

# Press Release



29<sup>th</sup> October 2018

## **Community Centre negotiating 42 more car parking spaces with Wealden council**

### **AGM also hears of talks with Abbey Developments for new zebra crossing from Croft Road car park**

Crowborough Community Association (CCA) is in talks with both Wealden District Council and Abbey Developments to mitigate the loss of 99 public car parking spaces now that work has started on a housing development covering the Mead House/Beaconwood site next door to the Community Centre in Pine Grove.

CCA chairman Chantal Wilson reminded members attending the association's Annual General Meeting last week (25<sup>th</sup> October) that Wealden District Council had used its powers to dispose of the land "with total disregard for a reasonable compromise which all of the community would have supported".

She reported that Wealden nevertheless seems "well disposed" to providing 42 additional short term car parking spaces on the other side of Pine Grove, immediately opposite the community centre. She and two fellow CCA Board members, have met the council's Chief Executive-designate, Trevor Scott, to progress the scheme. It is now up to Crowborough Town Council to negotiate the layout, especially with regard to keeping important trees.

Mrs Wilson also told the packed AGM meeting that negotiations are being initiated with Abbey Developments to install a zebra crossing on Pine Grove, linking the Community Centre to the

Croft Road car park, as a matter of urgency. Abbey are contractually obliged to provide this crossing when occupancy of the housing development starts but Mrs Wilson pointed out: "We need this now."

Earlier, the meeting heard a presentation on the new Crowborough Enterprise Centre being established in the former Wealden District Council offices next door to the Community Centre. Rebecca Gattinesi, area manager for Basepoint which will operate the Enterprise Centre, told CCA members that transformation works on the building would be completed before Christmas. The Enterprise Centre, with its 60 business units, would be opening very early in the New Year with an initial 20% occupancy (expected to rise to 80% or more within two years).

Crowborough people and CCA members, who fought hard for the project over several years, will be able to visit the new Enterprise Centre at a series of 'open days'.

In his report to members, joint centre manager Brian Stockton announced a new voucher-based Lunch Club to help combat loneliness in the community. He noted reports that a fifth of people in the UK aged over 70 eat all their main meals alone. The Community Centre's Gallery Café, now managed in-house by chef Alex Armstrong, would be at the heart of the scheme

The AGM re-elected two directors and confirmed the appointment of Janet Somers as Financial Director, replacing Richard Wilkinson who guided the Community Centre from its establishment in 2012.

***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 some 300 bookings each month for a large number of clubs, associations and individuals. The Centre is now financially self-supporting having consistently exceeded bookings and income targets.***