

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

SOUTH WEST WILTSHIRE AREA BOARD 21 OCTOBER 2009

SURE START CHILDREN'S CENTRE PROPOSAL FOR TISBURY COMMUNITY AREA

1. Background

- 1.1 Sure Start Children's Centres serve children 0 - 5 years and their families, from the antenatal period until children start primary school. Wiltshire Council has 24 children's centre open in Wiltshire with another 6 to develop over the next six months. The children's centre is a one stop shop for information, support and advice and it will offer a range of services to families with babies and pre-school children.
- 1.2 There are approximately 300 children 0 – 5 years in the Tisbury Community Area. It is an area of rural isolation especially for people with limited access to transport. The Cabinet of Wiltshire Council agreed that every Community Area in Wiltshire should have a children's centre and so Tisbury has been included in this final phase of development. A children's centre is usually open during normal working hours, Monday to Friday. There may be occasional weekend and evening use.

2. Options

- 2.1 A public meeting was convened on 9 September 2009, when three options were presented for consideration. Fifty seven people attended this meeting.
 - a. A new building, adjacent to St John's Primary School, Tisbury which would cost in the region of £300,000 paid for through a ring fenced capital grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. This would be about 103 sq metres with 10 parking places.
 - b. The use of the old Magistrate's Court in Tisbury village, presently occupied by the Youth Service. This would require a move for the young people up to the Nadder site.
 - c. The Department of Community Services building next to the Nadder Hall. This building will be partially vacant from the end of October 2009. It will need some internal alterations to divide the space and provide a separate entrance, toilets and office space.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The feeling of the public meeting favoured the option of using the DCS offices. Young people attending the meeting expressed that they were very happy down in the village. They said that if it was necessary for them to move they would, but it was not their preferred option. Participants were very vocal in their opposition to a new build.
- 3.2 At the meeting, a response sheet was distributed and sent out widely following the meeting. By the deadline date 35 had been returned. All returns except one favoured the DCS building. One return favoured the Youth Service building. No returns favoured a new building.

- 3.3 Action for Children will be managing the children's centre services and the newly appointed Manager for Tisbury has been consulting with people across the Community Area. This is an on-going process, and a further opportunity will be to talk to people at the forthcoming open day at Tisbury Leisure Centre.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 The preferred option therefore is for the children's centre to occupy part of the DCS offices close to the Primary School. In acknowledgment of the need to address parking issues, ten additional parking places will be provided nearby to accommodate visitors to the children's centre.
- 4.2 If the South-west Wiltshire Area Board endorses this recommendation it will be taken to the Portfolio Holder for Schools, Children and Families, for a delegated decision to proceed with this recommendation.
- 4.3 Arthur Williams, Principal Contracts Officer for Wiltshire Council, following the public meeting and in anticipation of the preferred option has carried out a feasibility study on the DCS offices. The internal alterations necessary are quite straightforward and it is anticipated that services could be delivered from the New Year.

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Appendix 1:

Feedback from Parents and Professionals in the Tisbury community Area Collated by Eileen Brocklehurst, Manager for Tisbury community Area children's Centre

No unpublished documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report

APPENDIX 1

Feedback from Parents and Professionals in the Tisbury Community Area collated by Eileen Brocklehurst, Manager for Tisbury Community Area Children's Centre

Stakeholder	Feedback
St John's Primary School, Tisbury parents and staff	Welcomes the children's centre and can identify a need and families that can be referred for help. Keen to establish links for joint working.
Tisbury Pre-School	Welcomes the children's centre and can identify a need for wide variety of activities. Can see the potential for joint working.
Tisbury Toddler Group parents Post codes represented: SP3 5SF SP3 6JF SP3 6RP SP3 6LL SP3 6LH SP3 6LA SP3 6HJ SP3 6HA SP3	Mothers present very interested in children's centre and what could be offered. All felt they would join activities and thought DCS location ideal. Many had already been to North Dorset CC, 1 had visited Salisbury City and 1 a CC at her previous address. Suggested a buddy system to help welcome more vulnerable parents into their group.
Tisbury Health Visitor and Nursery Nurse	Welcomes the CC and can identify a need and families that can be referred. They want to run sessions for new parents at the centre.
Ludwell Primary School Headteacher	Welcomes the CC and can identify a need and families that can be referred for outreach. Not sure how popular stay and play type sessions would be if brought out to their area although the Head admitted she is new and doesn't know families well yet.
Parents and carers in school playground at Ludwell Primary School Post codes represented: SP7 (x7) SP5 (x1)	Adults spoken to in the playground with under 5s were not interested in attending CC sessions in Tisbury but thought more isolated families might come to activities organised in Ludwell area. Only 1 had been to a CC before (North Dorset).
Fovant Rainbows Pre-School	Manager already has many links in place (e.g. health visitor already pops in to their sessions) and parents using them are spread out amongst a variety of local villages (Fovant, Chilmark, Dinton, Swallowcliffe, Barford and Burcombe) some of which are in Wilton reach area. There will inevitably be a great deal of cross over between both centres. Very keen to participate.
Donhead St Mary	Eileen drove around the area for an hour mid-morning on a sunny day and could not find any parents and young children out and about. Nothing on village notice boards identified parent groups already running and nothing is identified on the Family Information Services list. Continued attempts will be made to find out the location of under fives in the area.
Tisbury Library and Tisbury Leisure Centre	At both places staff are keen to have a CC on the Nadder site and they could see ways of joint working. To develop the health and well-being of children and parents in the area and to build up a relationship between children and a love of communication through the library service. Representatives of both the library and the leisure centre were represented at the public meeting.