

Christchurch Community Halls Survey
November 2011

Matters and Issues 11 Appendix 1 654456

Introduction

This report was prepared by Christchurch Community Partnership in response to discussions between the Partnership and Christchurch Borough Council on the further development of the New Druiitt Hall project. The need to revisit and verify the current need for another Town Centre Community Hall emerged during these discussions and the CCP agreed to pursue whether there still existed a need for such a space. The CCP chose to conduct a survey of 28 community halls in November 2011, using a telephone call-in survey methodology and asking the same set of questions to each of the booking officers for the respective halls. Each day was analysed into morning, afternoon and evening to provide a picture of not only which day was demanded but also the time of day users were most interested in finding space for their activities/events. Demand for morning, afternoon and evening slots for each hall was analysed as free, booked, occasionally booked/available, and not available. These calls were made over the period 5 – 23 November 2011 and responses were received from 27 of the 28 halls surveyed. The following is a summary of the responses received. A detailed report of each response received is presented as Annex 1 to this report.

Analysis of Survey Data

Seven of the 27 respondents were fully booked or having slots not available for booking, while 20 had slots that were either free or occasionally booked at some time during the week. Of the 14 halls with free slots during the week, ten have less than 4 slots free over a week. However 6 of these 10 halls are located outside of the town centre; namely St Joseph's, Stanpit Village, All Saints, St George's, Somerford Community Centre and Mudeford Infants. Tuesdays and Wednesdays afternoon is the slot with the highest number (5) of halls being free on each day. Three Halls in particular stand out as having the highest incidence of free slots; Druiitt Hall (9), Hope House (8) and Christchurch Rowing Club (7). Hope House is outside of the Town Centre and off of the main bus routes while the Rowing Club though on the edge of the town centre is off a bus route and the space available is on the first floor without a DDA facility. Druiitt Hall though on the main bus route and in the town centre suffers from poor heating and no food preparation facilities.

Over half of the halls indicate there are slots which are requested occasionally. Most of these booking officers (9) indicated these occasional bookings were one-offs, for short periods, weddings, parties and other community social events. Saturday has the highest incidence of these one-off bookings with 18 slots recorded as one-offs/special occasions. Nine of the halls have occasional bookings on Saturday evenings while six said so for Friday evening. When considered as special event space, this pattern takes on totally different perspective. These halls are highly demanded for social/special events on week ends.

Conclusion

Just under a quarter of all the halls in the town are fully booked during the week and the remaining halls have a limited availability during the week. Of the 14 halls with free slots during the week, 10 have less than 4 slots free over a week. Meaning there are 40 morning, afternoon or evening slots available for any new social and community activities in the Borough. In terms of the town centre there is free space only in the Druiitt Hall and at the Christchurch Rowing Club. Use of the Druiitt Hall is however restricted by poor heating and limitations with regard to food preparation. Christchurch Rowing Club is also limited in its capacity for community because it has no adequate facility for disabled access. **This study therefore concludes that although there is some free space available for short-term one-off community/social activities there is a need for new/expanding/recurring community and social activities.**

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