

Community Centre Special

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You should already be aware that Kier will soon start building the new Elsea Park Community Centre, with the work scheduled for completion by the end of the year, or possibly early next year. On completion, ownership of the building will transfer to the Elsea Park Community Trust, and the new Community Centre should become a valuable asset for everyone at Elsea Park, and the local community as a whole.

Despite an erroneous statement in the local press along the lines of "... The Trust has no plans for the Community Centre..." the main purpose of this newsletter is to tell you exactly how The Trust intends to proceed. The building will cost approximately £700,000, with the costs being met entirely by Kier. Money already held in The Trust's accounts (accumulated from the annual charge paid by members), will be used to furnish and equip this long awaited facility.

Once open, the centre will be managed on behalf of the members by the Elsea Park Community Trust. This is a significant milestone for Elsea Park, and if we all get it right, should help to provide the very heart of our community.

The delivery of the Community Centre will also mark the turning point at which The Trust breaks away from the developer. The serving Resident Directors will tender their resignations and a new board, elected by the members (with the exception of the two Council Appointed representatives), will take over the running and administration of The Trust.

This will be YOUR Community Centre, and The Trust is asking for your help in deciding what YOU want.

Provision of the Community Centre was a condition of planning consent for the Elsea Park development, and the building needs to serve a number of purposes, and offer specific facilities which include:

- A large open hall, with a concertina divider to allow the hall to be split into two distinct areas, thus allowing different activities to run concurrently
- A Kitchen and a bar
- Office Accommodation
- A meeting room
- Extensive garaging and workshop space for plant storage and maintenance, and facilities for the groundsman
- Male, female, and disabled toilets

Plans to equip the building are presently at outline stage, and it is now very much down to you, The Trust members, to decide exactly what you want. The Trust Board are trying to set up an effective consultation mechanism to ensure that this can happen.

How can YOU get involved?

- Attend one of the open sessions at the Trust Office to convey your opinion
- Join the Community Centre Development & Steering Group
- Become part of an email group of interested people
- Drop your ideas and suggestions in at the office
- Email us with your ideas and suggestions

Open sessions

Come join us for a coffee or a glass of wine, look at the plans, and express your opinion:

15 th July	12noon to 1pm	4pm to 5pm	7pm to 8pm
22 th July	12noon to 1pm	4pm to 5pm	7pm to 8pm

Join the Development / Steering Group

We're looking for a number of residents who can form a group to look at the design and development in detail, listen to what all members are saying, and steer and manage the design, development, and equipping of the centre through the next crucial few months.

The group will be chaired by Angela Bailey, one of the Resident Directors.

Join the email group

We would like as many members as possible to act as a sounding board for the Development Group mentioned above. Anyone who joins this group will be emailed regularly as the plans progress and asked for comments and feedback to influence the development of the centre. Membership of the email group would be ideal for anyone who is too busy, or perhaps housebound, but who wants to have their say without committing too much time. We promise to do everything we can to make membership of the email group as painless as possible.

In Writing

Drop in your ideas to the office post box any time and we will make sure they get to the Development Group to inform their discussion, or email us at the address below that has been set up specifically for this project:

community@elseapark.co.uk

What about other very important issues?

We know that many of you feel that the Community Centre is not a priority compared with roads, pavements, landscaping, and the overall general condition of Elsea Park.

I can assure you that the Trust will continue to work with the developers to deal with outstanding issues that are within the remit of The Trust and keep you informed of progress that is made.

Angela Bailey
Resident Director