

## Silsden Town Hall Public Consultation, March 2013

### Summary of Relevant Premises/Related Comments

The comments below relate to the scheme proposed, not to the principle that the hall should be improved, which has already been established. The consultation was a success but there is still an approximately even split amongst those consulted over the basic principle of the scheme. This was exacerbated on the open day by the Town Council and their colleagues who turned out 'en masse' to the event and caused confusion with their misleading statements.

<b>Comment</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
Space for storage in the premises is at a premium.	Alternative storage space/cupboards is being identified and will be considered as part of the scheme
The library provision will be entirely self service.	Not true, there is no planned reduction in the opening hours that the library will operate, the self service element will add flexibility when the library is not staffed.
There will be a reduced book provision in the new library.	The reference library will not be relocated as this resource will be accessible on-line within the premises on public access computers. The entire Library catalogue will be available to order.
The library will be too small.	The former council chamber is only the core space used, other space in the hall will be used by the library when it has not been booked e.g. for children's reading sessions and the rear letting room for informal computer training.
Forty five feet is required for indoor bowls	The existing stage will be removed and replaced with a demountable temporary stage. This will increase the space available.
Configuration of space will mean that groups that use the bar as a changing area or parents using it for a waiting area, may have to hire an additional letting room.	As the bar can be sub-divided off from the main hall, it becomes an additional letting room. Consideration needs to be made by a 'management committee' regarding future letting arrangements and the possibility of using downstairs back room space for parents, if available.
There will be a loss of space for the majorettes etc.	There is no net loss of space for activities. The bar area is of a similar

	size to the ground floor rear meeting room which is to be reduced in size due to the installation of the lift.
Rents will go up to pay for the scheme	Rents will not change other than the normal authority-wide annual adjustment to room rates.
The disabled ramp will block pavement.	Planning permission has been submitted for the disabled ramp to the front. Although the ramp will be slightly constrained it will greatly improve access for the disabled. There is 1500mm of space between the ramp and the edge of kerb, which is acceptable
Could the pelican crossing be moved?	Highways will not allow the crossing to be moved as it would be directly outside shops.
Remove the crossing all together.	The loss of the crossing would reduce pedestrian safety and would be disadvantageous to the operation of the hall.
Why can't the whole pavement be raised?	There is insufficient space for the pavement to return to a lower level before impinging upon adjacent premises.
Why can't an internal ramp be fitted?	There is insufficient space to install a ramp with a suitable gradient.
Tracking for a divider in the downstairs front room would be dangerous to karate participants and dancers.	Consider a top hung door system that does not require a channel in the floor. The necessity to sub-divide this room is to be reviewed so as not to impede upon existing users
Can the folds of the divider be placed behind the intruding pillar?	Yes
Improvements will not lead to an increased footfall.	Locating the library in the hall will increase footfall, the premises will be more flexible and local participation in its running will increase local interest.
Will the Council compensate users if they have higher rents elsewhere during the closure?	The Council cannot compensate users if they relocate elsewhere and have to pay a higher rental charge. Where Council premises are utilised these will be available toll free to offset the disturbance caused to occupiers.
How will security be maintained for lone workers?	Consideration will be given to installing an extra set of doors at the base of the stairs and the relocation of the door into the front letting room.
Ground floor back letting rooms	Install an appropriate number of

require ICT points for computers.	points will be located in the back letting room so the library can use it too.
Disabled people will not be able to get out of the first floor in the event of a fire.	If wheelchair users are accessing the first floor there will need to be sufficient trained staff to evacuate them e.g. at theatrical productions. Users will be responsible to ensure wheel chairs users are not allowed to the first floor unless there are an adequate number of trained persons present to evacuate them.
Mobility Scooters will not be able to access the hall.	The access is sufficient for up to class two scooters. As space is at a premium there will be no parking areas in the hall for scooters, occupants should remain with their scooter at all time or leave them outside in an area that does not obstruct the pavement.
Sound proofing is required between the floors.	Noise deadening acoustic tiles will be used in suspended ceilings.
Lighting rigs may be damaged by majorettes twirling batons.	Consideration will be given to removing lights between events.
The wiring is not suitable for lighting and sound rigs.	The rewire will include suitable wiring.
The fire alarm has limited functionality.	The fire alarm is to be replaced as part of the refurbishment scheme
The fire doors will make it difficult to carry drinks etc from the kitchen.	Consideration and the implications of installing a serving hatch from the kitchen to the back meeting room will be explored.
Could a sliding door be placed on the rear escape route?	Sliding doors do not meet fire safety standards. The Council has an agreement with the Skipton Building Society not to obstruct the gateway.
Where will the Council Chamber furniture go?	The Town Council will be consulted about any wall mounted plaques etc that they wish to retain but furniture cannot be retained as this would impinge upon the hall's flexibility. The Town Council will be asked to remove it's furniture and any that is left when the hall closes for refurbishment will be responsibly recycled.
Where will the Town Council go?	The Town Council are not participating in the consultation. It is proposed that they be able to block-book space, at no cost, for their meetings but which space has not

	been agreed at this stage
Can the window boxes be retained?	No, the windows are to be refurbished and the window boxes are to be removed as they are causing damage to the window frames. Alternatives to window boxes could be considered e.g. hanging baskets but there are insufficient funds in the scheme for these.
Will the local support groups be forced to take over the hall?	No, the scheme envisages greater local involvement in the running of the hall but there are no plans to transfer it to the local community although this could be considered at a later date if the local community wanted it.
Are there plans to replace the caretaker?	There are no plans to have a permanent caretaker, due to cost restraints.
Has planning permission being applied for?	Yes a planning application was submitted in February, but has been delayed due to confusion over a missing heritage statement. Informal comments from planning officers have been positive and planning permission is likely to be forthcoming.
Has the fire service approved the plans?	The fire service no longer approves plans. The works will have the appropriate Building Control approvals. Building Control officers support the scheme and have approved the plans.

All of the relevant points raised through the consultation, where appropriate, have now been addressed or will be addressed as the scheme progresses.

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16<sup>th</sup> April 2013