

Meeting with the Mathiesen Centre Trust held on 15th December 2017

Present: Mathiesen Centre Rep, David Wright, Peter Kirkham, Lisa Emmanuel

Introductions and background

LE outlined the background to Neighbourhood Plans as a result of the Localism Act. LE further explained the process, aims and intentions of the SNP along with SPC's role in the development of the plan.

DW and LE then outlined concerns relating to the area which have been raised through the resident consultation, along with historical complaints known by SPC.

The main issue is parking on Mathiesen Road, creating safety concerns for both road users and pedestrians. It was acknowledged that the principal problem was visitors to the MK Carer facility adjacent to the Mathiesen Centre as their car park does not accommodate the number of staff and visitors.

Whilst the Neighbourhood plan might look at physical opportunities to address parking shortfall, SPC are keen to explore all opportunities to help overcome the problem. One approach was to consider the possibility of utilising the Mathiesen Centre car park during the day, when not in use by its own patrons.

PK also asked whether it was possible to expand the car park by the centre.

Mathiesen Centre

SG outlined that the centre has been managed by the Mathiesen Centre Trust since 2016. They took over the responsibility for the building, car park and surrounding bushes under the MKC Community Asset Transfer programme.

The car park is currently big enough for the centre's needs. However, they also plan to expand the sports hall into the garden area. They are currently limited to the type of provision/suitability for hiring due to the hall flooring. Going forward the new plans will incorporate a new floor which will increase capacity and appeal for hirers.

SH agreed in the short term it may be possible for an informal agreement for shared use of the car park, however longer term this would be ruled out.

PK asked whether the bus route had an impact on the centre access.

SG acknowledged that Wheelers Lane junction can be a problem and parking on the street can block the view at the junction.

Discussion then followed on how the centre might promote its presence better including the use of signage. PK also offered the opportunity to promote through the parish magazine.

Current users are as follows:

- Rainbows

- Sewing Bee
- Rethink
- Short Mat Bowls
- Drama – adults with learning disabilities
- New Way disco - adults with learning disabilities
- Cheerleaders
- 3 church groups
- Vikings – re-enactment winter training
- Safe exercise

SG also outlined that their land is currently used as a cut through by residents to/from the bus. They may put a gate on the car park if funds can be found.