

Sparrow Farm Community Centre and Council Homes

Questions and Answers

1. Can we keep our old Residents' Association club?

No, you can't keep the old club. Plans have been agreed and planning permission granted for the development of the site. The courts have also agreed the site should now be vacated to allow the development to proceed. We expect the development to start in the autumn.

2. Will the new community centre be 'like for like' the old centre?

The new centre will not be like for like, it should be better, with better facilities to cater for a wide range of community activities.

It will be a modern and flexible facility with a modern kitchen and toilets and with low running costs. It will have smaller rooms for meetings and smaller social functions, or it can convert into a large hall capable of holding up to 300 people seated.

We have always explained that the new facility will not have a bar, but will have kitchen facilities for catering purposes and can be licenced for specific events.

We are very much open to hearing what the community would like to use the centre for, and we can set up the internal space to meet your needs. You may want to use it for licenced events such as weddings and parties, you may want to have regular smaller events and social gatherings such as meetings or training, knitting circles, reading groups. You may also want a crèche or nursery facilities.

We are asking for your feedback on how you would like the internal space of the community centre set up, as well as how you'd like it to be run. We are also asking for your views on the external space around the site, whether you'd like more planting and landscaping, seating, or a community vegetable patch or garden for example.

Please let us know your ideas in our questionnaire which is available at **haveyoursay.hounslow.gov.uk/housing/sparrow-farm-shared-spaces**

If you'd like a paper copy of the survey please email community.development@hounslow.gov.uk or call 020 8583 2454

3. The Residents' Association has spent money on the property, building the existing residents' club – will they get compensation?

There is a statutory requirement for compensation once vacant possession has been achieved. This has been explained and discussed with the Sparrow Farm Residents' Association.

4. Have council workers been over to the community centre to cut off the electricity and other facilities?

No, we have not made any attempt to enter the property and will not do so until we have completed the legal process for possession.

5. Will the new flats be let to people outside of the estate?

The new flats will be council housing - built by the council for local residents on the council's housing waiting list.

6. Will the new building affect the light getting to the existing homes?

No, it won't, this is a perception. We have to consider the impacts of lighting within the planning process and the stepped design of the building will compensate for this.

7. Will the bus service to the estate stop?

There are no plans to stop the bus service to the estate. The bus service will continue to serve the estate residents. Transport for London is required to open a public consultation if the bus company plan to make significant changes to one of their routes. The building of 25 new family properties adjacent to a bus stop will increase the demand for the bus route.

8. Are the flats going to be sold or passed on to private companies or a Housing Association?

We have no plans to sell the homes or pass them on to other companies to run. They will be new council homes managed by the council together with our other 16,000 homes.

9. Will there be sufficient parking on the estate once the new flats are built?

We have carried out a parking survey and will be providing additional spaces on the site. The level of parking has been accepted by the planning authority.

10. How do we have our say on the design and use of the new centre?

You can complete our survey which you will find online at www.hounslow.gov.uk... If you need a paper copy please email community.engagement@hounslow.gov.uk or call 020 8583 2454

11. How do we book to use the temporary community centre?

You can book to use the temporary community centre by contacting Pauline Elgrew, Community Centre Co-ordinator on email: Pauline.elgrew1@hounslow.gov.uk