



PRESS RELEASE

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Financial support granted for Emsworth YMCA youth & community centre plan

In the CLT housing and community needs survey, almost three quarters of respondents said that facilities for young people in Emsworth were inadequate. Also, with the growth in housing there is a need for good quality childcare to complement the existing provision.

The CLT has been working with the YMCA and Havant Council to see how we can respond to these needs. Survey work is currently being undertaken with the wider community to see what provision can be made and a decision will be made in the spring as to the viability and design of a new centre.

We are delighted to say that Havant Borough Council (HBC) has earmarked £200,000 towards the building of a new Early Years, Youth and Community Centre on the north end of New Brighton Road, Emsworth. When built, the centre will provide a focal point for the local area and provide much needed childcare, youth services as well as space for the community to come together. The YMCA is leading on the plans and currently gathering feedback from local people on their aspirations for the centre. The CIL fund is administered by local councillors who annually examine many applications for a grant.

The plans for the centre can be found online via YMCA's website www.ymca-fg.org/emsworth. This includes details of how the building might look, the usage of the centre and an opportunity to engage in the local consultation. Once all the views have been examined, the plans will be amended to take notice of particular requests.

The project is led by YMCA who run a network of similar community places across Hampshire. They use the spaces for nursery care as well as a place for people of all ages to come together and build community. In Emsworth the YMCA is working in close partnership with a number of local organisations including Emsworth Community Land Trust, Emsworth Residents Association and Havant Borough Council to ensure they understand local demands and services can be dovetailed together.

The recent CIL money allocated towards the project is a major contribution towards the total project costs of £1.5mn. Fundraising plans are in place to raise the balance of the funds, and please do contact emsworth@ymca-fg.org if you want to get more involved in being part of this exciting project.

Extra information:

What is Community Infrastructure Fund (CIL) money?

All over the England whenever a number of new houses are built the builders have to pay a percentage into the local CIL fund. Most of that money goes towards publicly run infrastructure issues, like new traffic lights, a railway bridge, footbridge or cycling paths. A small percentage

of CIL money is available for local groups to apply for a particular project they are leading like community centre improvements or school projects and can include even quite small local issues.

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