

**Walsall Council****Report to Blakenall &
Bloxwich LNP
23rd October 2006**

Mossley Resource Centre : Community Facilities

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To advise the Local Neighbourhood Partnership of progress on securing alternative accommodation for the current community users within Mossley Centre.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The LNP is requested to note the report.

3.0 Background

3.1 At the last LNP meeting on 6th September 2006, it was agreed that no decision should be made on the future redevelopment of the Mossley Centre site until the needs of the existing community user groups had been fully addressed. A request was made that a development plan for community provision be produced for the Mossley Estate and Chepstow Road area before any decision was taken on the future of the Mossley Centre, and in doing so, the provision made for children, young people and senior citizens should be taken into account. The LNP requested that the development plan should be short, medium and long term plan as the estates were lacking in facilities for all age groups.

4.0 Progress

In order to progress this matter, officers of the Council together with Rev Hawksworth of St Thomas' Church, recently met to discuss the position and the possible options for the relocation of the various groups currently using the Mossley Centre.

4.1 Over 60's Group

The Over 60's is the largest of the community groups currently using Mossley Centre, with residents meeting on a regular basis throughout the week. One of the key requirements of the Group is that its activities need to stay within the Estate. There has been previous discussion about the possibility of this group using the community room at St Thomas' Church. The Church has offered this accommodation in principle, and the Community Development Service has offered the Group £1000 of funding to meet the Group's relocation costs. Reverend Hawksworth is working with the Church Urban Fund to try to secure funding for an extension to the side of the Church for community use, although it is understood this would be a longer term project should funding be secured.

4.2 Mossley Community Association

The C. A. currently operates after school Kids Clubs and an over-18s Bingo Session on a regular basis. C.A. activities have been scaled down due to the uncertainty over the future of the Mossley Centre. A new venue would need to take account of equipment owned by the organisation and, as with the Over 60s Group, its activities would also need a central location within the estate.

In relation to Kids Clubs, the possibility of the use of school facilities needs to be fully investigated with the individual schools, and in particular Mossley JMI, where the Bloxwich West Children's Centre is currently under construction. Part of the building will be available for public use after school hours, and community organisations will be encouraged to access the support this centre can offer to help deliver their community activities.

The Church has offered the use of its available space for its Bingo Session.

4.3 Mossley Residents Association

The Residents Association meets monthly and is a self-help group working for residents on the estate. From previous meetings with this smaller group, it appears that it has greater flexibility than the others in terms of meeting its own accommodation needs. On this basis, a number of possible venues on the estate will be investigated.

5.0 Conclusion

Other funding streams need to be explored in detail to assess how these might help to support meeting the current and future community needs. Officers will continue to investigate accommodation opportunities within the area and to work with the groups towards achieving a satisfactory means of meeting these needs.