



West Linton Community Council

Notes of Open Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2009

In the Graham Institute at 7.30pm

This meeting was arranged by the Community Council in order to highlight and discuss the findings of the recent Community Council led survey into village facilities, social and past-time spaces. With the assistance of the Scottish Community Action Research Fund (“SCARF”) a detailed final report on the project has been completed and copies of the report have been available at certain locations in the village and on the Community Council’s web-page.

Margaret Harrison opened the meeting and highlighted the background to the project. It was explained that the purpose of this meeting was to present the findings of the report and to identify the next steps.

Douglas Westwater, the mentor from SCARF provided a detailed analysis of the research work undertaken and the findings from the User Group and Residents Questionnaires. It was highlighted that SCARF’s primary purpose was to fund and support research into community projects and whilst SCARF would be happy to continue to be involved, it is up to the local community to identify the next steps and move the project forward.

Questions raised:

What size of hall did the research identify was required?

Ideally any new hall should be large enough for a mix of activities including sports, shows, functions etc. It was considered important that the facilities had to be flexible and adaptable to accommodate the variety of activities undertaken by local Groups within the village.

What services would be provided by the new hall?

Whilst, it was considered essential that any new facility covers all users and all ages, there were some concerns raised by certain attendees as to whether a ‘one size fits all’ hall would be possible.

Where would any new facilities be located?

It was raised that ideally any new facility should be located within the village centre to ensure access was not a problem (for example within walking distance for the elderly). Whilst the new school site appears to be the main focus of attention at the present time, it was highlighted that the community should not lose sight of other alternative locations which could be more suitable for certain users/activities.

Will this be a community managed project?

The issue of having a facility managed by the community was discussed with concerns raised regarding previous community facilities within the village where the level of interest diminished through time.

What about the village's requirement for outdoor space?

Due to time and resource pressures, it had not been possible to incorporate a review of outdoor space within the project however the importance of this issue is recognised by the Community Council, An open meeting has therefore been arranged for 20th May in the Graham Institute in order that this issue can be discussed further with interested parties.

Should the community visit other similar facilities constructed in other locations?

This was considered crucial by Douglas Westwater in order to help identify what is possible and also help with shaping the village's requirements.

Next Steps

As identified from the research undertaken, a large portion of the individuals/groups surveyed considered the existing hall facilities to be inadequate for the community's diverse and growing requirements. The initial research phase is now complete and further activity is required in order to take matters forward.

The first step is therefore to establish a working group to oversee and drive forward the next stage of activity. This will likely involve a technical feasibility study which will incorporate an options appraisal on the sites identified. There is the possibility of further grant funding and various supports (like Business Gateway) are available to help. Thereafter a business place will be required in order that potential funding parties can be approached.

In view of the scale of the project, it is important that a sufficiently large working party is formed to take matters forward and anyone who is interested in being involved is requested to contact any member of the Community Council as soon as possible in order that names can collated.