

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	13 April 2021
Title:	Thame Youth Projects
Report Author:	Councillor Paul Cowell

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to inform the CLR of the recommendations of the Community Youth Centre working Group (CYCWG) for the location of a new facility in Thame for a Community Youth Centre. To enable CLR to approve a location and an option for the type of facility to be placed on SRRG. This recommendation will then be proposed to full council for approval.

Update

2. After consideration of the limited sites available within Thame for such a facility. The recommendation is for a facility to be located on Southern Road Recreation Ground (SRRG). This site provides a number of advantages, access to utilities in Southern Rd, located next to Scout HQ, and Guide HQ, the play park, enabling facilities to be provided for families at the park. There is ease of access from the town and surrounding areas with the potential to redesign the current parking. The SRRG also has significant funds associated from s106 monies.
3. The site does have an issue with Anti-Social Behavior (ASB), that local residents feel has not been addressed by both the Council and TVP. The Local residents do not see the location of a new facility as a positive and do not feel it will reduce the ASB in the area. It is felt by CYCWG that this location would actually reduce ASB due to greater usage of the building and area by the public. However, if approved TTC will have to address the concerns of local residents as the project moves forward.
4. The Cattle Market was considered as an alternative, however as this is owned by SODC and forms a considerable financial asset to SODC. it was felt that this did not provide a viable option.
5. CYCWG have also considered the type of facility and its use for the location, the options put forward are.

OPTION 1: Community Youth Centre

6. A new building to consist of a Community Centre, Youth Centre and Changing Rooms. This would provide facilities for use by the public and local community groups as required. Whilst having a Youth Centre which would allow the

young people to access without impacting the community aspect. The facility would also provide external toilets including a disabled toilet. There would also be provision for a kiosk / outside café area for people visiting the SRRG or play park. The changing rooms would be accessible from outside.

OPTION 2: New Council Offices and Community Centre on SRRG & Town Hall as a Youth Centre

7. A new building to consist of new Council Offices and Community facility. The Council Offices would provide the required space and staff facilities for a modern forward-looking Council whilst ensuring flexibility for growth over the coming years. The Community aspect would provide for local groups. There would also be external toilets and kiosk / outside café area. Changing rooms could also be incorporated into this option.
8. The existing Town Hall would require adaption and some refurbishment to facilitate a Youth Centre. It would provide young people with a central location and easily accessible from across Thame.

OPTION 3: Council Offices, Youth Centre, Changing Rooms.

9. A new building to consist of Council Offices to provide the required space for the Council and staff as per option 2. The Youth Centre would be integrated into the building with separate access to ensure no impact on the Council Offices. Provision would also be made for external toilets and a Kiosk. Changing rooms would also be provided with separate access.
10. The Town Hall would be disposed of either by lease or sale. Enabling additional funds to be raised for the new building.

Legal Powers

- General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, ss 1-8
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

Recommendation:

To **approve** the location of a new building on the SRRG and to approve the option for the building / function that will be taken forward to full council.