

East Middlesbrough Community Facility

Consultation responses and summary

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A new community facility for East Middlesbrough

Background

The consultation for the new facility has been conducted in two stages.

Stage 1 Consultation

The initial consultation took place in the autumn of 2018 and involved around 100 people which included:

- Councillors in the East Middlesbrough area
- Schools
- Local businesses
- Langridge Initiative Centre
- Young people working with Safe in Tees Valley
- User groups from the Southlands
- SLM

Questions asked during this phase were:

- Would they like to see a new community facility for the area?
- What activities should take place?
- Where should it be?
- Any other comments?

The feedback we received was they wanted to see:

- Any new facility based on the Southlands site
- Access to a wide range of services
- Digital Access
- Social Groups
- Sport/Fitness
- Provision for young people

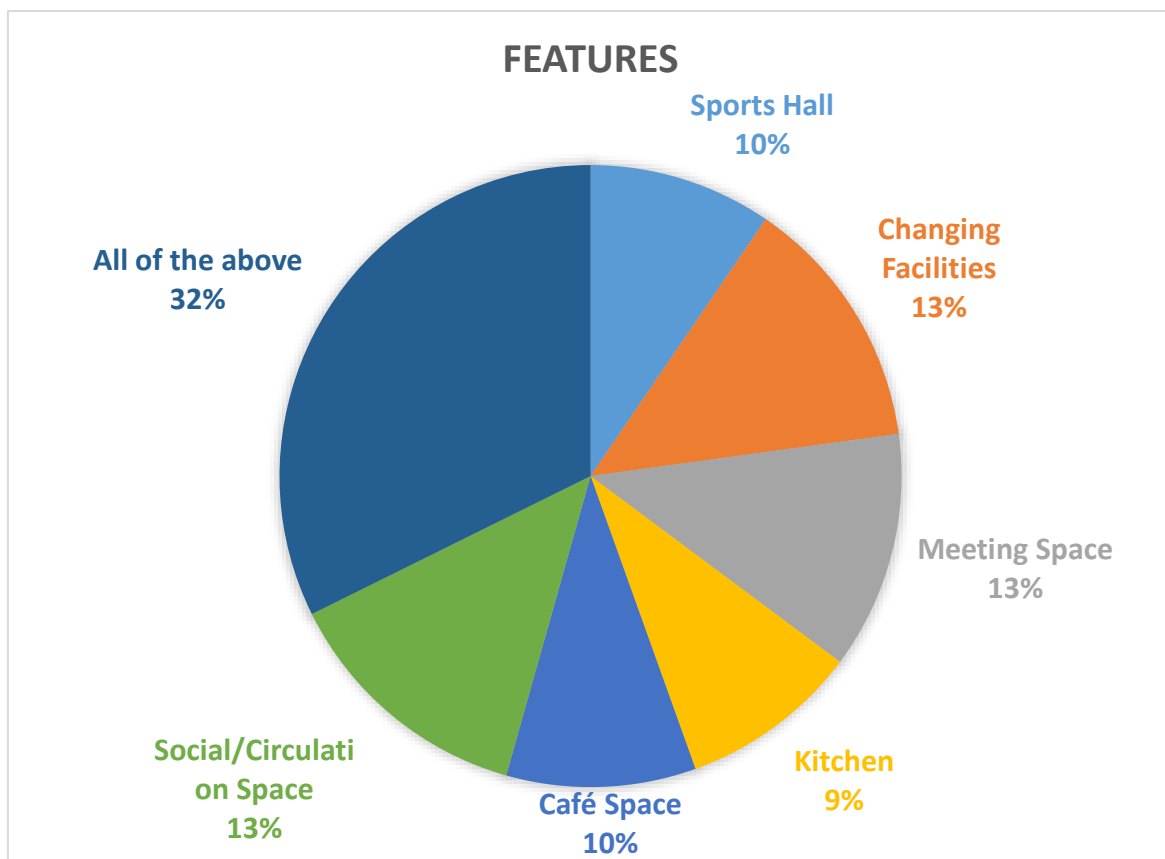
Stage 2 Consultation

The second consultation has taken place between October 18 to January 19 with over 500 people engaged through local groups, individuals, schools and agencies across the East Middlesbrough area.

The feedback collated in the second part of this report has been collected through conversations with the public attending local groups, individual residents, representatives of groups active in the area, local businesses and parents of young people living in the area likely to use the facility. We have also involved an artist – Stephen Pritchard who has been working with local groups, which has enabled the consultation to reflect people’s views in an engaging and creative way, the results from which are featured in a short film which accompanies this report. We have used our knowledge of the local area when compiling the lists of contacts, but have stressed in any contact that we would welcome input from any other groups or individuals active in the area. The questions presented for the second round of consultation focus on the layout, the kinds of activity that people would like to see happening in the facility and how it should operate.

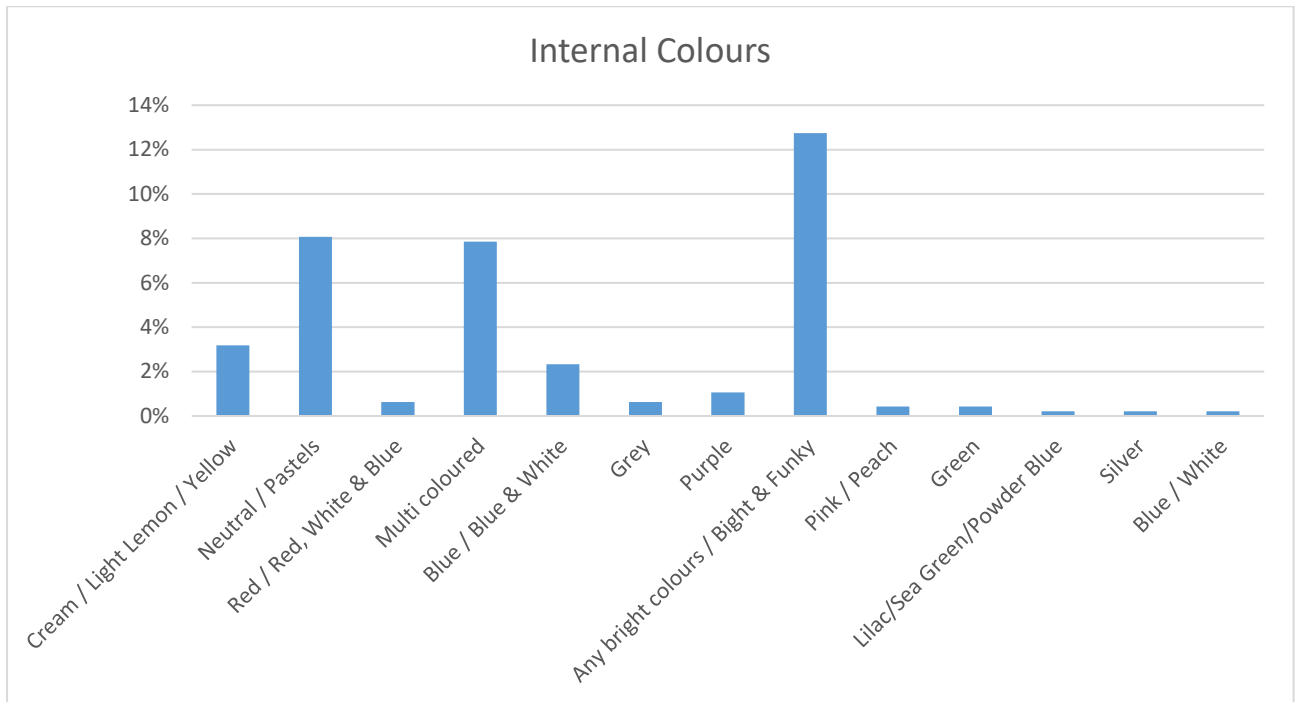
The graphs below represent the feedback we have had to date.

- **Which features would you like to see in the new facility?** Sports hall / changing facilities / meeting space / kitchen / café / activity & training space /social & circulation space / internet access

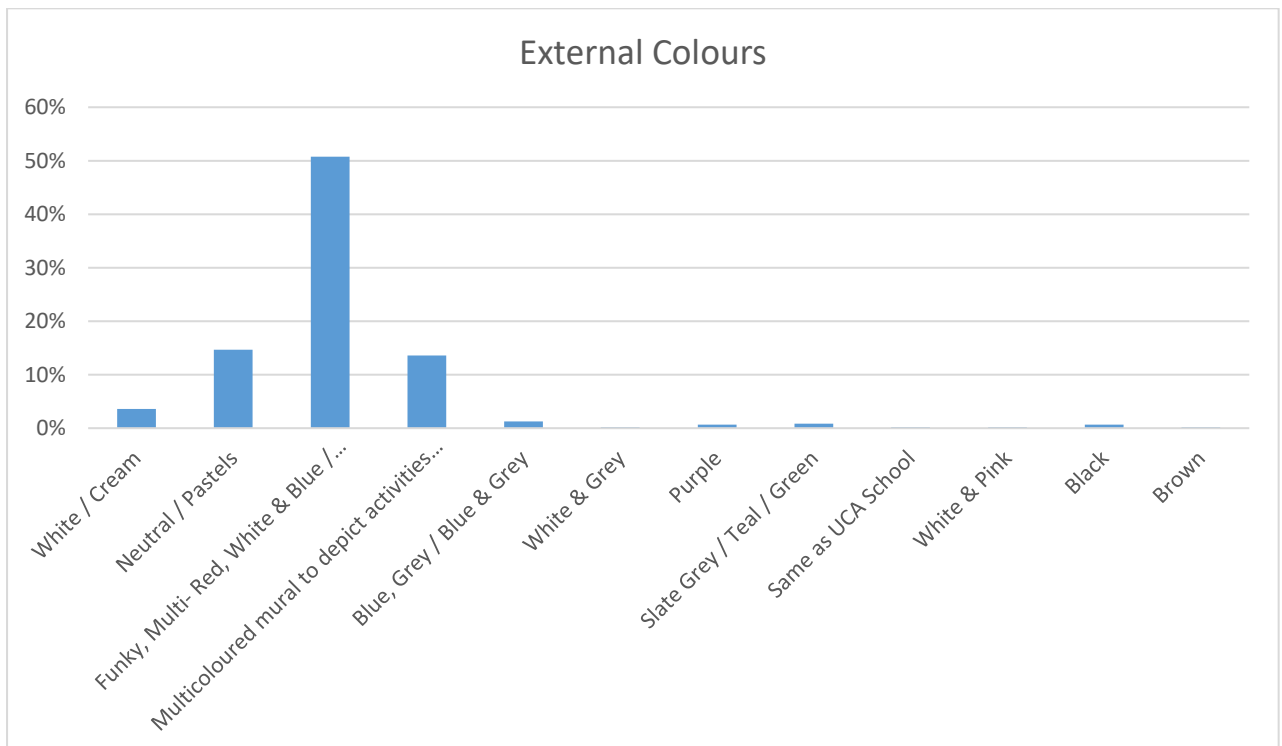


- Please tell us here what colours you think should feature on the inside and outside of the new building?**

Looking at the feedback and choices that have been made its quite evident that bright (and funky!) colours might be welcomed for the younger groups inside the building, possibly identifying the areas more specific for the younger user. Pastels and neutrals may be more suitable across the wider areas of the facility.



Externally neutrals and pastels were popular although a large number were keen to see some type of mural, designed by the younger people possibly, to represent some of the activities taking place inside.

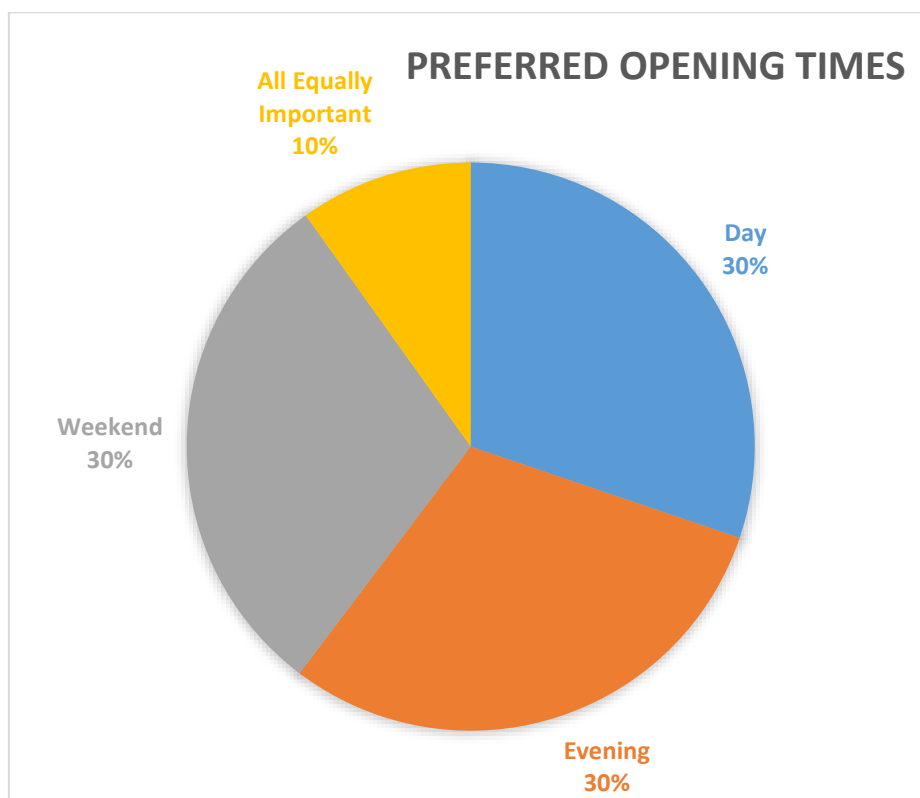


- We want to make sure we get this right, so please tell us here what kinds of activities YOU would like to see being offered in the new Community Hub?

The feedback from this question has led to an extensive list of around 50+ activities. Most popular were Youth clubs, Sports & fitness, Social groups & meeting areas, NHS, Advice & Support Services.

Some examples were; Martial arts / dance classes / craft groups / art groups / Yoga / Pilates / exercise classes / bingo / mother & toddler groups / writing groups / University of the 3rd age / chair aerobics / breathe easy classes / training courses / bridge club / youth club / cafe / NHS referral services/ Baby play area / infants & juniors doing sporting activities / dance classed for older people / having a room for children's parties/ Computer suite / knitting group / sewing classes / Yoga/ Benefit & housing advice sessions / Credit Union/ Place to get help with anything.

- **We want to maximise the use of the building and want your views on how often it should be open.**
The majority of people were either undecided or felt that all time options were important to allow access to every element of the community in order for the facility to be used to its maximum potential. Parent attending groups/classes while families are in school, evenings and weekends for young people outside of school hours, adults outside normal work hours and so on.



- Please tell us here if there is anything else you want to say about the new Community Hub?
 Below are a cross section of comments made openly from people who wanted to add to the views they had contributed during the consultation.

Great idea if managed correctly/ *Safe area for the kids/ Bring it on!/ This will allow the employed, the unemployed and parents to get training .../ A place where people can enjoy, learn and specialise/ Great idea for children to keep out of trouble, but it also has to be cheap .../ Have a strict rule one chance if they misbehave they're barred/ I think it should have specified times for teenagers to use the facilities/ Zero tolerance/ Good idea as long as it will not be used for gangs to hang around and cause trouble/ Something for all ages to do/ Should also include a school holiday programme/ Free/ Be nice for teenagers to have some where to go instead of walking the streets and causing problems/ A tech room for the gaming community would be good/ It will be brilliant for the community/ I hope it helps with the community and helps prevent kids of all ages being bored/ More options available for all the training courses for both working parents and the unemployed/ It would benefit the community massively now Southlands has closed there is nothing for the community/ Youth Clubs would be good for children/ I would like to see more done for teenagers to keep them off the streets and be safe/ Good luck!/ It better be successful!/ Appeal to all youths and make it accessible to all/ Glad to hear site is not all housing/ Good easy access, possibly a bigger car park may be required.*

Other consultees

In addition to organisations contributing through the completion of questionnaires some have provided more direct or specific feedback, a summary of which is reproduced below:

Thirteen Housing Group *'Just want to say I think the proposal is really exciting and I'm sure a facility such as this will be really well utilised by both communities and stakeholders alike'*

Tees Valley Community Asset Preservation Trust - *Ensuring there is sufficient rentable space to make the building sustainable/ Sufficient room size to accommodate larger scale activity/ A number of specific comments relating to energy efficiency, building layout and construction alongside proposals to minimise anti-social behaviour*

SLM/Everyone Active - *Consider relocating the building to a more central position on the site for reasons both practical and in terms of visibility to the community/ A need for greater parking provision/ Consider the issues of operating an open site in light of potential security issues/ Potentially increased changing/showering provision*

Unity City Academy – *Keen to develop a partnership with the Council relating to the provision of a new community facility for the area, based on their understanding of the area and the people who live there.*

Summary

In total the consultation processes have brought together the views of over 500 local people, community and other types of organisations, schools, businesses and a wide range of other groups to explore the importance of a new community facility for the area.

The first stage of the consultation provided confirmation of three questions the Council was keen to understand local people's views on:

- ✓ Does the area need a new facility? 97% agreed
- ✓ That on or around the Southlands was the preferred location
- ✓ An indication of preferred activity: Digital Access/ Social Groups/ Sport/ Fitness/ Provision for young people

The second stage of the consultation has, in addition to confirming the appetite for a new community facility, provided the following preferences:

- ✓ Each of the following areas/facilities received broadly similar levels of support: Sports hall / changing facilities / meeting space / kitchen / café / social & circulation space
- ✓ Internal decoration should be a combination of primary and more muted colours
- ✓ External decoration would be bold with the potential for a mural letting people know more about what happens in the building
- ✓ Key activities which reinforce the findings from the first stage consultation were: Youth provision, Sports & fitness, Social groups & meeting areas, NHS, Advice & Support Services
- ✓ That the facility should be open across the week and weekend enabling everyone to get access

List of consultees

During the consultation process we have contacted the following people and representatives of groups /agencies to gain their views via email or in person with follow up telephone calls and meetings to ensure the opportunity has been offered to a cross section of people and agencies that may want to be involved and offer their opinions.

- Unity City Academy Parents
- Unity City Academy Students
- A wide range of community and voluntary organisations
- Residents
- Friends of Thorntree Cemetery
- Thirteen Housing
- SLM
- Local Businesses in the area
- Tech Masters Martial Arts, Thorntree hub
- Kinship Carers
- Community Councils in the area
- All Councillors in the area
- All schools in the area
- Kicks Park End
- Salvation Army, Pallister Park
- Langridge Initiative Centre
- Credit Union
- St Thomas Church
- Local residents
- Community events
- TV Community Asset Preservation Trust
- MBC Neighbourhood Safety