

Report of Community Consultation Event for New Community Facility held on 6.12.15

This event was held on Sunday 6 December 2015, in the current joint use hall at the Community Centre. A flyer had been placed in the November and December editions of News & Views, the parish magazine delivered to every household in the parish, to encourage attendance.

99 people attended the event and completed response forms. A further 9 people submitted a form or made comments based on the flyer, but did not attend the event. Not all forms were fully completed. 70 households in the parish were represented, with 4 responses out of the total 108 coming from people who live outside the parish but who attend groups at the current community centre.

Do you agree that there is a need for a new Community Centre in Marden?

All 108 responses agreed there is a need for a new Community Centre, though 1 person felt that if a new room was built for the Pre-School it would free up space for day time activities for other groups.

Which option do you think gives the facilities and space needed for current and future parishioners – the final plan may be different to either of these illustrative plans

Option A – with a sports hall Option B – without a sports hall

If neither option, please tell us what you think should be built:

97 out of 105 people who answered this question felt that Option A with a sports hall gave the best facilities and space. 7 people preferred either Option B without a sports hall or a building larger than Option B but with a hall for larger events that was not sports-compliant and in particular without a high ceiling.

Do you agree with the funding streams that are proposed in the display? These are: Lottery grant; Public Works Loan Board loan to Parish Council (impacting on the precept); money from ending lease(s); local fund-raising; other small grants/loans

Of the 102 people in total who completed response forms, 93 people agreed with the suggested funding streams. 2 people did not agree with the funding streams; 1 felt the developers of schemes in the parish should pay and 1 disagreed with a Public Works Loan Board loan. A few people made comments that they needed more information to form an opinion or that they did not want an increase in the Community Charge.

Other comments made highlighted various aspects:

- The need for community facilities to be available for groups during the day, rather than the current centre being used by Pre-School during the day
- The need for the Pre-School to have a permanent base, as it is a vital parish requirement to encourage families to live in the area
- Flexibility of spaces to increase possible use by parish groups, as well as external hirers
- Ensuring any hall has suitable lighting/drapes/ceiling height to give the right ambience for events such as weddings/wakes/parties
- Large enough space to hold shows/events etc, not just meetings
- Suitable parking and storage space.

Overall there was almost total support for the project from those who attended the event and the need for a new community facility has been confirmed. Over 30 people offered to help with the project, from delivering literature to fundraising to joining the management committee or finding information. The New Community Facilities Working Group (NCFWG) will be making contact with these volunteers over the next few months as tasks need undertaking.

New Community Facilities Working Group
On behalf of Marden Parish Council