



**Community Centre Proposal – These are the questions being asked as part of the Parish Councils online survey in August 2025. We hope the answers help build a more detailed picture of the potential centre. If you have any further questions please email [parishclerk@easebourne.org](mailto:parishclerk@easebourne.org)**

1	<p><b>Q: The proximity to school, children's safety</b></p> <p>A: This is something that we have been aware of since the start of the project. The dis-used area of the school being looked at has no internal connection to the main school building. The safeguarding of children is the highest priority and the school have been and continue to be involved in all aspects of the proposal for which we have their full support.</p>
2	<p><b>Q: I think the organisers of the new community space would have to manage the timetable around school drop off and pick up as the car park becomes very busy.</b></p> <p>A: This is something that can be considered a little further down the line, but we fully appreciate that the carpark gets very busy at certain times.</p>
3	<p><b>Q: Are there other community spaces already in Easebourne such as Cowdray hall? The church? Could these be repurposed instead of creating new spaces? Are there any safeguarding issues and parking issues if old school is used during school days? Car parking for school is already difficult and full at times without having extra use. Any further use of the car park should be outside of school drop off and collection times.</b></p> <p>A: Cowdray Hall is not really available for regular community activity and general social events. The Church itself is not currently suitable for group activity given the internal layout and the facilities it can offer. The Refectory next to the Church is no longer considered fit for any community use and has been closed for several years. The Church are very supportive of what we are proposing. We have looked at alternatives including building within the Park, but the costs of connecting to services was deemed not to be an efficient use of funds. We also feel that re-purposing an existing building at the heart of the village is a better option than building on current green spaces.</p>
4	<p><b>Q: Is it needed, are you just taking business from others? I think it would need a specific focus, why do you need it? I dont think you have really explained why this is needed there.</b></p> <p>A: Easebourne is a village of around 1000 homes and is growing, yet we do not have a suitable space that can be easily and frequently used by our own Community. We feel that this is something the village has lacked for a long time, in fact the concept of a village hall has been discussed for many years. There are other venues locally but we also feel that we have the opportunity to create a flexible space that can offer a wide range of options and be there for people within Easebourne who wouldn't travel to other locations. We are planning a number of consultations with the Community, this being the first stage, so we hope through those events that we can continue to gather ideas from our residents and fine tune what a finished Community Centre could look like and what people would want to use it for.</p>
5	<p><b>Q: It's a very sensible use of spare space and should above all be cheap!</b></p> <p>A: Thank you! We're working very hard on costings at the moment.</p>
6	<p><b>Q: To offer jobs/volunteer roles to local people with learning disabilities or dementia for example, so they feel included in their community. To encourage school children</b></p>



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	<p><b>to have a role by getting them to design art work to decorate rooms or bake cakes to go on sale.</b></p> <p>A: This is a great suggestion and something that we can certainly investigate if we are able to go forward with the proposal.</p>
7	<p><b>Q: Love to see this happen!!</b></p> <p>A: Great!</p>
8	<p><b>Q: I own a small business that provides stay and play groups for children under 5. I currently use stedham memorial Hall as this is the only place suitable. Would be great to have a local facility where I can bring parents and children together.</b></p> <p>A: That's great to hear and we hope we can make this happen and provide a space that would be suitable for your business.</p>
9	<p><b>Q: I would love to see some facilities for children to get together and hang out, like a youth club. Somewhere where they could play things like pool and table tennis and have music.</b></p> <p>A: This is exactly what a Community Centre could offer at certain times of the day or week. We'll add this idea into the mix. Thank you!</p>
10	<p><b>Q: The chapel is a cool, fun place to visit not just a dull community centre. Definitely worth speaking to them and getting a tour arranged.</b></p> <p>A: Please let us know which Chapel you're thinking of (could it be Graylingwell?) and we can look into what they offer and if we could replicate some of those ideas. Please drop us an email on <a href="mailto:parishclerk@easebourne.org">parishclerk@easebourne.org</a></p>
11	<p><b>Q: I would like to see a map of the outlined area under discussion</b></p> <p>A: We will post more plans up of the area and potential layouts very shortly. Please check back on the Parish Council website or look for information on the Parish noticeboards or through your door.</p>
12	<p><b>Q: I think it's a great concept! I think just affordable for everyone to benefit from its use.</b></p> <p>A: Great to hear! Our aspiration is definitely for all aspects of this to be affordable for everyone.</p>
13	<p><b>Q: I have no concerns. The sooner the better. Most people cannot afford to hire Cowdray hall for any event.</b></p> <p>A: Thanks for letting us know, we agree the sooner the better!</p>
14	<p><b>Q: Parking. The car park gets extremely busy at school drop off/ pickup and the car park is always full at these times with cars having to park on the grass verge</b></p> <p>A: We appreciate that the carpark can get busy at times so we know we need to think about how to minimise any disruption that extra visitors to a Community Centre might cause.</p>



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15	<p><b>Q: I think it's great that this section of the school is going to be used for something positive for the community. My major concern as a parent of two children at Easebourne primary school is that the car park is already at beyond capacity at pick up and drop off times, so if classes/activities were on between 8.30 and 9.30am or 2.30 and 3.30pm it will be very stressful for parents trying to collect young children.</b></p> <p>A: We are most definitely aware that parking is a challenge so we want to find a way to minimise any additional stress if we are able to proceed with this proposal.</p>
16	<p><b>Q: You state that money required would be sought from grants. If a loan had to be found can I ask where the interest for repayment schedule would come from?</b></p> <p>A: If we needed to look at a Government backed Works Board Loan then repayments would be coming from the precept, however we are confident that we won't have to go this route. If all the required funding couldn't be obtained for some reason we are also looking at options to leave some elements of the refurbishment until such a point in time when more funds could be available.</p>
17	<p><b>Q: It would be lovely if you could hold a funeral service.</b></p> <p>A: It would certainly be a venue where someone could hire it to hold a wake.</p>
18	<p><b>Q: I think the you youngsters (MRC age) don't have anywhere to hang out with their friends so I think somewhere they can socialise in a safe environment would be hugely beneficial</b></p> <p>A: We hope that this is exactly what a community centre could offer, something for the whole community.</p>
19	<p><b>Q: A permanent coffee shop would be amazing with affordable coffee, cakes, snacks for families visiting the park. A small kitchen that could be used for kids birthday parties.</b></p> <p>A: We're working through a few options for how we could provide this. At the very least there would be a kitchen that people could use when hiring the spaces. We'd really like to have a community run simple coffee shop but we need to consider how this would be run. Watch this space!</p>
20	<p><b>Q: With the issues the Guides and Scouts have with their hut, could space be found to house them if Cowdray reclaimed the land?</b></p> <p>A: We would hope that the flexible spaces would be suitable for the majority of local groups.</p>
21	<p><b>Q: Parking needs to be considered and car park size increased as is already carnage at school times, especially pick up!</b></p> <p>A: We're aware of the busy times in the carpark and appreciate this causes problems for parents, so we are now looking at ways to alliviate this.</p>
22	<p><b>Q: In Easebourne, we are missing a small football pitch with goals with nets. If there would be any space for it, my sons would love it</b></p>



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	A: Unfortunately this proposal won't provide us with any additional outdoor space big enough for that. Sorry.
23	<p><b>Q: Making sure the space will be used by the community &amp; that the space is sustainable monetarily</b></p> <p>A: One of the reasons we're gathering feedback like this is to make sure we know there is a need for this type of facility in Easebourne. We believe that the village can sustain the right sort of community centre and the research that we're now doing is also looking at running costs and estimated income.</p>
24	<p><b>Q: I think it's a great idea to make use of the unused space, but there are a few things I feel should be considered. Safeguarding of schoolchildren will need to be carefully managed so community users and pupils remain separate. Noise levels and the type of activities held should also be taken into account, as well as clear communication on how the centre will be managed and how local residents can raise concerns. Ensuring the space is genuinely accessible and prioritised for local community needs would be very important.</b></p> <p>A: There is no connectivity between the school and the proposed areas for the Community centre. The two areas of the building would be completely secure from each other, with access to the Community centre only being from the outside, near the Park. The safeguarding of children is the highest priority.</p> <p>We are committed to making the space 100% accessible to all if we are able to go ahead with the project and any events would have to comply to terms and conditions that would be in place. We're working through options now as to exactly how the centre would be managed.</p>
25	<p><b>Q: The availability of reliable overhead projection and IT is a bonus, it helps sell the services of the venue.</b></p> <p>A: We're definitely looking at having the latest tech available throughout the building.</p>
26	<p><b>Q: Dogs are part of many peoples families and should be included in a community venue. I understand that there are poorly behaved dogs and owners that aren't responsible. However, offering training classes to help owners and their dogs learn would be good for all involved, especially if done responsibly with hygiene and safety in mind. Offering a space where owners can do cafe training with their dogs, as well as general obedience classes would be a lovely addition. In a community centre I would hope there will be multiple spaces available and some could remind no dogs allowed to please anyone who may not agree with dogs on site. It will open the centre to the whole community including dog owners. I also can run workshops which are dogless on canine reactivity to help provide owners with a support network if they are feeling isolated because of a reactive dog, therefore involved in the community</b></p> <p>A: That's a great idea and one we hadn't thought of! So thank you for raising this sort of class as an option. We know how important dogs are to many in ours and surrounding</p>



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	<p>communities so we would intend to make the centre as dog friendly as possible. There would be more than a single space for hire so there could certainly be a room that was kept dog free.</p>
27	<p><b>Q: Definitely would love a coffee shop and think it would be well used by people visiting the park too given there isn't anything else in the vicinity apart from Cowdray. Doesn't even need to serve full lunch – just good coffee and some snacks (including options for little ones) – and could be a good income driver? Good baby changing facilities and highchairs (the cheap white ikea ones are easy to use and easy to keep clean) go a long way to making it a welcoming place for parents with babies and toddlers. Some books and toys/colouring always great too – I'm sure local parents would donate some bits if you asked via the school. If there was space to have small function rooms available for hire it would be amazing to have some baby and toddler groups in the village. Haslemere Youth Hub is definitely the best example of this sort of space I've seen in the area since I've been a parent – maybe worth a visit for inspiration if you've not been!</b></p> <p>A: We would love to find the right way to make coffee and snacks available as we know through talking to other local hubs and centres that this is a valuable asset for the community. Our current layout proposal includes up to 3 different spaces that could be hired, 2 or even all 3 could be opened up and hired as one big space. There could also be smaller office sized rooms for hire. Thanks for the tip about the Haslemere Youth Hub, for parents to be able to establish baby and toddler groups in the village is exactly the reason we feel this sort of facility is needed.</p>
28	<p><b>Q: Eager to see it happen and would be very happy to volunteer</b></p> <p>A: That's great to hear and we will absolutely need volunteers to help and possibly also Trustees. If you want to drop us an email on <a href="mailto:parishclerk@easebourne.org">parishclerk@easebourne.org</a> we can let you know more in the future.</p>
29	<p><b>Q: Adequate parking facilities. Potentially a charger for electric cars</b></p> <p>A: We're looking at potential options to increase parking and that's a really good idea about charging points. Thank you, we will add that into the conversation.</p>
30	<p><b>Q: Excellent opportunity to use the space for the benefit of the Community</b></p> <p>A: We think so too.. so it's great to hear that others feel the same.</p>
31	<p><b>Q: Access for all ages and appropriate built in fire systems.</b></p> <p>A: We will absolutely ensure that the centre is both accessible for all and also has facilities and events that will appeal to all ages. The building itself would be refurbished to meet all Building Control regulations needed for public spaces.</p>

If you have any other questions please contact the Parish Council. We will also be planning further consultation events in the coming months where we can show potential plans, layouts and more information on uses. We will also add more information to the website – [www.easebourne.org](http://www.easebourne.org)