

Minutes of a meeting of the Crowborough Neighbourhood Plan **Community Facilities Group** held in the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Graham Callard  
 Mike Cooke  
 Peter Cowie  
 Elizabeth Fermor  
 Craig Murrell  
 Jo Stonebrook  
 Melanie Street – Crowborough Town Council

Apologies:

Frances Davies  
 Andrew Steen

Topics and Decisions	Action
<p><b>1. Reports and Feedback</b></p> <p>Members were invited to share information gathered since the previous meeting. Full copies of some reports had been distributed amongst the group via email. A summary is as follows:</p> <p><b>Schools</b> – Following discussions with schools within the town, it is understood that all schools have the ability to absorb extra pupils with the exception of Grove Park Secondary Phase. This school is currently situated on the Beacon Academy site but is maintained by East Sussex County Council. Any development or expansion would rely on the approval of the Academy.</p> <p>Car parking at all schools is deemed to be problematic. The group discussed the potential for a car park on land next to Jarvis Brook Primary School. No other primary schools have space for a car park. The use of Walking Buses for primary schools was also discussed.</p> <p><b>Doctors/Dentists/Hospital</b> – There has been difficulty obtaining information from the NHS regarding these areas. Reference was made to East Sussex in Figures, however it was agreed that primary information was needed from the NHS. General feedback from contacts made suggests that both doctors and dental surgeries within the town are currently at capacity. Car parking was also deemed to be a problem.</p> <p><b>Youth Centre/Facilities</b> – There exists a few small youth groups within the town, run by local churches. However, the group discussed the need to have a secular group. The Whitehill Centre and halls at primary schools may provide suitable venues for youth groups. Beacon Academy is not suitable due to security issues associated with opening up the whole site.</p> <p>Discussion with East Sussex County Council suggested that Crowborough is entitled to one or two Youth Leaders funded by the County Council.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding the future use of the building currently leased by Crowborough Athletic Football Club. The group agreed that this building could be better used as a general community facility with access granted to the football club as required.</p>	<p>Peter Cowie to pursue figures from NHS</p>

**Elderly Day Care** – Following a discussion with East Sussex County Council it was reported to the group that the allocation of Day Care provision has now changed within the area. East Sussex County Council provides financial assistance to people, who then purchase whatever care they require. As this does not necessarily then come from the council, they cannot foresee any need for further facilities within the town.

**Competitive Sports/Leisure Centre** – Contact was made with most sporting groups within the town, with the exception of Crowborough Athletic Football Club and Beacon Swimming Club. Provision of both mainstream and non-mainstream sport within the town was deemed good by all groups.

With regard to future facilities; Jarvis Brook Football Club is looking to expand activities at Palesgate Lane, the Cricket and Hockey Club both using the Wolfe Recreation Ground would like to see an improvement in changing facilities and the Crowborough Tennis and Squash Club acknowledge its old pavilion will need replacing and courts resurfacing.

Many clubs voiced the need for a 3G pitch facility within the town. Due to the nature of the clay soil in Crowborough, most natural pitches deteriorate in the Winter, making play difficult or impossible. The current AstroTurf facility at Beacon Academy that is used by many clubs is now in decline.

No sports club believed they would require extra land in the future.

**Performing Arts** – Several dance groups exist within the town using local halls and the Community Centre. There are also two drama groups. Contact was not made with any of these, though members understand there to be plenty of available halls to facilitate such groups.

**Nursery Care/Playgroups/Childrens Centre** – There was a discussion regarding the allocation of nursery care and whether there is a statutory number of places linked to the town's population. It was agreed to investigate this provision further and circulate a copy of this report amongst the group when completed.

**Community Centre** – A meeting took place with Chantal Wilson (Chairman of Crowborough Community Association). The Association is concerned that the redevelopment of the Pine Grove site next to the Community Centre will result in the centre becoming more isolated from the commercial heart of the town, a loss of parking facilities, a reduction in hall hire revenue and events within the centre being hindered due to noise restrictions. The Association had hoped to use the Pine Grove site in the future.

**U3A** – Following a discussion with the U3A, it is understood the group does not currently have any problems finding locations for activities and does not perceive there to be any in the future.

**Childrens parks/Play Areas/Skateparks/Model Railway/Cemetery/Allotments**  
This item was deferred as Andrew Steen was unable to attend the meeting.

Graham Callard to continue to contact CAFC and Beacon Swimming Club

Jo Stonebrook to complete report and circulate

Andrew Steen to give report at next meeting

<b>2. Proforma</b>  The group agreed to collate all information gathered on one proforma to be available for the next meeting.	Craig Murrell to design proforma and collate information
<b>3. Next Meeting Date</b>  It was agreed that the date for the next meeting would be Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2015, 7.30pm at the Town Hall.	
<b>Meeting closed at 8.50pm</b>	