

Fleetville Community Centre New Building Project Development Committee

NB43 Planning for partnership

The minutes of the January 2018 meeting laid out what was proposed:

Much time was spent on further understanding the way in which partnerships work in enabling new developments to take place. We understood that a partnership between FCC and one or more partner organisations is not inevitable, but is seen as the way many community capital projects have happened because it often enables the project originators, in our case FCC, to use a partner's funding bid to make a more compelling community case for the overall development than if we made a bid without additional support. We need to explore the mechanisms, benefits and disbenefits (disadvantages) in order to inform our overall plan.

Timing is also important and we need to be flexible about when we make an initial approach to a possible partner. But before this stage is reached we agreed we need to have our strategy in place so there is something definite to offer. We agreed to look out for specific or generic organisations that might be useful partners in the development; and successful community developments which have used the partnership model. Until we are able to put together a sub-group we agreed that members with any information they come across could email Mike and he will co-ordinate.

Examples community buildings being operated as partnerships:

96 Shenley Road, Boreham Wood **www.96shenleyroad.co.uk**

It is a rather complicated model, but that's not the point. It works. It was built on All Saints Church surplus land at 96 Shenley Road in the middle of the shopping zone, about 4 years ago. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) leases the land from the church and is therefore the prime leaseholder. Both Hertsmere District Council and Elstree & Boreham Wood Town Council have an interest, and all these bodies contributed to the funding (not sure yet what proportions and whether grant bids were lodged).



HCC is the prime manager of the site. The town library has space on all three floors (run of course by HCC). Hertsmere Leisure run the cafe, manage the site and take bookings from day to day.

HCC's Youth Connexions have space, the Town Council is responsible for the pocket museum which is operated by a volunteer group, and there are several spaces for hire which which are managed by Hertsmeare Leisure (District Council). These comprise a performance space (theatre and cinema formations – seating 150 –, and informal layouts) which can be divided into two, each with separate access; two meeting rooms for up to 30 people, one of which can be used as a music studio; and 3 discreet spaces for interviews, consultations etc. There is a garden space, and wet room for the disabled. Access to upper floors is via stairs and lift. I also noticed a training kitchen, but didn't ask further about that today. In the cafe I overheard one group of 4 having a kind of committee meeting over coffee! Being in the town centre there is no dedicated parking, but a huge Tesco car park (3hr) and (presumably chargeable) local authority car parks are available.

Hatfield Town Hub, Town Centre, Hatfield

This is a newish enterprise using existing and remodelled accommodation in the Town Centre and community facilities which were added in 2017 – to be fully opened in 2018. Details are sketchy at present but will be filled in when available. Councillors' surgeries are also held here.

From the poster opposite it appears to offer services associated with the Town Council, an extended library service, local voluntary service (as in CVS), a planning drop-in desk, council services one-stop-shop, leisure services, and perhaps hot-desk spaces for local businesses. Room hire for local groups is the most recent addition (including the space which was vandalised recently).

Hatfield Town Hub

Promoting everything Hatfield

- Local services
- Places to go
- Things to do
- Getting around
- Getting involved
- Volunteering
- Future opportunities
- Redevelopment of the town centre
- A platform for creative talents and budding businesses
- Drop-in through the week to meet Town Team partners, including: your councils, the police, and the Welwyn Hatfield Times

Visit www.hatfieldtown.co.uk for more information

Touchbase Pears, Selly Oak, Birmingham

www.touchbasepears.org.uk

TBP is a community centre in a former industrial and multi-cultural suburb of south Birmingham. The lead lessee (or possibly freeholder) is a national charity called Sense. Sense supports people who are deafblind, have sensory impairments or other complex needs, helping them to lead more independent lives. The building contains a cafe, sensory garden, exhibition and performance areas, music studio, children's activity space, rooms and facilities for hire and a community library.

It is a partnership between the charity, an existing community organisation, and Birmingham Libraries which closed its Selly Oak Branch to enable participation in the Touchbase hub. I think the hub organisation works on the basis of constructing an activities programme specifically for its Sense client families from partner organisations, with sufficient additional community spaces to satisfy the Selly Oak district.

Bromley By Bow Community Centre, London E3

www.bbhc.org.uk

TouchBase Pears

Do you want to work at our **buzzing new centre?!**

Be part of Sense's pioneering, multi-purpose venue in Selly Oak. There will be something for the whole community – a day centre for people with disabilities, a café, art spaces, rooms to hire – just to name a few.

Day Service Manager

- Are you an experienced Manager with a background in Health and Social Care?
- Could you lead, motivate and inspire a team to provide excellent support to people with sensory impairments and complex needs?
- Are you looking for a career where no two days are alike, where you go home knowing that you made a real impact someone's life?

If yes, our new Day Service Manager role may be perfect for you!

Deadline for applications: Tuesday 2 May 2017

Sense is a national charity that supports people who are deafblind, have sensory impairments or complex needs, to enjoy more independent lives.



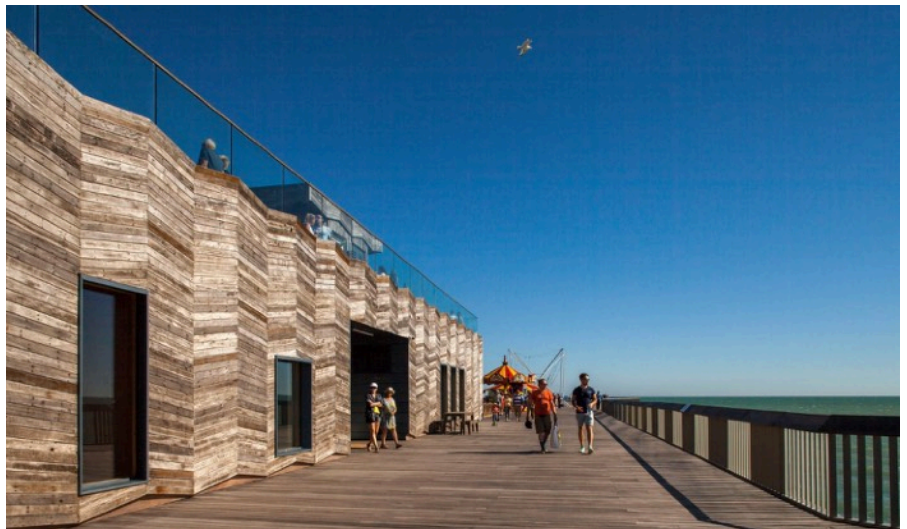
The ethos of this East London community centre is in its support of families, young people and adults of all ages, “in learning new skills and improving health and wellbeing, find employment, develop confidence to achieve their goals and transform their lives.”

It operates in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, Healthy Living Centre (NHS), Bromley by Bow Parish Church and others. A number of social enterprises have flourished as part of the Centre’s mission. It has benefited from the church land and adjacent neglected ground belonging to the Borough of Tower Hamlets. This expanded space has developed into a community park, within which there are one or two community businesses operated as social enterprises which I think were launched within the BBBC remit, but which are self-supporting/profitable in their own right. The main building contains a range of creative spaces as well as adaptable rooms for community use.

Hastings Pier

www.hastingspier.org.uk

Formerly a traditional seaside pier, it suffered from a catastrophic fire, but there was a determination among the community as well as the local authority that the pier should become a sustainable community asset. A Trust was formed and an alliance of local groups came together under the Hastings Pier banner. Lottery funding was forthcoming and the current new buildings include hireable spaces, cafe, exhibition space and shop. In addition the expansive new deck is used for seasonal outdoor



events. [Note, in case you haven’t heard, the current business model has proved not to be sustainable and work is ongoing to ensure a new model is created].

The project only came together because a number of local groups pooled resources to make it happen, and this gave strength to the funding bid.

It has a considerable footfall (piers usually do), it is free to access, and it is a community space; that in itself makes it a special place.