

Independent Feasibility Study
Into the Future of the
City Waterside Community Centre
Hanley, Stoke on Trent

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**Independent Feasibility Study
Into the Future of the
City Waterside Community Centre
Hanley, Stoke on Trent**

Funded by

Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund

Commissioned by

City Waterside Residents Association

Delivered by

Wider Impact Consultancy Ltd

www.widerimpact.com



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1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

Funded by the Big Lottery the City Waterside Residents Association has commissioned Wider Impact Consultancy to carry out an independent feasibility study to establish the most feasible option for the delivery of community facing services; due to local authority plans to sell the land the current Community Centre sits on as part of the on-going regeneration of the area.

As will be noted within the terms of reference, it is the **ultimate goal** of the Residents Association to enable the on-going delivery of a Community Centre in the heart of the community, supporting and helping residents to have a richer and fuller life.

1.2 Approach to the Commission

A systematic approach has been adopted, which includes detailed quantitative (desk) research and intensive qualitative (field) research, which has included attendance at key meetings, meetings and interviews with appropriate organisations / individuals, a community survey / questionnaire, a multi-agency workshop, attendance at key events and meetings held at the Community Centre, site visits, a community walkabout, observational studies and use of photographic evidence.

Site visits have included visiting and researching the feasibility of a number of sites / venues, which were nominated by the commissioner as potentially appropriate to meet the ultimate goal. As will be noted within this report a pragmatic approach has been taken to each option, which has resulted in identifying the '**preferred option**', which it is believed by those contributing to this commission as the most appropriate to deliver the aims and objectives of the Residents Association.

1.3 Findings

There can be no doubts that there is a **strong and compelling need** for a Community Centre to remain in the area where the current Centre operates from. Reasons include:

- Residents still reeling from issues linked to the stalled delivery of the RENEW North Staffs Pathfinder initiative

- Previous, current and planned community use of the current Community Centre, which is currently estimated at an impressive **5,670** attendances per year
- The area suffering from indices of high deprivation, which includes high levels of anti-social behaviour, which are likely to worsen should the current Community Centre close without an alternative option being found
- A high and significant population of young people compared with other local, regional and national areas.
- Local authority led Masterplanning findings and recommendations
- The community growing as new homes are built, with resultant population increases and resultant further demands for community facilities and initiatives
- Community consultation / opinion, which has included over **200** community questionnaire being submitted for analysis
- Independent research

Based on an understanding that it is not feasible for the current premises to remain open and viable past the period when new housing developments commence (Spring 2016), providing relevant parties can agree issues such as terms, conditions and a service level agreement, it is apparent that **St Luke's Church** is the preferred option to continue to deliver community activities from; and become the new 'base' for the Residents Association.

1.4 The Way Forward / Recommendations

Based on research findings, the following recommendations are tendered:

1. The preferred option (**St Luke's Church**) is formally agreed by the Residents Association as the best way forward.
2. Meetings take place with St Luke's Church to formally confirm the suitability of the option; and agree logistics such as terms, conditions and a service level agreement.
3. Opportunity is taken to inform the local authority, the wider community and other partner agency members of the decision to adopt the preferred option.
4. Steps are taken to establish the financial and resources implications of the transition of the role and functions of the current City Waterside Community Centre / Residents Association to St Luke's Church.
5. A structured business plan is established, which should include:
 - a. Evidence of need / demand for services.

- b. Key multi-agency partners – roles and responsibilities.
- c. Logistics such as terms, conditions and a service level agreement.
- d. Resources required.
- e. Costs of required resources.
- f. Planned outcomes.
- g. Risk assessment.
- h. Key milestones and projected deadlines, such as the need to have carried out the transition well before the current community is due for demolition.

1.5 Conclusion

It has been clear from the start of this commission that the preferred option by the majority of the Residents Association and other community members was for '*nothing to change*', and for the existing Community Centre to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

This is clearly not an option as the best and most appropriate use is made of the land by the local authority, which will enable the building of new homes and the much needed associated regeneration of the local community. Therefore to do nothing has never been a realistic option.

It has also been apparent that the Ward is blessed with a rich vein of community facing venues, resources and community activists such as the City Waterside Residents Association, which as a whole are more than capable of filling the void due to be left by the loss of the current building. It is with this in mind, there should be every reason to believe that provided the spirit of partnership working and mutual cooperation is maintained, the ultimate goal of the Residents Association will be achieved and sustained.

Opportunity is taken to thank those who have supported this study, which significantly includes local residents, the majority of whom are looking forward to the Residents Association and partner agency members continuing their excellent work long into the future

Edwin Lewis

Director, Wider Impact Consultancy

2.0 Terms of Reference

2.1 Introduction

The City Waterside Community Centre sits on local authority (Stoke on Trent City Council) owned land, which has been left derelict as a legacy of the Labour Government's RENEW North Staffs Pathfinder initiative.

At the time of the funding application to the Big Lottery to support this feasibility study, the land on which the Community centre sits on is for sale; and it is highly likely that local authority plans include selling the land for housing development. An outcome will be the Community Centre being demolished, with no plans by the local authority to re-locate the Community Centre.

2.2 Objectives

The key objective of the commission has been to enable the commissioner to explore and identify the most feasible option(s) for the continued delivery of community activities outlined at **Appendix A**, which would ideally be run from another building / location in the area.

The ultimate goal of the commissioner is: **To have a Community Centre in the heart of the community, supporting and helping residents to have a richer and fuller life.**

Whilst a number of locations were favoured by the commissioner, none were secured prior to the commencement of the feasibility study in terms of tenure or funding to purchase or rent. With this in mind, in consultation and the local authority, a number of locations / sites (see **Section 6.1**) have been taken into consideration as part of this feasibility study

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

As outlined at **Figure 1**, a systematic approach has been adopted to this commission, which has included consultation with the commissioner, local schools and businesses, the local Church and other community facing groups. Most significantly utilising a community focussed survey / questionnaire, **all** members (young and not so young) of the local community have been given the opportunity to have their say in the delivery and outcomes of the commission.

Figure 1



3.2 Quantitative (Desk) Research

Due note has been made of reports and documents such as:

- The original funding application to the Big Lottery
- Neighbourhood statistics (Last updated: January 2013)
- Planning details (Stoke on Trent City Council)
- 2011 City Waterside East Masterplan
- 2011 Census
- Staffordshire Police crime & anti-social behaviour statistics
- [Independent] Research papers, such as:
 - *Village Halls and Community Centres*, Charity Commission, 2004
 - *Encouraging Participation: The Role of Community-Based Organisations*, Community Matters, 2011

3.3 Qualitative (Field) Research

Field research has been extensive and has included:

- Attendance at Committee meetings
- Interviews with the commissioner / Committee members
- Multi-agency meetings / interviews
- Local authority meetings / interviews (Councillors and Officers)

- Community survey / questionnaire analysis
- Multi-agency workshop
- Attendance at events and initiatives based at the Community Centre
- Informal interviews with those attending events and initiatives based at the Community Centre
- Site visits / area tour
- Community walkabouts
- Photographs

3.4 Questionnaire Analysis

Questionnaires (see **Appendix C**) have been distributed by the commissioner via a wide and varied number of community outlets, which includes doctors' surgeries / clinics, places of worship, to those utilising the Community Centre, house to house, and during events and initiatives arranged by the commissioner. It is significant that a noticeable number were completed by pupils of St Luke's Primary School.

Completed questionnaires have been returned to Wider Impact for independent analysis and presentation of findings.

4.0 About the City Waterside Community Centre

4.1 Introduction

Located in Dresden Street, Hanley, the existing prefabricated Community Centre (pictured) was innovatively provided over 10 years ago by the local authority following the demolition of significant number of houses in the area as a result of the then Labour Government's RENEW North Staffs Pathfinder initiative.



The [second hand] building, provided a welcome temporary meeting place and central hub site during a planned period of transition as demolishing homes were to be replaced as part of the initiative. Original [Master] plans linked to the regeneration of the area, included a more permanent building / Community Centre being built to replace the temporary building (See [Section 5.5](#)).

Use of the Community Centre was enhanced by the innovative and welcome appointment of a Neighbourhood Warden, funded by a grant obtained and managed by the Beth Johnson Housing Association, who worked closely with local community members to maintain community spirit and associated activities and initiatives, which included the establishment of the current City Waterside Residents Association.

Apart from charges for waste collections, the local community does not incur any revenue costs for the Community Centre from the local authority. It is the responsibility of the City Waterside Residents Association to meet running costs (heating, lighting etc.) and the general maintenance of the building and surrounding garden areas.

A local authority maintained fenced play area (pictured) is situated across the road from the Community Centre. It is understood that the play area will be lost in the near future as the land it is situated on is earmarked for housing development.



Whilst the Community Centre is currently fit for purpose, running costs associated with heating are high due to the use of electric heaters and poor energy saving insulation. Delivered as a second hand building, it is estimated that significant structural repairs are imminent, which will likely lead to the building needing to be replaced within **two to three years**.

It is understood that the local authority currently has no plans to replace the Community Centre, as the land its sits on is earmarked for housing development.

4.2 Governance

It is apparent that the organisation is properly governed in terms of there being in place a rigorous constitution, which is delivered by a properly constituted and active Committee. Meetings are well attended, and full and concise minutes are recorded and acted on.

Finances are in order, and it is estimated that current financial reserves will meet planned monthly outgoings for around **three years**.

4.3 Community Use

Appendix A provides an overview of the **past, current** and **planned** community uses of the Community Centre, which is currently and impressively achieving up to an anticipated **5,670** attendances per year by members of the local community and various agencies / partner agencies members.

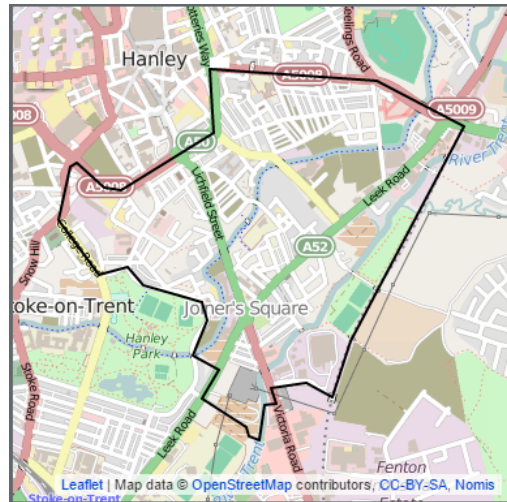
It will be noted that uses of the Community Centre are many and varied, the majority of which are being delivered on behalf of, and for the benefit of a wide variety [old and young] of local people / community members. The enterprising approach of the Committee is noted. For example, those who can pay, generally do pay for use of the Community Centre and associated facilities.

It will also be noted that future events and bookings are well advanced, which is demonstrating an ongoing and sustainable need for the Community Centre; and of course associated / anticipated revenue funding to cover overheads such as heating and lighting.

5.0 About the Area

5.1 Introduction

The City Waterside Community Centre is situated within the Joiners Square Ward (see adjacent plan), which is centrally located in the City of Stoke on Trent. The Ward is bounded in the north by the Etruria and Hanley ward and the Birches Head and Central Forest Park ward with the A50 Potteries Way and the A5008 Bucknall Road forming these boundaries.



The disused Biddulph Valley Branch Line demarcates the border with the Eaton Park ward and Fenton West and Mount Pleasant Ward to the east with the Hanley Park and Shelton Ward forming the south and south western boundaries.

In addition to the City Waterside Community Centre and City Waterside and Hanley St Luke's Primary Schools, the Ward includes the YMCA on Harding Road, the Islamic Centre on Regent Road and new Hanley Community Fire Station.

The Ward is dissected by Lichfield and Botteslow Streets that radiate out from the Potteries Ring Road and City Centre; both of these streets terminate at their junctions with the A52 Leek Road that further dissects the ward running south-west to north-east through the Ward.

The area was originally dominated by large areas of privately-owned terraced housing and former industrial premises, much of which have been cleared and replaced as part of the by the Housing Market Pathfinder RENEW North Staffs.

The area forms the substantive part of the area now branded under the Pathfinder as **City Waterside**, being dissected west to east by the Caldon Canal. Significant clearance of the traditional terraced housing stock has given way to the development of new apartment blocks and housing as well as a new primary school.

5.2 Ward Profile – Demographics

Table 1 highlights the population of the Ward.

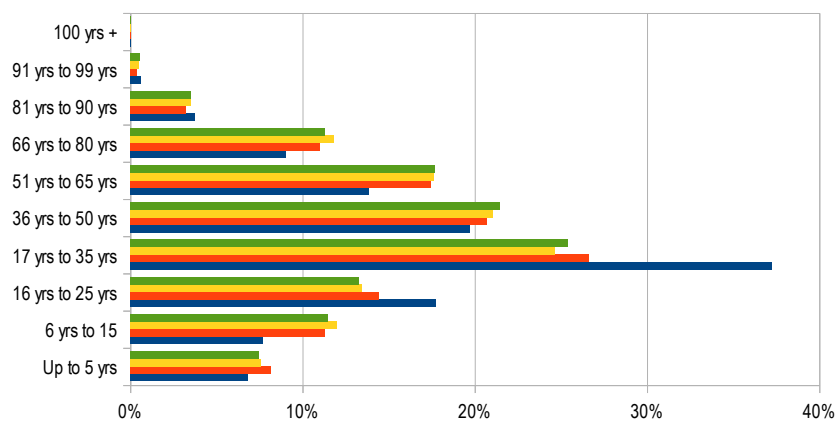
Table 1 Population

	Joiner's Square (Ward)	Stoke-on-Trent (Unitary Authority)	West Midlands	England
All Usual Residents	4,998	249,008	5,601,847	53,012,456

Source: Neighbourhood statistics. Last update: January 2013

Graph 1 highlights the age structure of the Ward.

Graph 1 Ward Age Structure



Source: Neighbourhood statistics. Last updated January 2013

■ Joiner's Square (Ward)
 ■ Stoke-on-Trent (Unitary Authority)
 ■ West Midlands
 ■ England

Notes

1. Ward demographics highlight a high and significant population of younger people compared with other local, regional and national areas.

Graph 2 highlights the ethnicity of local, sub-regional, regional and national (UK) residents.

Graph 2 Ward Ethnicity

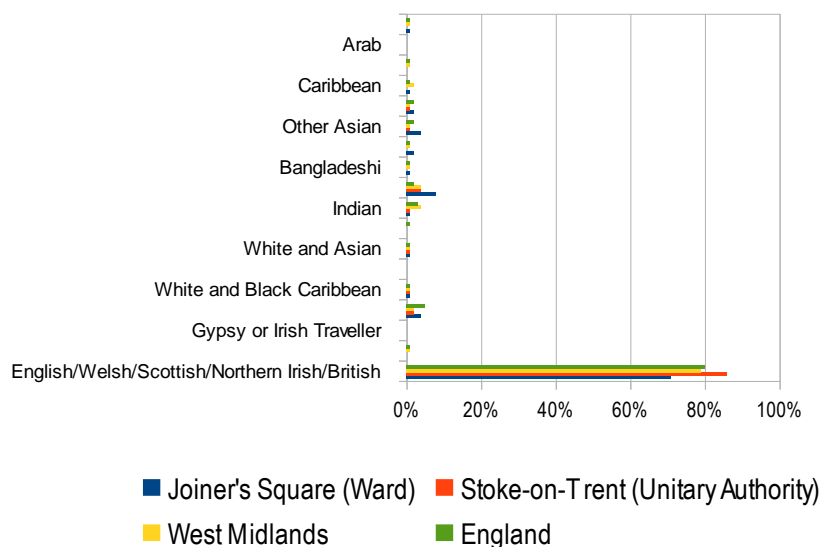


Table 2 highlights employment by occupation of [usual] Ward residents.

Table 2 Employment by Occupation

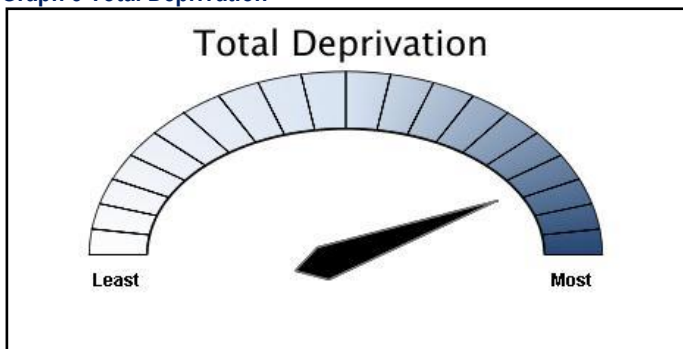
	Joiner's Square (Ward)		Stoke-on-Trent (Unitary Authority)		West Midlands		England	
All Usual Residents Aged 16 to 74 in Employment	2165		108109		2536876		25162721	
1. Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	157	7%	8030	7%	255592	10%	2734900	11%
2. Professional Occupations	184	8%	11322	10%	401102	16%	4400375	17%
3. Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	219	10%	9674	9%	282595	11%	3219067	13%
4. Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	193	9%	10705	10%	289595	11%	2883230	11%
5. Skilled Trades Occupations	234	11%	15525	14%	309088	12%	2858680	11%
6. Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	223	10%	11934	11%	241235	10%	2348650	9%
7. Sales and Customer Service Occupations	294	14%	11796	11%	216918	9%	2117477	8%
8. Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	223	10%	11843	11%	223017	9%	1808024	7%
9. Elementary Occupations	438	20%	17280	16%	317734	13%	2792318	11%

Source: Neighbourhood statistics. Last update January 2013

5.3 Deprivation

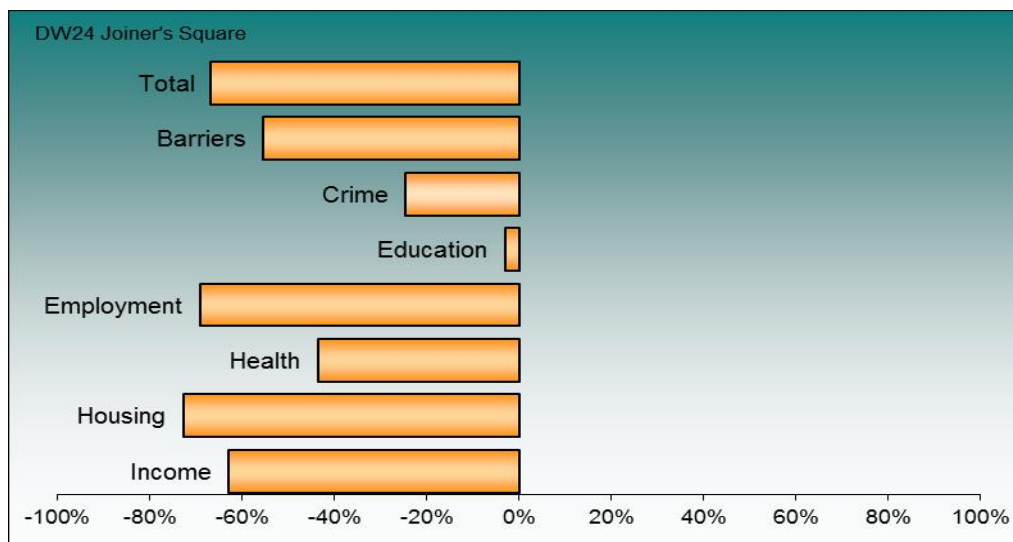
Graph 3 highlights the total [high] deprivation of the Joiners Square Ward compared with the rest of the UK, which is supported by further graphs.

Graph 3 Total Deprivation



Graph 4 represents the relative level of poverty and deprivation in the Ward compared to the City average – across the 7 key themes (domains) indicated.

Graph 2 Seven Key Themes of Deprivation



Source, Stoke on Trent City Council

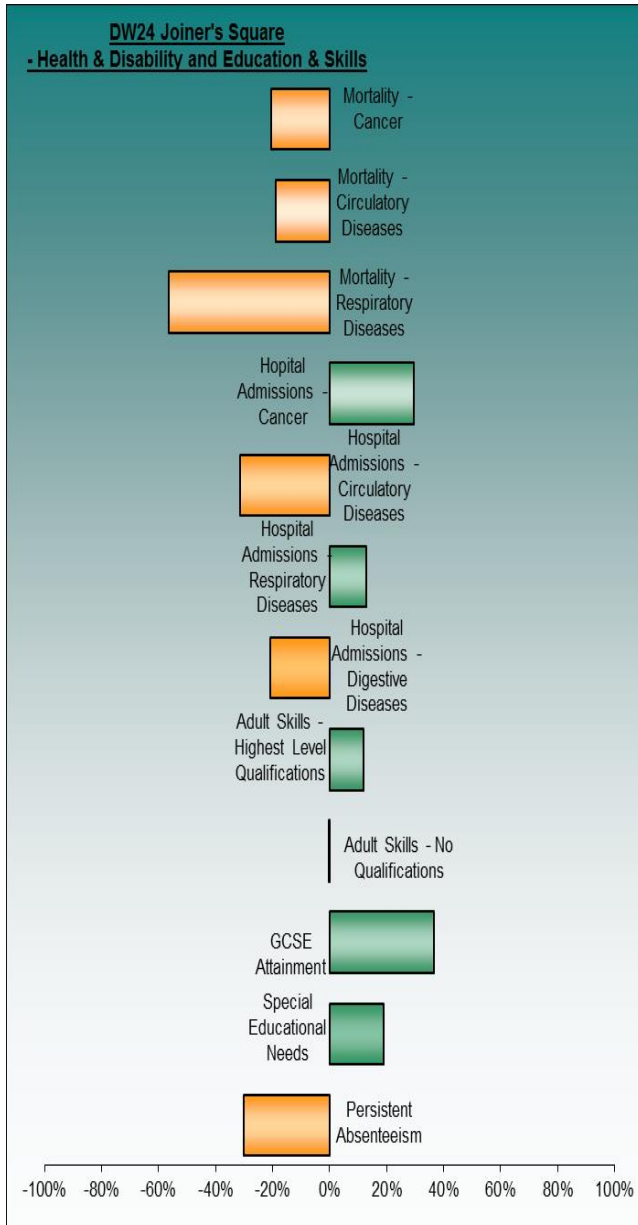
Key: - 100% is the most deprived ward in the City and +100% the least deprived. Orange bars indicate conditions worse than the city average and green better than average.

Notes:

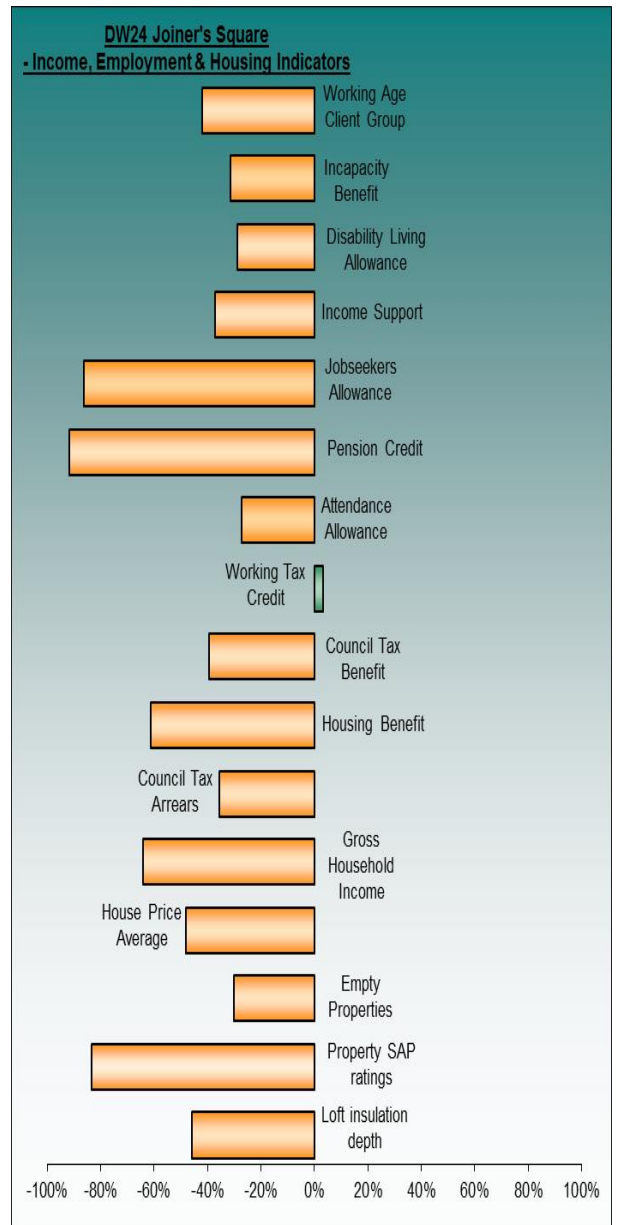
1. The Joiner's Square ward is the 6th most deprived out of 37 within the City of Stoke on Trent.

The following graphs (source – Stoke on Trent City Council) represent the relative rates / prevalence of 43 key indicators in the Ward compared to the City average.

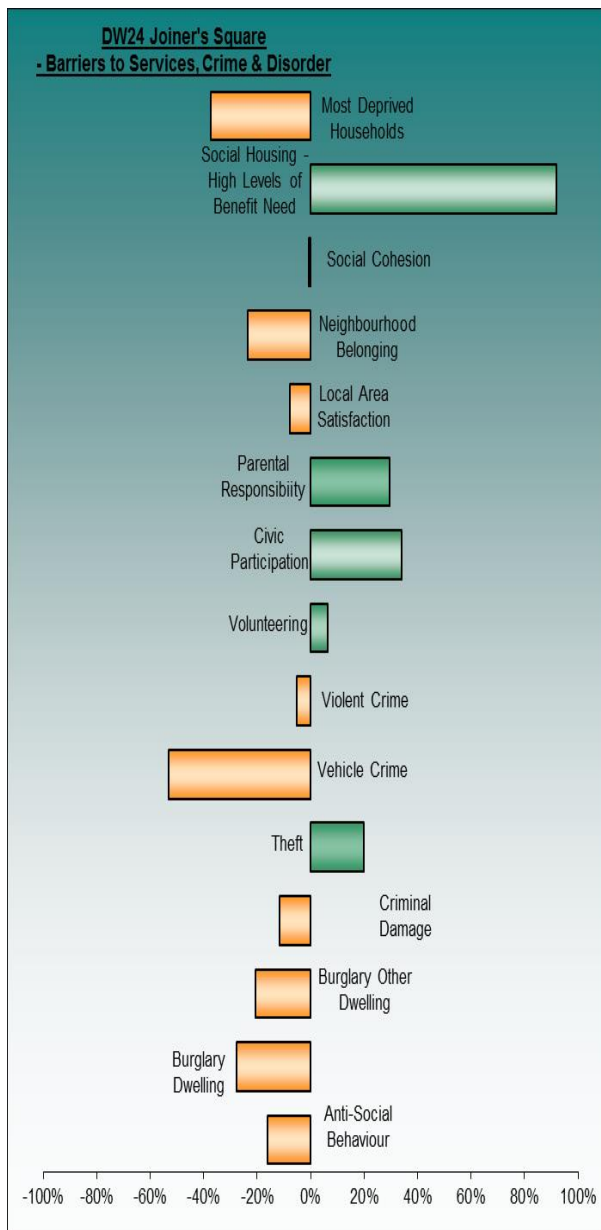
Graph 5 Health & Disability and Education & Skills



Graph 6 Income, Employment & Housing



Graph 7 Barriers to Services, Crime & Disorder



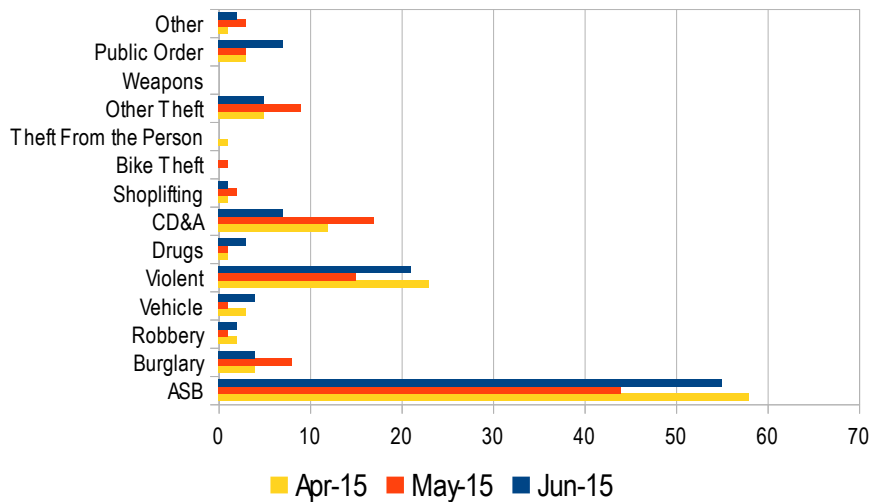
Notes:

1. It is apparent that the area suffers negatively in the majority of 43 key indicators linked to:
 - Health & Disability and Education & Skills – noticeable negativity
 - Income, Employment & Housing – significant negativity
 - Barriers to Services, Crime & Disorder - significant negativity

5.4 Crime / Anti-Social Behaviour

Graph 8 highlights reported crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the area for the period April 2015 to June 2015.

Graph 8 Crime / Anti-Social Behaviour



Source: Staffordshire Police Crime Statistics 2015

Notes:

1. It is clearly apparent that anti-social behaviour in the area is significantly high within the area (see also **Graph 7**).

5.5 2011 City Waterside East Masterplan

The following is a relevant extract from the **2011 City Waterside East Masterplan**, which was prepared by a team led by Taylor Young under the guidance of the City Waterside East Project Group and the City Centre South Steering Group. The Masterplan refined and moved on the various proposal and principles identified by the more strategic City Waterside Masterplan commissioned for the wider City Waterside area as a whole:

Community Engagement – There is a need for a Community Centre in City Waterside East to supported by local facilities and perhaps community enterprise, and a need for new public open spaces fulfilling different uses – a large parcel of open space, linked and managed by the Community Centre and also available for use by the school, and smaller spaces fulfilling a different function.

5.6 Housing Developments

In addition to new homes having been built across the neighbourhood (see photograph), properties have been externally refurbished in Well street, Seymour Street, Hazelhurst and Harley Street. Properties have also been converted in Balfour Street into 4 bedroom family homes. The Canal side towpath area has been upgraded, and a new connecting bridge across the Canal is in place.



5.7 Future [Housing] Developments

As outlined at **Section 4.1**, local authority plans significantly include housing developments in the immediate area, which include:

- **111** houses during **Phase 1** – commence on site Spring 2016
- **53** houses during **Phase 2** – planning application due February 2016
- **No additional amenities** such as a Community Centre / Play Area etc.
- Anticipated further sites (Phased over 2016 / 17 / 18):
 - **40** houses potentially Melville Street
 - **20** houses potentially Hassall Street
 - **130** houses potentially Lichfield Road

5.8 Potential Local Authority Financial Support

With regard to specific regard to support for the development of the Community Centre, it is understood the Council has set aside some limited funding to be used to support a financially viable and commercially deliverable solution to a new community provision. It has been assumed that this will be used to support a provision within an existing building in the locality, which will come with a business plan that shows how it will be viable in the long term.

6.0 Initial Option Appraisal

6.1 Introduction

At the request of the commissioner a number of sites / locations have been assessed in terms of their feasibility as potential locations for the Community Centre / community meeting place.

These include:

- The current site
- Lord Nelson industrial estate
- Peggy Davis building
- Lord John Russell public house site
- J&G Meakin Cricket Club
- 7th Wellington Scout Group
- St Luke's School
- St Luke's Church

Criteria for suitability includes:

1. Suitability e.g.
 - a. Safe
 - b. Secure
 - c. Functional - availability of amenities / heating, lighting, toilets etc.
 - d. Accessible e.g. disabled / wheel chair access
 - e. Accessible e.g. evenings, weekends and holiday periods
 - f. Adaptable / multi-functional
2. Availability – immediate / within circa 6 to 9 months
3. Affordability
4. Sustainability – i.e. not a short term option

6.2 Current Site (See **Section 4.1** for image)

It is apparent that remaining at the current site is the initial preferred option of the majority of Committee members. In relation to the criteria outlined at **Section 6.1**:

1. **Suitability** – there can be no doubts that on the whole the building and site meets all criteria.

2. **Availability** – whilst the building is of course immediately available for use, it is apparent that due to local authority plans (see **Section 4.1**), it is highly likely that the building will be demolished within 12 to 18 months
3. **Affordability** – apart from high heating costs, revenue funding is low. This is of course due in a great part to there being no rent to pay on the building to the local authority. It is also noted that the building is fast approaching the end of its life, and will need replacing in the near future (2 to 3 years).
4. **Sustainability** – it is apparent that the building is likely to be demolishing in the near future and the site utilised by the local authority for new housing.

6.3 Lord Nelson Industrial Estate

As will be noted by the adjacent photograph the site is run down, with no known time scale for redevelopment.



It is understood that the local authority is actively pursuing the owners of the site through enforcement action. In relation to the criteria:

1. **Suitability** – it is clear that the current site or buildings within are not currently suitable for use a community centre.
2. **Availability** – it is apparent that the site or building within are not currently available, or are likely to be in the foreseeable future.
3. **Affordability** – it is highly likely that costs to develop a new facility will be high – providing such access will be possible.
4. **Sustainable** – this is clearly an area which cannot be assessed.

6.4 Peggy Davis Building

This is a building which a number of Committee members would, in principle be interested in utilising as a new Community Centre.



The Grade 2 listed building, which is in an extremely poor state of repair has been purchased by a private buyer, who on interview is currently not in a position to discuss in any detail options such as the sharing the building, or working in partnership with the commissioner to deliver community facing activities. As such, it is currently not feasible to explore the suitability of the building as a realistic option.

6.5 Lord John Russell Public House Site

The site of a derelict former public house, the Committee has considered purchasing the land / site as a potential site for relocating the current Community Centre. In relation to the criteria:



1. **Suitability** – due to details of the current owner(s) not being available, it has not been feasible to access the suitability of the current building as a viable Community Centre. It does however seem highly likely that it will be necessary to demolish the current building.
2. **Availability** - due to details of the current owner(s) not being available, it has not been feasible to assess the availability of the site. Initial enquires do however indicate that the current owner(s) are looking to develop the site for private housing.
3. **Affordability** – in the event of the site being available, it is highly likely that costs to develop a new facility will be high – providing the current owner(s) would be willing to sell the land for community use.
4. **Sustainable** – this is clearly an area which cannot be assessed at this time.

6.6 J&G Meakin Cricket Club

Whilst the Cricket Club has made it clear that it is a not a suitable venue to site a Community Centre, it is available [at reasonable costs] for functions and meetings; provided associated facilities are available.



The Club, which as this photograph demonstrates is keen to support families with young children, would also look to working in partnership with other agencies to support the local community, with an open door policy in relation to supporting young and old to become involved in Club [sporting] activities.

6.7 7th Wellington Scout Group

Situated in Wellington Street, the Scout Group is based in its own premises and grounds, and is close to the current Community Centre. Despite repeated attempts it has not proved possible to open constructive communication links with the organisation. As a result it has not proved possible to properly access its suitability to support the feasibility process.



6.8 St Luke's Primary School

The school is a true 'community school' and whilst it is not currently feasible to deliver the majority of activities outlined at **Appendix A** to be delivered from the premises, the Head Teacher is extremely willing to support the Community Centre and wider community members in any way



feasible. This includes working closely with the Community Centre and St Luke's Church in the delivery of multi-agency [educational] activities aimed at local community members.

6.9 St Luke's Church

The Church is currently subject to a separate feasibility study, with objectives that include securing its currently uncertain future.



Terms of reference of the feasibility study include exploring opportunities to increase community facing activities from and within the Church building. With this in mind, it has been established during meetings (see **Sections 7.4 / 7.8**) that there is scope for the Church to work in close partnership with the Residents Association, with outcomes that could include the activities outlined at **Appendix A** being delivered from the Church and the Residents Association being based there.

In relation to the criteria:

1. **Suitability** – as a place of worship and centre for community facing activities, with a number of updates to a number of facilities, the building and internal facilities meets all criteria.
2. **Availability** – provided internal facilities are updated, there is no reason to believe that availability could be arranged relatively quickly – certainly well within 6 months.
3. **Affordability** – there appears to be merit in sharing resources and facilities, which in relation to both parties, has the potential to significantly reduce current revenue costs to the benefit of both organisations. There will however be a need to consider the capital costs of updating current facilities and infrastructures to facilitate the delivery of activities outlined at **Appendix A** and associated footfall.
4. **Sustainability** – there is no reason to believe that providing the Church's feasibility study delivers positive findings (which could be supported by joint delivery / partnership working with the commissioner), that the Church will not continue to serve the community for many more years to come.

6.10 Summary

Table 3 provides a summary of initial findings, which are based on the scoring system outlined at **Section 6.1**.

It will be noted that based on the scoring system, **St Luke's Church** appears to be the most realistic option in terms of a sustainable and affordable location for community facing work to be delivered from in the area.

Table 3 Criteria Table

Premises	Criteria (C1)						C2	C3	C4	Total
	a	b	c	d	e	f				
City Waterside	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	1	35
Lord Nelson Industrial Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peggy Davis Building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lord John Russell Pub	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cricket Club	5	5	5	5	1	2	2	0	0	25
7th Wellington Scouts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St Luke's School	5	5	5	5	2	2	2	0	2	26
St Luke's Church	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	40

Key to scoring: 5 high, 1 low, 0 not applicable / unknown

7.0 Community Consultation

7.1 Introduction

As highlighted at **Section 3.3** community consultation has included:

- Attendance at Committee meetings
- Interviews with the commissioner / Committee members
- Multi-agency meetings / interviews
- Local authority meetings / interviews (Councillors and Officers)
- Community survey / questionnaire analysis
- Multi-agency workshop
- Attendance at events and initiatives based at the Community Centre
- Informal interviews with those attending events and initiatives based at the Community Centre
- Site visits / area tour / community walkabouts
- Photographs

7.2 Committee Meetings

Meetings have been well attended, properly run, and include a representative sample of local people. It is clearly apparent that:

- There is a strong need for a venue to meet and arrange community facing events and initiatives from – a number of members have young children, and involvement in the group provided a welcome place to exchange views, enjoy events, meet like-minded people, and have a voice in the future of their local area
- Local community members are willing and able to support their local community and the sustainability of the Residents Association / a locally based Community Centre

7.3 Interviews with the Commissioner / Committee Members

Interviews have largely been informal and utilised to check out findings and queries as they occur during the evaluation process. It is apparent that:

- As above, there is a strong need for a permanent base from where community facing activities and events can be run from
- Committee members share intensive local knowledge about their local community, which risks being lost with the loss of a community meeting place / venue

- It would be '*devastating*' if the current Community Centre was not replaced. Outcomes are likely to include:
 - A feeling of betrayal following local authority promises made during the extensive RENEW North Staffs Pathfinder initiative consultation and resultant Masterplanning reports / recommendations (see **Section 5.5**)
 - Increases in low level crime and anti-social behaviour, due to lack of facilities for local young people, which will be enhanced as new homes / young families arrive in the area as a result of proposed housing developments (see **Section 5.7**)
 - Reductions in the health and well-being of local community members as for example the elderly, other vulnerable residents and young mothers, lose a much valued meeting place / provider of front-line facilities and initiatives

7.4 Multi-agency Meetings / Interviews

Meetings and interviews / telephone interviews have taken place with:

- The owner of the Peggy Davis building
- Chair J&G Meakin Cricket Club
- Scout Leader 7th Wellington Scout Group
- Headteacher St Luke's School
- Vicar St Luke's Church

Meeting / interview outcomes are summarised at **Section 6.4** to **6.9**. In summary:

- There is overall multi-agency support for the Community Centre to be re-located and to continue the activities and initiatives highlighted at **Appendix A**
- There is overall support and commitment for future multi-agency working
- The role of a Community Centre / Residents Association is central to the sustained success of such community facing multi-agency partnership working

7.5 Local Authority Meetings / Interviews (Councillors and Officers)

Informal meetings have taken place with:

- **Councillor Alastair Watson**, Joiners Square Ward
- **Councillor Randolph Conteh**, Cabinet Member for Housing, Communities and Safer City
- **Philip Brundrett**, Programme Manager, City Renewal

Meetings and resultant outcomes have been positive and informative, and include:

- An appreciation and understanding of the valued role and functions of the Residents Association
- Support in whatever way feasible to assist them to continue the **excellent work** they are delivering in the area
- Government austerity measures include a reluctant acceptance that the local authority funding will not be available to replace / re-build the existing Community Centre
- The possibility of funding, which has been set aside to be used to support a financially viable and commercially deliverable solution to a new community provision. It has been assumed that this will be used to support a provision within an existing building in the locality, which will come with a business plan that shows how it will be viable in the long term (see **Section 5.8**).

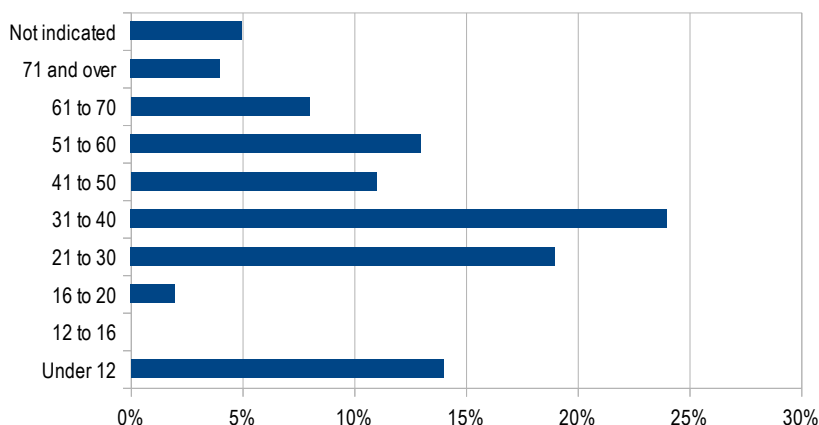
7.6 Community Survey

219 questionnaires have been returned for analysis, of these:

- **68%** completed by females
- **32%** completed by males
- **82%** British
- **1%** European
- **17%** Not indicated
- **5%** Disabled

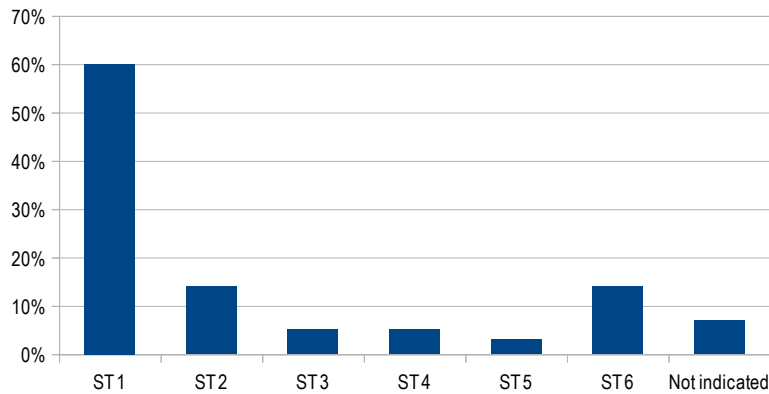
Graph 9 highlights the ages of respondents.

Graph 9 Ages of Respondents



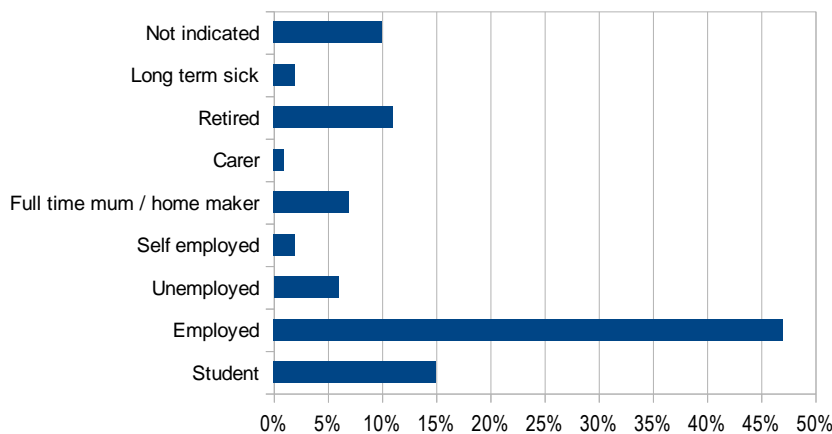
Graph 10 highlights the postcodes addresses of respondents.

Graph 10 Postcodes



Graph 11 highlights the employment status of respondents.

Graph 11 Employment Status



7.7 Questionnaire Analysis

Appendix C provides highlights survey findings, which include:

- High levels and varied use of community use for the Community Centre (see **Graphs 13, 14, 15**), which includes activities which are likely to tackle the high levels of deprivation and anti-social behaviour highlighted at **Sections 5.3** and **5.4**
- Positive views about the Community Centre (see **Graphs 17** and **18**)
- A lack of suitable alternative meeting places
- Community members value the Community Centre and will miss having such a facility in the area (see **Graph 18**)

- There is an understanding that anti-social behaviour and crime will increase without a Community Centre in the area (see **Graph 18**)
- **There is strong support for public money being invested in keeping a Community Centre open / available in the area (see Graph 18)**
- Respondents have **strong views** about the Community Centre, which includes:
 - *Kids would have nowhere to go so would be hanging around the streets*
 - *By closing Community Centres you are damaging social connection which otherwise wouldn't be made.*
 - *I think this Community Centre is a vital asset to the community. The area used to be like a small village where everyone knew each other. It created a support network for people that is what the Community Centre is now re-establishing. A safe haven for people to go to*
 - *It is a great place to be*
 - *Keep the children off the streets, give them somewhere to go*
 - *A Community Centre is vital to maintaining a strong sense of community in this area following its decimation by Renew*
 - *It is a great place to keep the children entertained*
 - *I feel the centre is essential for the community*
 - *The Community Centre is a safe place our children can go to and interact with other children. I do believe that crime would increase as the children won't have anything to do out of school hours*
 - *It is a good resourceful place for the children to go and enjoy themselves and purposeful for events and meetings social gatherings and would be highly missed without its existence*
 - *There needs to be recreation areas for children of all ages - somewhere separate for teenagers*
 - *Keep it open*
 - *A valuable resource that should not be lost*
 - *The community has been 'raped'. It needs to be investigated.*
 - *I love this place always a happy welcome. Would miss it so much if it wasn't here*
 - *Lovely clean room. Safe for little ones*
 - *I have never known a more welcoming centre*
 - *As members of the local church we value the contribution the Community Centre to the local area*
 - *In a city centre a sense of community is essential and a safe place for all members to meet is vital*

- *A Community Centre is the 'Hub' of our area*
- *The lack of a Community Centre is proven to a) increase anti-social by lack of ' personal investment of the residents. b) area initially look great but reduced to rubbish dump / high levels of crime*
- *If the council closed this community centre anti-social behaviour would rise in this area.*
- *I don't go out much so love coming here*
- *More for older people like dinner clubs*
- *The council has closed the other breast feeding cafes*

7.8 Multi-agency Workshop

Based on initial option appraisal findings highlighted at **Section 6.0** opportunity has been taken to meet with the local Councillor (Alastair Watson) and representatives of:

- The City Waterside Community Centre
- St Luke's School
- St Luke's Church

It was agreed during the workshop that:

- There is a clear need to have a Community Centre in the heart of the community, supporting and helping residents to have a richer and fuller life
- It is highly likely that it will not be feasible to continue to operate a Community Centre from the current site
- There is scope and a will for the Residents Association to operate from St Luke's Church, and to work in close partnership with the Church, St Luke's School and other local partners, such as the J&G Meakin Cricket Club to continue to deliver activities such as those highlighted at **Appendix A** from the Church and other community based locations
- Such transition could take place quite quickly
- It is likely that funding will be required to assist in the transition
- Benefits include:
 - Potential seamless continuation of services and facilities
 - Sharing of resources / reduced capital and revenue costs
 - Sustainability of St Luke's Church
 - Enhanced multi-agency working / partnership opportunities
 - Enhanced community facing services / support

7.9 Attendance at Events and Initiatives Based at the Community Centre

Opportunity has been taken to 'drop-in' on events and initiatives delivered from the Community Centre; and it is clearly apparent that:

- The facility is well used by all ages and by community members from all backgrounds and social classes
- People clearly enjoy being there
- Those attending support each other and take an interest in their views and welfare
- Events are well run, affordable and good value light refreshments are available

7.10 Informal Interviews with Those Attending Events and Initiatives Based at the Community Centre

It has been particularly noticeable that those approached and informally interviewed at the Community Centre are cheerful and positive about the Centre and appreciative of those responsible for its running and upkeep. On the whole the views and opinions of those interviewed reflect those outlined at **Section 6.7**.

7.11 Site Visits / Area Tour / Community Walk Abouts / Photographs

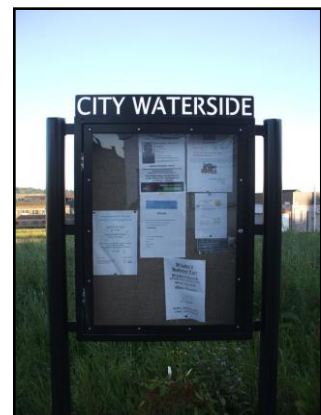
It is clearly apparent that the area is in a period of 'recovery' from the effects of the RENEW North Staffs Pathfinder initiative, and a period of transition is taking place, with the 'old' merging with the 'new'.



It is noticeable that the Residents Association is

continuing to 'make its mark', and those involved are keen to be involved in the future direction of the area, and to continue to support those who live there now, and are expected to join the community as it grows.

As outlined at **Section 6.0**, there are a significant number of local facilities / building which are available and open for public use, and community facing multi-agency partnership working.



8.0 The Value of Community Centres / Community Involvement

8.1 Introduction

Understanding that there are numerous reports and strategies which justify the value and benefits of Community Centres, opportunity has been taken to highlight findings from two independent reports, which highlight the benefits and the need for community groups / charities to adapt to ever changing social and economic factors.

8.2 The Value of Community Centres

A recent paper, *Encouraging Participation: The Role of Community-Based Organisations*, Community Matters, June 2011, recognises that, '... there is a rich and nuanced story about community organisations and particularly Community Centres' role in not just getting local people involved with one another and in local debates and campaigns, but also in opening up space for debate and to grow into a kind of neighbourhood they want to be, in their own time.

The psychological impact of having an open, community-run space, in an area emerges as an important force in communities; in the sense that they have the resources and networks and a supportive community that they can mobilise for change.

The study identified the following benefits to individuals and to the wider community arising from the work of community based organisation to encourage participation and also from the presence of a Community Centre in a community which has few other amenities:

- Improve mental and physical well-being
- Reduce social isolation
- Enable people to find out what is going on
- Developing peoples' confidence to try something new
- Providing affordable space for people to meet
- Bringing diverse groups together including different ethnicities and age groups
- Building community knowledge
- Communicating local peoples' views to public sector consultants

The paper makes a number of recommendations to policy makers, funders and planners, which include:

- The presence of a community building in an area of high deprivation means that local people living on low incomes have somewhere affordable to meet, have fun, learn and get involved in community life. The capital and revenue costs of community based buildings need to be built into funding and programme planning including new social development models
- The allocation of time and resources for the formation and management of networks and partnerships needs to be built into funding and programme planning

8.3 The Need for Community Groups to Adapt

It is of note that a Charity Commission report (*Village Halls and Community Centres*) as far back as 2004 highlights that: *The Government recognises that village halls, Community Centres and other charities that provide space and facilities for community services and activities can make an enormous difference to the well-being of their communities.*

The report also recognises that:

Whilst village halls and Community Centres exist with the purpose of meeting the needs of users and beneficiaries within their community; needs which are rapidly changing; social and economic factors are rapidly changing, which means that trustees of such buildings and charities need to adapt to reflect the way in which they operate.

9.0 Final Option Appraisal

9.1 Introduction

It has proved apparent during the commission that:

- There is a **clear need** for a Community Centre to be in the heart of the community, supporting and helping residents to have a richer and fuller life, which is supported by:
 - Residents are still reeling from issues linked to the stalled delivery of the RENEW North Staffs Pathfinder initiative (see **Section 4.1**)
 - Previous, current and planned use of the current building (see **Section 4.3**)
 - A high and significant population of younger people compared with other local, regional and national areas (see **Section 5.2**)
 - The area suffers from indices of high deprivation, which includes high levels of anti-social behaviour (see **Sections 5.3 / 5.4**), which are likely to worsen should the current Community Centre close without an alternative option being found
 - Local authority led Masterplanning findings and recommendations (see **Section 5.5**)
 - The community is growing as new homes are built, with resultant population increased (see **Section 5.7**)
 - Community consultation / opinion (see **Section 6.0**)
 - Independent research (see **Section 7.0**)
- Remaining in the current premises is not a sustainable option
- To do nothing is **not** an option

9.2 Preferred Option

Building on the key objective of the commission, which is to: explore and identify the most feasible option for the continued delivery of community activities outlined at **Appendix A**, which ideally will be run from another building / location in the area, it is apparent that:

Providing relevant parties can agree issues such as terms, conditions and a service level agreement, it is apparent that St Luke's Church is an ideal option to continue to deliver such community activities from; and become the new 'base' for the Residents Association.



Such is supported by:

- The initial option appraisal (see **Section 6.10**)
- Benefits highlighted at **Section 6.8**, which include:
 - Potential seamless continuation of services and facilities
 - Sharing of resources / reduced capital and revenue costs
 - Sustainability of St Luke's Church
 - Enhanced multi-agency working / partnership opportunities
 - Enhanced community facing services / support
- No other option being currently feasible

10.0 The Way Forward / Recommendations

10.1 Introduction

Based on commission findings, the following recommendations are tendered:

1. The preferred option (St Luke's Church) is formally agreed by the Residents Association as the best way forward.
2. Meetings take place with St Luke's Church to formally confirm the suitability of the option; and agree logistics such as terms, conditions and a service level agreement.
3. Opportunity is taken to inform the local authority, the wider community and other partner agency members of the decision to adopt the preferred option.
4. Steps are taken to establish the financial and resources implications of the transition of the role and functions of the current City Waterside Community Centre / Residents Association to St Luke's Church.
5. A structured business plan is established, which should include:
 - a. Evidence of need / demand for services.
 - b. Key multi-agency partners – roles and responsibilities.
 - c. Logistics such as terms, conditions and a service level agreement.
 - d. Resources required.
 - e. Costs of required resources.
 - f. Planned outcomes.
 - g. Risk assessment.
 - h. Key milestones and projected deadlines, such as the need to have carried out the transition well before the current community is due for demolition.

Appendix A

City Waterside Community Centre Community Centred Activities Tables

Table 1 Previous Activities

Description of Activities	Age Range	Total No Attended	Organised By	Comments
Luncheon Club	50+	30 each month	Community Worker	
CAB Drop-In	18+	10 per week	CAB	
Police Drop-In	18+	5 per month	Police	
MP and councillor Monthly Surgery	18+	10 per month	MP and councillor	
Fun Day and <i>City Waterside's Got Talent Shows</i>	All ages	200	Committee and community worker	Yearly summer event
Christmas Day Meal	50+	50	Community worker and luncheon club volunteers	Ran for approx. 5 years
Public Meetings	25+	30	Committee	Usually quarterly
Renew Information / Consultation Days	18	100+	Renew North Staffordshire	Organised as required to inform residents of progress in the area
Children's Parties	3-adult	30	Private hire	Limited to children's parties as no bar
Quiz Evenings	18+	50	Hire by church and NCT	
Medieval Banquet	All ages	200	Community worker and committee	Part of ITVs Big Lunch
Litter Pick	All ages	50	Community worker and committee	ITV's Big Tidy Up
Christmas Parade	All ages	100	Community worker and committee	Santa parade around streets followed by Christmas Party
NB. Also used to hire hall out to <i>Approach</i> for 4 days per week for elderly social care for approx. 18 months at £500 per month				

Notes

1. Estimated annual attendances – 1,870

Table 2 Current Activities

Description of Activities	Age Range	Total No Attending	Organised By	Comments
<i>Breasts in the City</i>	0-40	20	Born to Breastfeed	Weekly hall hire free, group by refreshments from centre
Tots Group	0-40	30	Vicki Robertson	Weekly including school holidays £1 per child
Youth Club	8-15	20	Flo Walker and Tracey Carr	Fortnightly on Sunday's 50p + tuck shop
Camera Club	50+	15	Camera Club	Weekly - Thursday evenings
Fun Days	All ages	100	Committee	2-3 times a year
Halloween Party	5-13	100	Committee	Free event disco and food
Christmas Event	All ages	100	Committee	Past events included European theme and travelling nativity, Victorian party and Santa
Childrens' parties	3-adult	30	Private hire	Will hire as no need for bar
Muslim parties	All ages	70	Private hire	As above
Public Meetings	25+	30	Committee	Guests include council officers and Police
Complimentary therapy sessions	18+	20	Private hire	Offering therapies open to all
Plant Day	All ages	50	Committee	Lottery funded to give plants and hanging baskets to the community
Hired to BT for corporate day	18- 65	50	Private hire	
Open Door collection point	N/A	N/A	Committee	Collecting food, clothes and toiletries for asylum seekers
Help to feed the community - giving out free cereal from an open door	Adults and families	200	Committee	Giving out cereal to low income families who may not be able to afford breakfast

Notes

1. Estimated annual attendances – 5,670

Table 3 Planned Activities

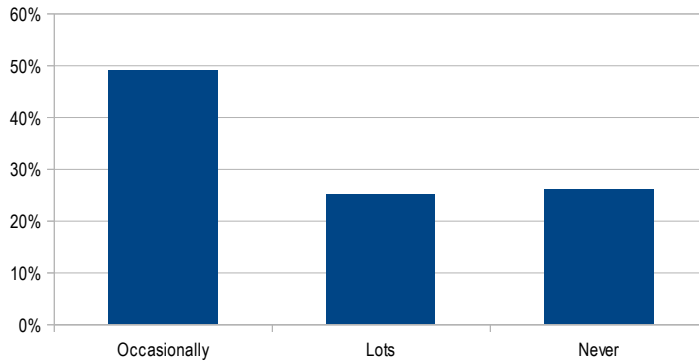
Description of Activities	Age Range	Anticipated Total Numbers Attending	Organised By	Comments
Fun Day 20 th August	All ages	75	Committee and Thomas Boughy Children's Centre	Stalls, crafts for children, face painting etc
Outdoor Cinema Event 30 th August	Families	150	Committee	Awaiting response to funding application to appetite
Halloween Disco	Primary aged children	70	Committee	
Christmas Event Parade and Themed Party	Families	100	Committee	Size of event to depend on funding, received community funding from council and appetite in the past
Christmas Meal for the Elderly on Christmas Day	50+	25	Committee in conjunction with church	Awaiting to see if funding successful from Salt Box
School Holiday Craft Days	Primary school children	50	Committee and Thomas Boughy Children's Centre	Past events included Teddy Bears picnic and Halloween crafts
Party Hire for Weddings, Birthdays etc	All ages	100	Private hire	Lots of earning potential if we had a flexible space with a bar
Karate / Dance Troupes	5-16	30	Hire to dance/ martial arts teacher	Need a floor that is solid
Weight Watchers/ Slimming World	Adults all ages	50	Hire to group leader	Need a solid floor so scales are accurate
Baby classes e.g. Rhyme Time / Baby Sensory	Babies 0-2 and parents	30	Hire to group leader	Need baby friendly facilities e.g. baby change room and flexible space with efficient heating and way of cooling in summer
Internet Café / Hub	All ages	50	Committee	To help elderly and unemployed to get on line and to improve skills
Luncheon Club	50+	30	Committee and volunteers	Need volunteers available in the day

Appendix B

Section 1: Use of City Waterside Community Centre

Q1. How often do you use the Waterside Community Centre

Graph 12 Visits to the Community Centre

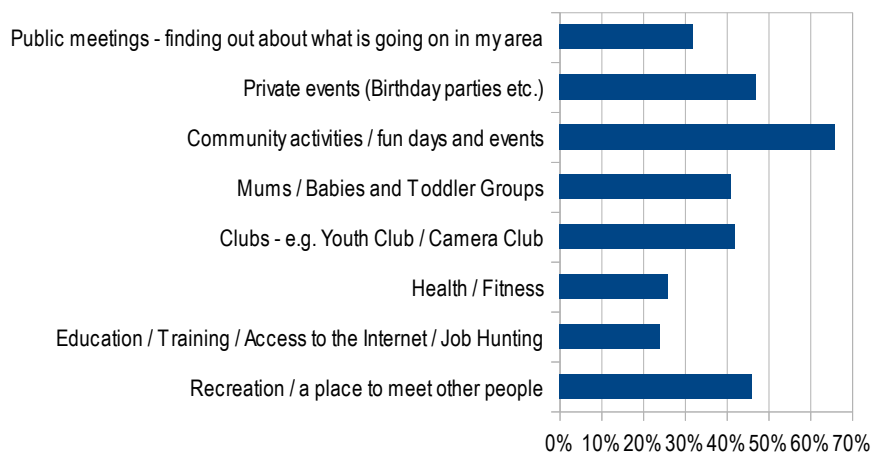


Graph 12 Data

Occasionally	49%	108
Lots	25%	54
Never	26%	57

Q2. Which best describes how you have used, OR would like to use the Waterside Community Centre

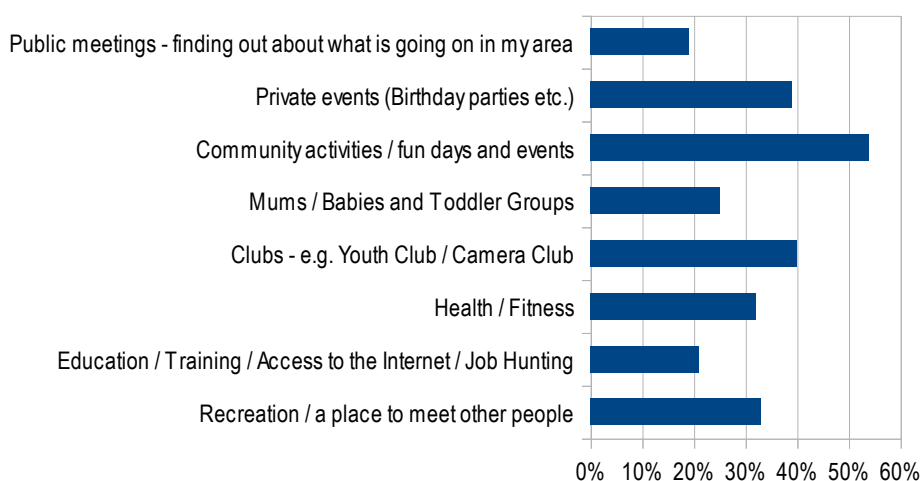
Graph 13 Use / Desired use of Community Centre (All Respondents)



Graph 13 Data All Respondents

Recreation / a place to meet other people	46%	100
Education / Training / Access to the Internet / Job Hunting	24%	53
Health / Fitness	26%	58
Clubs - e.g. Youth Club / Camera Club	42%	91
Mums / Babies and Toddler Groups	41%	89
Community activities / fun days and events	66%	145
Private events (Birthday parties etc.)	47%	102
Public meetings - finding out about what is going on in my area	32%	70

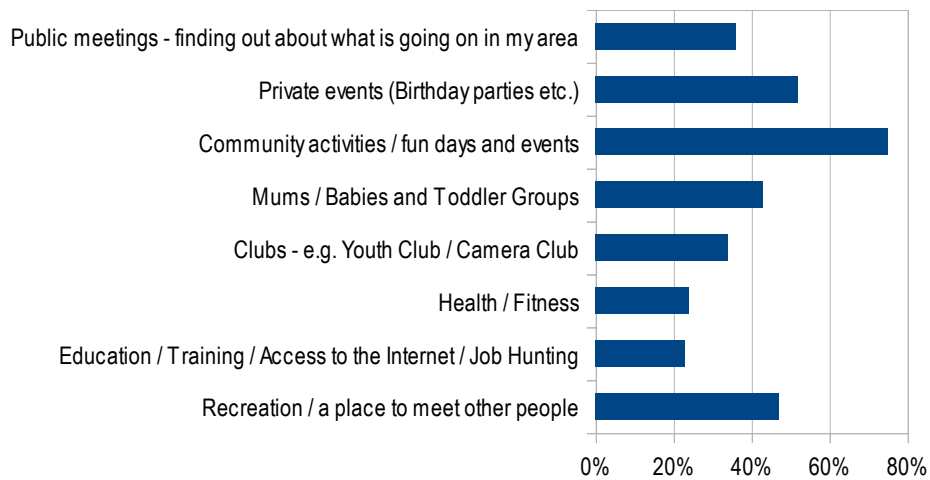
Graph 14 Use / Desired use of Community Centre (Those who have NEVER used the Community Centre)



Graph 14 Data those who have NEVER used the Community Centre

Recreation / a place to meet other people	33%	19
Education / Training / Access to the Internet / Job Hunting	21%	12
Health / Fitness	32%	18
Clubs - e.g. Youth Club / Camera Club	40%	23
Mums / Babies and Toddler Groups	25%	14
Community activities / fun days and events	54%	31
Private events (Birthday parties etc.)	39%	22
Public meetings - finding out about what is going on in my area	19%	11

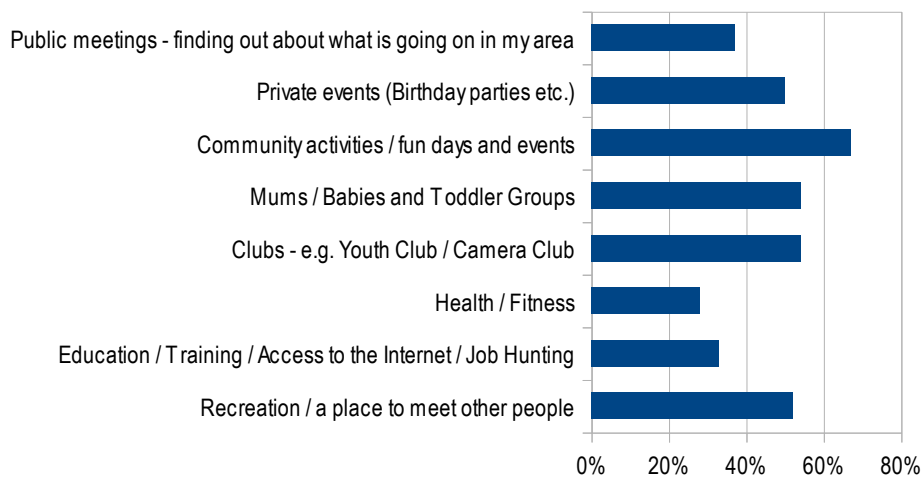
Graph 15 Desired use of Community Centre (Those who OCCASIONALLY use the Community Centre)



Graph 15 Data those who occasionally use the Community Centre

Recreation / a place to meet other people	47%	51
Education / Training / Access to the Internet / Job Hunting	23%	25
Health / Fitness	24%	26
Clubs - e.g. Youth Club / Camera Club	34%	37
Mums / Babies and Toddler Groups	43%	46
Community activities / fun days and events	75%	81
Private events (Birthday parties etc.)	52%	56
Public meetings - finding out about what is going on in my area	36%	39

Graph 16 Desired use of Community Centre (Those who use the Community Centre LOTS)



Graph 15 Data those who use the Community Centre LOTS

Recreation / a place to meet other people	52%	28
Education / Training / Access to the Internet / Job Hunting	33%	18
Health / Fitness	28%	15
Clubs - e.g. Youth Club / Camera Club	54%	29
Mums / Babies and Toddler Groups	54%	29
Community activities / fun days and events	67%	36
Private events (Birthday parties etc.)	50%	27
Public meetings - finding out about what is going on in my area	37%	20

Section 2 Views About the Community Centre

Q3. How would you rate the following regarding the Waterside Community Centre (1 - low, 5 - high, 0 - no views)

Graph 17 Community Centre Ratings



Graph 17 Data views about the Community Centre

	It is a valuable local resource	It is accessible and easy to get to	It is well run	It plays a role in bringing / keeping the community together	It helps to make the area a nice place to live	I feel safe when I am there	I enjoy myself when I am there	There is lots to do when I am there	I can afford to attend - it provides value for money
0	22	18	48	22	25	40	43	42	47
	10%	8%	22%	10%	11%	18%	20%	19%	21%
1	3	4	3	6	10	3	2	7	4
	1%	2%	1%	3%	5%	1%	1%	3%	2%
2	2	2	5	4	8	3	2	3	3
	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%
3	14	4	11	11	12	8	10	15	8
	6%	2%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	7%	4%
4	29	27	22	25	30	25	26	31	24
	13%	12%	10%	11%	14%	11%	12%	14%	11%
5	149	164	130	151	133	140	136	121	132
	68%	75%	59%	69%	61%	64%	62%	55%	60%

Section 3 Other Locations

Q 4. Please list other places in this area where you can socialise / learn / access community information?

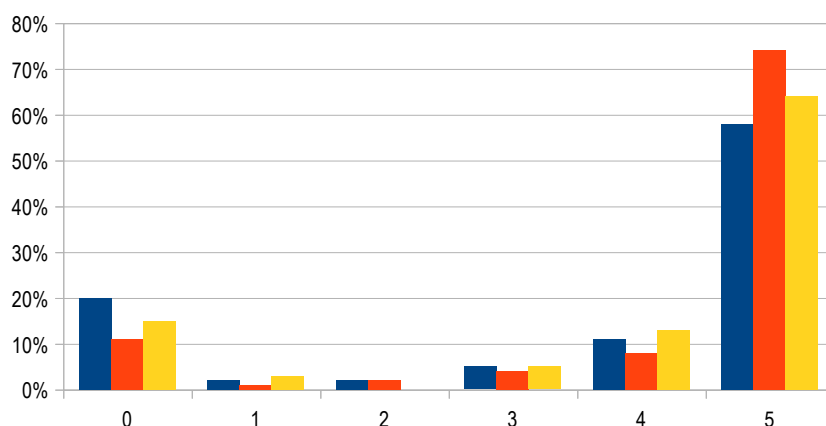
- Nowhere to go (x7)
- Local Churches (x8)
- Cinema
- Forest Park
- Clubs (x 4)
- Scouts (x 7)
- Cubs (x4)
- Community Centre (x2)
- Pool
- Snooker
- Hanley Park (x4)
- Meakins Cricket Club,
- Bucknall Park
- Northwood Stadium (x 4)
- The Green (football pitch) (x2)
- Hope Centre (x 2)
- Bridge Centre
- YMCA
- Hanley Library (x2)
- Hanley Museum (x2)
- Local Schools (x4)
- Jobcentre
- Chemist,
- Doctors,
- Coffee shops
- Children's Centre (x5)

Section 4 Overall Views and Opinions

Q 5. How would you rate the following? (see **Graph18** for specific questions)

(1 - low, 5 - high, 0 - no views)

Graph 18 Overall Views and Opinions



- I would miss not having a community centre in this area
- Public money should be used to keep a community centre open in this area
- Anti - social behaviour and crime would increase if we did not have a community centre in this area

Graph 18 Data overall views and opinions

	I would miss not having a Community Centre in this area	Public money should not be used to keep a Community Centre open in this area	Anti - social behaviour and crime would increase if we did not have a Community Centre in this area
0	44	23	32
	20%	11%	15%
1	5	2	6
	2%	1%	3%
2	5	5	1
	2%	2%	0%
3	12	9	11
	5%	4%	5%
4	25	18	28
	11%	8%	13%
5	128	162	140
	58%	74%	64%

Other comments

- Kids would have nowhere to go so would be hanging around the streets
- I have not seen any courses etc advertised. It seems to be for toddler groups / young mums, birthdays. I would like it to be used for education in the community aimed at all age groups. Also a wider area needs to be included in advertising. Radio - Signal / Stoke, fliers etc. Not everyone is on face book so other methods need to be put in place.
- By closing Community Centres you are damaging social connection which otherwise wouldn't be made. After all the Tories go on about a big community, yet they want to destroy the essence which makes a community
- I think this Community Centre is a vital asset to the community. The area used to be like a small village where everyone knew each other. It created a support network for people that is what the Community Centre is now re-establishing. A safe haven for people to go to
- It is a great place to be
- Keep the children off the streets, give them somewhere to go
- A Community Centre is vital to maintaining a strong sense of community in this area following its decimation by Renew
- It is a great place to keep the children entertained
- I feel the centre is essential for the community
- I myself do not use the centre but I do know several families that do, I am sure the centre would be missed
- The Community Centre is a safe place our children can go to and interact with other children. I do believe that crime would increase as the children won't have anything to do out of school hours
- It is a good resourceful place for the children to go and enjoy themselves and purposeful for events and meetings social gatherings and would be highly missed without its existence
- Very Good
- There needs to be recreation areas for children of all ages - somewhere separate for teenagers
- Keep it open
- A valuable resource that should not be lost
- This is my first time here but it seems a nice place to be and a valuable resource for the community
- Why are houses now being built in an area described as full of subsidence
- The community has been 'raped'. It needs to be investigated. All house taken down because unsafe. But when they ran out of money they then become safe.
- I love this place always a happy welcome. Would miss it so much if it wasn't here
- Lovely clean room. Safe for little ones
- I have never known a more welcoming centre
- As members of the local church we value the contribution the Community Centre to the local area
- In a city centre a sense of community is essential and a safe place for all members to meet is vital
- Help people who can afford to buy food. People who can't get out because they have no car or bus to get to doctors or hospital
- We are members at the local church. We value local area to build the church
- A Community Centre is the 'Hub' of our area
- The lack of a Community Centre is proven to a) increase anti-social by lack of ' personal investment of the residents. b) area initially look great but reduced to rubbish dump / high levels of crime
- I don't use the centre but believe they are key to communities
- If the council closed this community centre anti-social behaviour would rise in this area.

- *I don't go out much so love coming here, would be fantastic if it was bigger as a lot is limited due to space*
- *Don't live in area so haven't had the opportunity to use this vital resource*
- *More for older people like dinner clubs*
- *The council has closed the other breast feeding cafes*

Appendix C

FREE PRIZE DRAW – WIN £25.00

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short questionnaire, which will be used as part of a feasibility study into the future of the **City Waterside Community Centre**.

Personal Information

Name Contact No.

Gender Male Female

Ethnic Origin

Age..... Postcode

Employment Status (e.g. 'Employed', 'Unemployed', 'Long-term sick' etc.).....

Registered Disabled Yes No

Section 1 – Use of City Waterside Community Centre

How often to you visit / use / plan to use the Waterside Community Centre? (Please tick as appropriate)

Occasionally Lots Never

Which best describes how you have used, or would like to use the Waterside Community Centre? (please tick **ALL** that apply)

Recreation / a place to meet other people

Education / Training / Access to the Internet / Job Hunting

Health / Fitness

Clubs – e.g. Youth Club / Camera Club

Mums / Babies and Toddler Groups

Community activities / fun days and events

Private events (Birthday parties etc.)

Public meetings – finding out about what is going on in my area

Other **Please turn over**

Section 2 – How would you rate the following regarding the Waterside Community Centre?

(1 low, 5 high, 0 no views)

It is a valuable local resource	0 1 2 3 4 5
It is accessible and easy to get to	0 1 2 3 4 5
It is well run	0 1 2 3 4 5
It plays a role in bringing / keeping the community together	0 1 2 3 4 5
It helps to make this area a nice place to live	0 1 2 3 4 5
I feel safe when I am there	0 1 2 3 4 5
I enjoy myself when I am there	0 1 2 3 4 5
There is lots to do when I am there	0 1 2 3 4 5
I can afford to attend – it provides value for my money	0 1 2 3 4 5
Other views	

Section 3 – Please list other places in this area where you can socialise / learn / access community information:

Section 4 How would you rate the following? (1 low, 5 high, 0 no views)

I would miss not having a community centre in this area	0 1 2 3 4 5
Public money should be used to keep a community centre open in this areas	0 1 2 3 4 5
Anti-social behaviour and crime would increase if we did not have a community centre in this area	0 1 2 3 4 5

Other comments? (Please continue on a separate piece of paper if necessary)

widerimpact

Independent Analysis. Strategic Reviews

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