

Ansty Village Centre

Consultation

Why is a new Village Centre needed?

- The village hall, and social club is the only public meeting place in Ansty. The church, shop and pub have all been lost in recent years.
- The community in and around Ansty continues to grow with 54 new houses built or planned in the village.
- The sporting demand has grown, with a second cricket pitch created in 2014, a thriving junior section and growing women's cricket.
- The village hall was built in 1921, has a limited life and is no longer fit for purpose.

What facilities will be provided in the new Centre?

- A new larger village hall with catering facilities providing opportunities for a wide range of community activities.
- A new club and function room, with a small kitchen and bar for users of the Centre and the recreation ground.
- Disabled access throughout the building, including a lift.
- Four team and two officials changing rooms to Sport England specification.
- A modern snooker room equipped with two tables.
- A meeting room separated from the snooker room by a partition, which can be moved to create a space for spectator viewing when snooker tournaments are hosted.
- An enlarged car park, almost twice the size of the current one.

Who is responsible for the Ansty Village Centre project?

- The Ansty Village Centre Trust (AVCT) is a registered charity and will oversee the construction of the Centre.
- The AVCT has 5 trustees:
 - Maureen Gibson (Ansty Village Hall Trust), Brian Fletcher (Ansty Sports and social Club); John Thorpe (Ansty Cricket Club) Jon Gilley, (Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council), Crispin Salimbeni (ASPC).
- The construction phase will also be supported by a team of volunteers with proven expertise in the construction industry.
- Once constructed the AVCT will promote the centre and ensure long-term financial stability.
- Day to day running of the Centre will be by a Management Committee.

Who will benefit from the new Centre?

- The Village Hall, sports & social club and recreation grounds currently attract over 15000 visits a year.
- Visits are expected to double, with approximately 78% for the community facilities and 22% for the outdoor sport.
- The hall provides a space for community clubs and events including, a gardening club, an arts and crafts group, community lunches, quizzes, parties, racing and skittle nights,.
- It is hoped the new facilities will also host fitness classes, toddler groups, family celebrations, weddings, charity events and corporate hire.
- The sports and social club has over 30 teams including men's, women's and junior cricket, football, snooker, billiards and darts.
- Around 50% of the visits are expected to be from the parish of Ansty and Staplefield.

How much will it cost and how much has been raised so far?

- The total cost of the development is £1.4m. After years of community engagement and fundraising £1.2m has been secured from the following sources:

• Ansty Village Hall Trust	£76,600	
• Ansty Sports & Social Club	£55,000	
• Ansty Cricket Club	£75,000	
• Mid-Sussex District Council (S106)	£550,638	These are developer contributions.
• Community Funders	£144,927	
• Sports Funders	£275,000	
• Business Funders	£15,000	
• ASSC/ACC in kind contributions	£25,000	
• Funds in hand	£8095	
• Total funding secured	£1,225,260	

What other funds are being sought?

- To reach the final funding target the project is seeking £200k:
- £100k from Ansty and Staplefield Parish Council, plus contributions from:
 - Mid Sussex District Council and,
 - Local funders
- If this money is secured in the next few months then the building work will commence in 2020.

Why are the Parish Council *considering* donating to the project ?

- The Parish Council has worked closely with this project for several years and has identified it as a priority.
- The Ansty, Staplefield and Brook Street Neighbourhood Plan was approved by referendum in January 2017 and includes the following policy:

“POLICY AS8: IMPROVEMENT OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Proposals that would result in the improved provision of community facilities will be strongly supported. In the case of the Village Centre in Ansty and the Pavilion in Staplefield, this is particularly the case for proposals that would re-provide and improve such facilities on the existing site.”

Why are the Parish Council *considering* donating to the project ?

- The Parish Council maintains Staplefield assets and has plans to improve the pavilion but it would also like to support community projects from across the parish and has been building some reserves to do this.
- All parish residents can benefit from the new Ansty Village Centre and it is intended that parish residents will be offered discounts for membership and bookings.
- Ansty is accommodating a significant increase in housing. The centre of Ansty is growing by more than 50% and it is a mile away from the largest planned development in West Sussex

How will the Parish Council fund the donation?

- The Parish Council has built reserves specifically for community projects in the last few years and will be able to give £75k from this fund.
- The Parish Council will not need to raise the precept, which is their part of the council tax, for this project.
- The £25k balance will be from an unsecured Public Works Loan payable over 4 years. This will cost approximately £6,540 per annum.

Are there any risks associated with the Parish Council donation?

- Whilst the Parish Council will be making a payment from reserves that were allocated to community projects, it will still have sufficient general reserves and insurance cover to meet unexpected costs.
- The project has also been closely scrutinised by other bodies such as the West Sussex County Council, Mid Sussex District Council, and national sports governing bodies.

For more information please visit:

www.anstystaplefield-pc.gov.uk