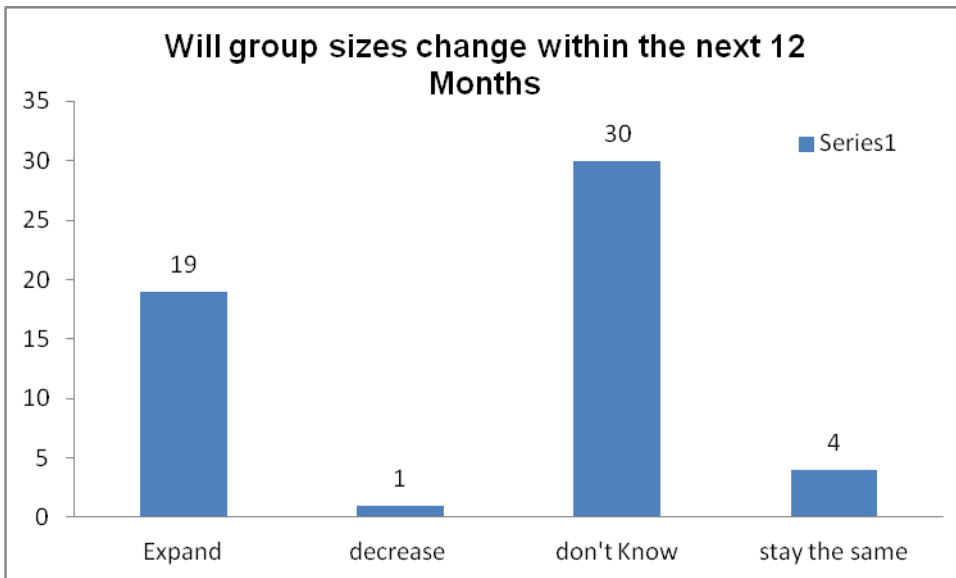
NEEDS ASSESSMENT

22. The Fareham Needs Assessment was carried out from October 2012 through to January 2013 and was achieved by the Council's Leisure Projects Officer initially identifying, with the help and knowledge of ward Councillors all of the community facilities and buildings available to hire.
23. All identified groups, clubs and organisations that hire facilities within the Fareham CAT's area were invited to be part of the Needs Assessment exercise and were each encouraged to complete a questionnaire about their current and future needs and requirements for community space.

24. The data collated from the completed questionnaire and discussions had with facility operators, indicate that local residents have a good range of facilities and activities made available to them throughout the year, however many of the clubs and organisations that took part in the consultation exercise, expect their group/club to expand in numbers in the next 12 months and are concerned that their current venue/facility will no longer meet their needs and requirements.

FEEDBACK

25. Fareham's Horticultural Association who use Holy Trinity as a venue, often find it difficult to find meeting facilities in central Fareham that can accommodate large numbers i.e. 50 – 60 members. The association also expressed a need for more affordable community space in a central location in Fareham.
26. Trinity Pre-School, who occupy the two halls in Fareham's Methodist Church, 38 weeks a year, Monday to Friday, identified a need for more ground floor provision, in a central location in Fareham with good parking facilities that also allow for parents to drop their children off. The pre-school have expressed a need to identify a new facility within the next couple of years that will help them to accommodate the needs and requirements of their expanding service.
27. Highlands Hub is another well utilised building and is open Monday to Friday, it is regularly used on a weekly basis to host drop-in advice and support sessions amongst other groups and activities. Two services that often use it are; CBT Therapy (Cognitive Behaviours Therapy) and AFFECT (Support Group for friends and family) they have both indicated a need for smaller, private meeting rooms that are available to access at weekends.
28. The 4th Catisfield Girl Guiding Rainbows group are just one of the many groups that regularly hire St Columba Church Hall and whilst the church offers a good range of rooms to hire, there is limited lockable storage that they can use. The group unfortunately had some of their musical instruments stolen recently and would like to see more venues with storage facilities made available for hire.
29. Fareham Leisure Centre advised that they have received complaints from hirers about the car parking facilities. For example FADSAD (Fareham and District Sports Association for the Disabled) would like to change the time they hire the facilities to help sustain their participations numbers, however due to the high demand on the centre's facilities this has not been possible to date.
30. Wallington Village Hall is another popular venue that is used Monday – Sunday for community and private activities, events and functions, with some groups attracting up to 60 – 70 people at a time. Several of the groups that hirer the hall's facilities expect their groups to expand over the coming years and therefore will require additional parking facilities.
31. As part of the questionnaire, respondents were asked how group sizes would change over the next 12 months. The graph below gives an indication of how they perceive these changes to be:



32. A summary of the response to the questionnaire is attached as appendix B.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

33. The overall feedback received from user groups and operators of buildings, identified the following requirements;

- For a community centre in 'central' Fareham with goods links to public transport and onsite parking.
- A general need for additional ground floor meeting space, to accommodate groups and users that have disabilities.
- A need for flexible multi-use rooms that can accommodate larger groups i.e. up to 100 people at a time, as well as small private meetings / consultations
- A need for Venues lockable storage facilities within the existing facilities.

34. Overall the results suggest that the local need is being met but that there is a strategic demand for a community facility with ground floor accommodation in the central Fareham area.

RISK ASSESSMENT

35. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

36. Whilst the Fareham CAT's area has a wide range of Community Facilities available to hire, feedback from the user groups and clubs that regularly hire the space to host their meetings, activities and events suggested there is often a lack of availability or flexibility due to the high demand on affordable hiring space.

37. Several of the groups that took part in the consultation exercise identified a need for larger, more flexible venues to help them accommodate their expanding groups and that these are made available in a central location within Fareham to allow residents greater access.
38. The overall conclusion from the needs assessment is that whilst there is a diverse range of community facilities within the Fareham CATs areas and that the local need is in general being met, there is an overarching need to provide a larger community facility in the central Fareham area.

Background Papers:

Review of the Council's Community Buildings – Executive - 28 July 2008

Reference Papers: None

Appendix A - breakdown of the community facilities available in each of the ward areas:

[Fareham East,](#)

[Fareham North,](#)

[Fareham North West,](#)

[Fareham South,](#)

[Fareham West](#)

Appendix B - [Responses to Questionnaires.](#)

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Gareth Satherley. (Ext 4476)