

**Ward Councillors were emailed requesting comments regarding their local community centre by the Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer on behalf of the Chair.**

Dear Cllrs

The Voluntary Sector Commission Framework (Community Centres) Task Group is Chaired by Cllr Rabi Martin and attended by Cllrs Hastrick, Collett, Joynes and Mehta.

The Task Group are currently reviewing the local community centres as part of the overall review of the Voluntary Sector Commissioning Framework. As part of their review they are considering the XXXXX Community Centre in your Ward. The Chair has asked me to contact you as Ward Councillor for your thoughts on the activities of the centre and any ideas or comments for the task group.

Please note that the next meeting of the Task Group will take place on 26 May 2015 at 6.30pm in Committee Room 1, Watford Town Hall.

Kind regards

Rob Cowan  
Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer

**Two responses were received by email.**

**1. Email from Cllr Tony Rogers (Woodside Ward) regarding Orbital Community Centre:**

Dear Rob,

I have always been impressed with the range of activities that the Orbital Community Centre offers. It has been mentioned by an ex local professional boxer that boxing classes should also be introduced (but I am not sure how appropriate that is).

We have hired the rooms available there and found that process professionally done.

The venue serves as a centre of the community. Perhaps not the most central location for AC polling.

Excellent parking facilities which is so important.

With the major redevelopment of the Lincoln Court site with a younger residential population the community centre could have a much more active future. Especially if it advertises itself more.

I would be pleased to discuss this further with Councillor Martin when we next meet prior to the 26th of May meeting.

Best wishes,

Tony Rogers

**2. Email from Cllr Tim Williams (Stanborough Ward) regarding Leavesden Green Community Centre:**

Hi Rob,

Leavesden Green Community Centre/Hub  
Refurbished completely and re-opened in Sept'13 - great building, and now nearly two years later still looking as good as new - great facility to have in the Leavesden Green area.

Although not recently they used to have a Leavesden Green Community Hub User Meeting on a quarterly basis but these have seemed to have dropped off recently, but having spoken to them on 7th May they are hoping to get these re-established.... although to be fair not too many people/users attended.

From my perspective a number of good groups/organisations use the centre covering a wide range of activities, as well as the WCHT offering events/courses/activities - daytime/evenings – e.g. meals/groups for the elderly, a successful toddler group, exercise classes, martial arts groups, pamper days etc. Its also good to see that WCHT use the centre for their maintenance "action days", and that Leavesden Children's Centre use it as a regular venue to run events/courses.

However yes from the community (when door knocking) the comment is often made that its a good facility but doesn't do things we want, and from attending the user group meetings I know that we've discussed how to reach out to the neighbouring community to engage them more with using their centre. Tina Olowookere WCHT does complete a lot of Facebook messages to engage residents.

Wonderful facility with great activities/events/courses but it would be great for the centre to be used more by the residents living adjacent to it.

Hope this helps,  
Tim

Cllr Tim Williams