



### **Proposed Paddock Wood Community Centre**

**Memorial Field, Maidstone Road is the site of the proposed Community Centre for Paddock Wood. Detailed plans are still being considered to accommodate the different groups who will use the facilities.**

More information can be found on our website [www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.paddockwoodtc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

### **Frequently asked questions**

#### **Why does the town need it?**

In 2008 the Town health Check identified the need for a community centre as many groups struggled to find suitable, regular accommodation and are restricted in their use of some facilities. With further housing developments in the pipeline, Paddock Wood is looking to the future to provide a community resource for a growing population. Since the loss of the parochial hall in 1967 residents have wanted a proper community centre.

#### **How much will it cost?**

The total budget is currently estimated at about £1.5m. In the past PWTC have used PWLB loans to buy Foalhurst Wood and to build the workshops on the Memorial Field. Borrowing money for community facilities is seen as a prudent investment for the common good.

#### **How will it be paid for?**

The new housing developments are generating specific Section106 money for a community centre. And a loan through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) will be taken out by the Town Council to cover costs. A slight increase in the Town Council's proportion of Council tax will go towards funding the community centre. Once completed the income from lettings of the venue and different spaces will generate revenue.

#### **When will it be built?**

Planning permission will be sought in 2019 and if granted building will commence later that year.

#### **What consultation has been carried out?**

PWTC has been consulting for several years and has recently attended a range of community events to encourage discussion on the planned centre.

#### **How much of the field will be built on?**

Around 1/6th of the current green space would be used to accommodate the building and car park. Rather than detract from the park it will offer a focal point for greater use around the building and surrounding sports areas.

#### **Will the pavilion be knocked down?**

The Pavilion is on the other side of the field from the proposed site and offers a different use, as it remains a sports facility and is used by football teams as a changing room. It would remain so.

#### **Is there any legal covenant on the field?**

No- the land was purchased by the County Council 1938 and conveyed to Brenchley PC in 1954 and conveyed to Paddock Wood Town Council in 1957 *'for the purpose of exercise and recreation'*

#### **Will the trees be cut down?**

The mature trees along Maidstone Road have a great identity and significance within Paddock Wood. As the plans for the access and parking arrangements are being worked up, we are carefully considering the impact of these designs on the trees. The working assumption is that trees will not be lost if at all possible.

#### **Can I still walk my dog?**

Yes.

#### **Can you still play football?**

The recent POTS Charity event demonstrated how a full size football pitch can be marked out and still allow for a further pitch or other activity in the green space to be easily accommodated.

#### **Can you still play cricket?**

No one has requested the cricket pitch in recent years but there is still room for its' reinstatement if necessary.