

Note for DDM in respect to the declared surplus status of Edwards Lane Community Centre

The number of groups and activities using the Edwards lane community centre has been in a state of decline for a number of years. The once thriving community venue has also experienced a dramatic fall in revenue linked to the fall in demand.

The management committee had become weakened by a number of the established volunteers leaving with replacement volunteers being in short supply, despite several attempts locally to entice local residents of the Edwards lane estate, to become involved in the running of their centre to ensure its sustainability. NCC endeavoured to support the committee by placing in a time limited support function from NCVS that would seek to establish defined roles and responsibilities to help the then management committee to function correctly.

It reached a critical stage almost 2yrs ago when the number of volunteers actively involved in running the centre diminished to such a level, that the management committee decided to hand the keys back to NCC, so that the centre could revert to being directly managed.

Just prior to this time, Nottingham Mencap approached NCC to enquire about the possibility of working in partnership with NCC to find a new permanent base for their activities, as their existing location, leased from the City Hospital, was expected to return to its landlord for development.

Local ward Cllrs, Urquhart, Parbutt and Williams were informed and consultation with ward Cllrs, on this potential outcome was done at local ward Cllr meetings held at Sherwood community centre. The dates of these meetings were 13th September 2018 as an initial discussion followed by meetings on the 12th June 2019 and the 31st of July 2019. All agreed to explore this further. Subsequently, Cllrs Williams, O'Grady and Matsiko have also given their backing to this proposal.

Local area consultation meetings started on the 3rd of July 2019 and consisted of a series of open meetings for the public to attend. These started on were on 21st of August 2019 and ran every 4 weeks for 3 months. There was also a rights of way meeting held at Loxley house on the 12th of March 2020 to establish the need for a second entry point to the park.

Area committee approval for the scheme was granted at the meeting held on the 25th of June 2019. The proposal would see Nottingham Mencap purchase on a long-term lease agreement, whilst facilitating accessible community space.

Portfolio holder at the initial stage, Cllr Neal, was also supportive. The development of this collaborative partnership working agreement has been subject to approval by Cllr Langton and has been included in regular updates and briefing notes as part of an on-going briefing update.