**YOUTH AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN DISS**

**Introduction**

In late 2023, the Diss Youth and Community Centre (‘DYCC’) on Shelfanger Road was closed following the discovery of reinforced aerated autoclave concrete (“RAAC”) in the building.

Diss Town Council is considering the current and potential future use of the DYCC and its other key properties, specifically the Town Council Offices and Diss Sports Ground.

There are various options available. Most require significant investment. Whilst grants would be applied for, it is anticipated that the Council would have to borrow money to make up any shortfall, which would need to be repaid.

The Town Council wants to ensure that the option selected provides facilities and activities that meet the needs of the local community and does not duplicate existing community provision in the town; such as the planned Leisure Hub development by South Norfolk District Council.

The Town Council recognises that it will take some time to consider options and intends to use the next six months to explore those.

As a first step, the Town Council is inviting local residents to complete a brief survey to gain an initial understanding of local opinion and to help inform further work to be carried out.

Hard copies of the survey will be available at the drop-in sessions planned at Morrisons supermarket between 10am and midday on 29th & 30th of November and 13th & 14th of December. We will also be on the Market Place on Friday 20th December 10am – midday.

Copies will also be available from the Town Council Offices. Please contact [towncouncil@diss.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@diss.gov.uk) or 01379 643848.

An online version of the survey is available at <https://www.diss.gov.uk/diss-youth-community-centre>.

We are very grateful for your time and feedback.

1. Have you or any member of your household been affected by the closure of the DYCC?

Yes   
  
  
No

1. Do you think providing refurbished or new youth and community facilities in Diss is a good and worthwhile idea?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Don’t Know
2. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neither Agree nor Disagree** | **Disagree** | **Disagree Strongly** |
| Any investment creates facilities which are attractive and relevant to young people |  |  |  |  |  |
| Refurbished or new facilities should be flexible and enable use by a wide range of community groups |  |  |  |  |  |
| We should not be providing facilities that already exist or are planned in the town |  |  |  |  |  |

**Financial Implications**

The Town Council would apply for relevant grants, but it is anticipated that some funds will need to be borrowed. Debts might be reduced by sale of the existing DYCC site if service provision is provided in existing facilities around the town but managed by various existing bodies.

1. How much extra Council tax\* would the billpayer be prepared to pay to help pay back any borrowed money required to refurbish of rebuild the DYCC?
   * None
   * £1-£10 per household annum
   * £10-£25 per household per annum
   * £25-£50 per household per annum
   * More than £50 per household per annum
   * Not applicable (for non-Diss residents)

\*N.B. the current annual Town Council element of the Council Tax bill is £235.43.

**Option 1**

**Repair and refurbishment of the existing DYCC building**

It should be possible to replace the RAAC roof in the existing DYCC, as well as install new electrical and heating systems and potentially accommodate DTC offices. Initial estimates suggest that these works might cost between £500,000 and £750,000.

These costs could be partly met by the Town Council using existing funds. Additional funds could be raised by the disposal of the existing Town Council offices alongside external grants and borrowed money.

1. In principle. do you support Option 1?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Don’t Know

**Option 2**

**Construction of a new facility on the site of the existing DYCC building to include DTC Offices**

Initial estimates suggest that this work might cost between £1.5 million and £2.5 million, depending on the extent of any new building.

These costs could be partly met by the Town Council using existing funds. Additional funds could be raised by the disposal of the existing Town Council offices with the offices relocating to the new DYCC building.

It is likely that this option would also require substantial external grant funding and some borrowing.  
  
5. In principle, do you support Option 2?

* + Yes
  + No
  + Don’t Know

**Option 3**

**Construction of a new DYCC and DTC Offices on the existing Diss Sports Ground site**

The Council would dispose of the existing DYCC site and DTC offices, construct a new community building on Diss Sports Ground. Initial estimates suggest that this work might cost between £1.5 million and £3.5 million, depending on the extent of any new building.

This option could be funded through funds from the sale of both the DYCC and DTC offices with substantial external grant funding and borrowing.

1. In principle. do you support Option 3?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Don’t Know

**Option 4**

**Sale of the DYCC site and provision of services through collaboration with existing organisations in and around the town.**

Many organisations now provide services by working collaboratively with other local partners by sharing space to reduce cost and maximise use. IT has made this much easier to achieve, can be very flexible, meet rapidly changing needs and be cost-effective.

This option would lead to the sale of the DYCC and enable investment in collaborative and partnership services. The future use of DYCC site would be subject to normal planning regulations and approvals.

1. In principle. do you support Option 4?
   * Yes
   * No
   * Don’t Know

**Any Other Comments**

If you have any further comments about the issues raised in this questionnaire, please let us know in the box below:

**About You**

1. Please indicate the number of people in your household in the following age groups.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Age Groups** | **Number of people in your household** |
| Under 3 years old |  |
| 3-8 years old |  |
| 9-14 years old |  |
| 15-18 years old |  |
| 19-35 years old |  |
| 36-55 years old |  |
| 56-75 years old |  |
| Over 75 years old |  |

1. Where do you live?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Diss |  |
| Another parish (please state \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) |  |

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.*