

Press Release



17th April 2018

Community Centre seeks funds to fight Wealden planning decision in court

Public meeting called to kick-start funding for Judicial Review process

Crowborough Community Association (CCA) has hired a legal team to set in motion a legal action against Wealden District Council's decision to allow 68 houses and flats to be built next to the town's £3.2 million Community Centre with the loss of 99 public car parking spaces.

A meeting of the Community Centre's Directors and Trustees unanimously agreed the decision yesterday (16th April) and, at the same time, decided to call a Public Meeting on Wednesday 9th May to explain the necessity of the decision and to set in motion a fund-raising scheme to cover the cost of a Judicial Review of Wealden's decision. The meeting will start at 7:30pm in the Community Centre.

Standing-room only is anticipated at the meeting, such is the level of disappointment and anger in the town at Wealden's decision to ignore more than 400 written representations by Community Centre users and residents as well as those from influential local institutions such as: the Chamber of Commerce; Sussex Police; the

Town Council; neighbouring parish councils; and even the Association of Sussex Councils.

CCA chairman Chantal Wilson said: "To get the process moving as quickly as possible, we have agreed to dip into the Community Centre's precious reserves but we hope to cover the cost of a legal action by appealing to the people of Crowborough who will be badly affected by the loss of public car parking and the consequent threat to the Community Centre. It is no exaggeration to say that this ill-considered decision by Wealden has put the very existence of the Community Centre at risk.

"Dipping into our reserves is the last thing we wanted to do but we are left with no alternative. The first thing hirers ask is whether there is enough parking. We have to do all we can to maintain adjacent parking which is so crucial to our users."

For more information:

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Crowborough Community Association

The Crowborough Community Association has been active in Crowborough since 1975, when it opened the original CCA Hall in Park Road, built in 1925 as a Guide hut. It was 'home' to many of the town's local organisations until momentum for a new community centre swelled following a public consultation by Wealden District Council on future retail development in the town. With funding from Crowborough Town Council and the National Lottery and on land donated by Wealden District Council, the new Crowborough Community Centre, costing £3.2 million, opened in 2012. It is now very much at the heart of the community with an average of 260 bookings each month for a large number of clubs, associations and individuals. The Centre is now financially self-supporting having exceeded bookings and income targets.