



Billericay Town Council

New Chantry Way Public Consultation

Methodology, Results & Analysis

AMENDMENT HISTORY

0.1 13-Aug-2018 First draft

0.2 20-Aug-2018 Updated to include latest comments. Reformatted by theme.

1.0 31-Aug-2018 Final release.

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1. When did the Public Consultation occur ?

The Public Consultation was conducted between 1st and 14th August 2018. Due to the numbers of constructive / helpful responses it was extended to 20th August 2018.

2. How were residents informed of the Public Consultation ?

- Advertised in the Town Council's newsletter "The Town Crier" which was delivered to every home in the parish.
- Extensively/repeatedly advertised on Social Media - Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor both on the Town Council's own channels and across various local channels.
- Advertised on local radio through an interview with a Town Councillor (PhoenixFM, 9th August 2018)
- Advertised on the Town Council's two noticeboards.

3. Consultation Methodology / Availability

A standard questionnaire was produced with 10 questions, each of which allowed the respondent to either answer with a "yes" or "no", or to write comments if they wished. An 11th "Do you have any other comments ?" was included as a catch-all.

Three main channels were used to elicit responses:

- **Town Council website.** All presentation material, background material and consultation was available online throughout the consultation along with an electronic version of the questionnaire.
- **Billericay Library.** Presentation material on display throughout the consultation in A4 format (A3 for the building plans). Paper copies of the Consultation Questionnaire were available and a sealed box used to collect responses.
- **Open Day at the existing Chantry Way Centre.** Large poster display of all presentation material (A3 format) and in addition latest "3d" versions of plans (A0 format) and a "fly through" computer graphic demonstration ran on a continuous loop. Architects and Town Councillors were present throughout to discuss the plans and answer questions.

Responses were analysed in two ways:

- **Yes/No numeric comparison.** A simple "yes/no" set of results for each of the 3 channels was produced, and summarised in the "Favourable/Unfavourable Response Analysis" section later in this document. Where it was clear the respondent either agreed or disagreed with the question, this was noted. If an question was not completed, or an answer was given which was either unclear as to whether it was in agreement or not, or where the answer wasn't felt relevant to the question it was ignored in the "yes/no" comparison.
- **Resident's comments.** Any question which was answered with anything other than a simple "yes" or "no" was documented. Similar queries / trends were later grouped together for ease of analysis / reading.

4. Numbers of Respondents

Overall, 143 responses were received.

Open Day Attendance: In excess of 150 people attended the Open Day

Open Day Responses Completed: 51

Online Responses Completed: 41

Library Responses Completed: 51

Website Access:

During the period, the following “unique pageviews” (the number of times a web page was viewed one or more times in a session) were recorded:

WEBSITE PAGE	FUNCTION OF PAGE	UNIQUE PAGEVIEWS
Chantry Way Homepage	Project summary + links to other pages	386
Plans	Visuals of the building plans	365
Consultation Questions	Web form containing the questions	97
Vision	Vision for the new building	84
Facilities	Summary of building's facilities	59
Slides pack	Download of all slides shown at the Open Day / Library	50
History	History of the Chantry Way site	45
Funding	How the building will be funded	32
Demand	Justification of demand for new facilities	21

5. Responses

This section summarises the “Yes/No” responses received. The first table collates all responses; subsequent tables split them between the 3 sources : the Open Day, the Library and online.

Out of the responses, only two were fundamentally opposed to the project.

5.1.Favourable/Unfavourable Response Analysis

5.1.1. Overall Analysis - all sources

Total Responses = 143

#	Question	Agree	Disagree	% in favour
1	Do you agree that the current ageing building, particularly given its close proximity to the Town’s Conservation Area is detrimental to the area ?	122	15	89
2	Do you agree that the centre of Billericay could benefit from a modern facility with large hall and meeting rooms ?	137	3	98
3	Would you support a Community Hub which could potentially provide access locally to the Police and other support organisations ?	132	5	96
4	Do you agree that the building should provide social facilities for both local community and charity groups?	138	0	100
5	Do you agree that affordable rates are charged for community use to balance income from hiring rooms & hall out to businesses at market rates ?	132	4	97
6	Do you agree that the external view of the new facility will enhance the surrounding area ?	115	17	87
7	Do you agree that it makes economic sense for the Town Council to own and manage its own building, saving on costs of our current offices which are leased ?	132	6	96
8	Do you agree that the size of the new hall will be large enough to accommodate community events?	116	11	91
9	Do you agree that the mix of rooms is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of community groups and uses ?	123	3	98
10	Do you agree that the building will provide a venue extending opportunities for residents to socialise, learn, develop new skills and take part in the wider community ?	127	3	98
11	Do you have any other comments ?	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.1.2. Responses: Chantry Way Open Day

Total Responses 51

#	Question	Agree	Disagree	% in favour
1	Do you agree that the current ageing building, particularly given its close proximity to the Town's Conservation Area is detrimental to the area ?	46	5	90
2	Do you agree that the centre of Billericay could benefit from a modern facility with large hall and meeting rooms ?	51	0	100
3	Would you support a Community Hub which could potentially provide access locally to the Police and other support organisations ?	49	0	100
4	Do you agree that the building should provide social facilities for both local community and charity groups?	51	0	100
5	Do you agree that affordable rates are charged for community use to balance income from hiring rooms & hall out to businesses at market rates ?	47	1	98
6	Do you agree that the external view of the new facility will enhance the surrounding area ?	48	2	96
7	Do you agree that it makes economic sense for the Town Council to own and manage its own building, saving on costs of our current offices which are leased ?	49	1	98
8	Do you agree that the size of the new hall will be large enough to accommodate community events?	40	5	89
9	Do you agree that the mix of rooms is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of community groups and uses ?	47	1	98
10	Do you agree that the building will provide a venue extending opportunities for residents to socialise, learn, develop new skills and take part in the wider community ?	47	0	100
11	Do you have any other comments ?	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.1.3. Responses: Library

Total Responses: 51

#	Question	Agree	Disagree	% in favour
1	Do you agree that the current ageing building, particularly given its close proximity to the Town's Conservation Area is detrimental to the area ?	38	8	83
2	Do you agree that the centre of Billericay could benefit from a modern facility with large hall and meeting rooms ?	49	1	98
3	Would you support a Community Hub which could potentially provide access locally to the Police and other support organisations ?	47	2	96
4	Do you agree that the building should provide social facilities for both local community and charity groups?	50	0	100
5	Do you agree that affordable rates are charged for community use to balance income from hiring rooms & hall out to businesses at market rates ?	45	3	94
6	Do you agree that the external view of the new facility will enhance the surrounding area ?	43	4	91
7	Do you agree that it makes economic sense for the Town Council to own and manage its own building, saving on costs of our current offices which are leased ?	47	2	96
8	Do you agree that the size of the new hall will be large enough to accommodate community events?	47	1	98
9	Do you agree that the mix of rooms is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of community groups and uses ?	45	0	100
10	Do you agree that the building will provide a venue extending opportunities for residents to socialise, learn, develop new skills and take part in the wider community ?	48	0	100
11	Do you have any other comments ?	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.1.4. Responses: Website

Total responses: 41

#	Question	Agree	Disagree	% in favour
1	Do you agree that the current ageing building, particularly given its close proximity to the Town's Conservation Area is detrimental to the area ?	38	2	95
2	Do you agree that the centre of Billericay could benefit from a modern facility with large hall and meeting rooms ?	37	2	95
3	Would you support a Community Hub which could potentially provide access locally to the Police and other support organisations ?	36	3	92
4	Do you agree that the building should provide social facilities for both local community and charity groups?	37	0	100
5	Do you agree that affordable rates are charged for community use to balance income from hiring rooms & hall out to businesses at market rates ?	40	0	100
6	Do you agree that the external view of the new facility will enhance the surrounding area ?	24	11	69
7	Do you agree that it makes economic sense for the Town Council to own and manage its own building, saving on costs of our current offices which are leased ?	36	3	92
8	Do you agree that the size of the new hall will be large enough to accommodate community events?	29	5	85
9	Do you agree that the mix of rooms is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of community groups and uses ?	31	2	94
10	Do you agree that the building will provide a venue extending opportunities for residents to socialise, learn, develop new skills and take part in the wider community ?	32	3	91
11	Do you have any other comments ?	N/A	N/A	N/A

5.2. Respondents comments, by question

Any comments other than a straight “Yes” or “No” have been included.

Q1. Do you agree that the current ageing building, particularly given its close proximity to the Town's Conservation Area is detrimental to the area ?

THEMES: “Not really” or similar

- It is not visible from the High Street so detrimental does not fit
- Not really as it is out of sight
- Not particularly
- Not detrimental as such, other than perhaps aesthetically but no longer fit for purpose
- I don't think it is detrimental to the area per se. We are lucky to have a facility even if it is not particularly attractive. Would be nice to have a better one.
- Visually no problem as it is detached from the High St. However in view of the structural condition of the building I agree redevelopment is necessary.
- Not really
- No, it has always been a good hall, it has just got old and tatty

THEMES: “Eyesore” or similar

- An eyesore now
- Definitely. I have lived around the corner for 40+ years in the Cloisters and watched this building deteriorate/be painted/deteriorate some more
- It is becoming dilapidated, and may cause more problems in the near future with leaking roof, drains etc.
- The current building is an eyesore and I imagine more people would use the facility if it was a nice building
- Absolutely. It is not a good advert for the area and has seen better days
- No longer fit for purpose
- It's an eyesore
- It's not very attractive to look at
- An eyesore & needs replacement
- It could certainly do with improvement
- Needs modernising
- It's looking tired and worn and not fit for purpose
- It's been very neglected in recent years and could have been better maintained
- Absolutely. It looks tired and useless and only seems to be fit for Weight Watchers and old people. Nothing else ! Especially compared to the new houses beside it making it look older !
- It needs to be updated to be a usable building for the future community
- The building does need updating
- Yes, it could be improved
- It's not really visible from the High Street so I don't believe it has a visual impact but it is small and used by many groups. Its layout is restrictive and could be designed to better meet the needs of groups wishing to use it. A new build would secure its availability for many years to come
- It has been allowed to fall into decay
- The old building is terribly run down and clearly needs replacing
- It is looking a bit run down
- I do agree it needs replacing
- Well over due
- Only because it was allowed to deteriorate
- It lets the “look” of the area down
- I wouldn't describe it as “detrimental” but the current building does need updating
- It has looked run down for many years, yet has served the community well
- It could do with renovation

THEMES: Other.

- Has served its purpose
- The new proposed building will be an asset
- It does not fit the future of Billericay
- Yes, but should be architecturally within keeping with the history of the area
- Centre is required. Actually is a necessity.
- The town needs a modern community centre, built to the latest regulations for fire safety and environmental protection.
- There are many other building in this immediate area that have been erected or refurbished without too much consideration of the Conservation area. This model looks like being yet another. I do agree that the current building is not fit for purpose
- Is it close to the Conservation Area? Not really!
- The replacement is required to cover the needs of many not just the few who make the decisions!!!
- Was refurbishment properly investigated ?

THEMES: Confusion over the question.

A number of respondents appear to have interpreted the question as whether the facility is required, rather than whether the existing facility creates a detrimental look

- No, it is an asset to the area. It is used by many local people and organisations even in its current poor state
- No, the building has its issues but until they were chucked out it was well used and a central meeting point for the elderly of the town
- It is good for the area providing a service, so no.

Q2. Do you agree that the centre of Billericay could benefit from a modern facility with large hall and meeting rooms ?

THEMES: Simple agreement

- Definitely.
- A big YES
- Yes, definitely. Current building is underused specially in daytime
- Absolutely
- Very much so
- Absolutely - yes
- It would benefit from a new facility
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, it will be of benefit to the community and surrounding area
- Yes, independent meeting rooms will benefit local business & groups
- Yes, old building was used by organisations we supported
- Yes, I think it serves the community and is in a good position
- Yes I do agree given the nature of the current usage ie slimming world and fitness classes

THEMES: Agree/broadly agree - with additional information

- Absolutely - there is nowhere for events, music, talks to conferences etc in the town so it'd be absolutely ideal. The Fold is the closest but again it's very outdated
- It should if possible include facilities hitherto available in the old building, ideally provision for Senior Citizen's activities (eg keep the snooker table if possible)
- It is a great design by a local company - it would bring more people in and be used much more and for a variety of purposes
- There is a lack of publicly available space for clubs and groups to meet in the town
- As long as it is available to use by all Billericay residents and not just selected groups that get preferential treatment
- Yes, but better use could be made of the larger halls in our secondary schools.
- Only if commercial viable, so I suspect no.
- Definite need for a convenient community "space"
- Yes. I agree with a community centre in the middle of Billericay which is accessible to all. This building is very close to public transport
- Yes. There is nothing like this proposed building in the centre of town. There is a small meeting room in the Reading Rooms or a larger space in the Church, but nothing that has been designed specifically as a community facility.
- Yes definitely - we may get more groups and societies etc using it which would be a benefit

THEMES: Disagree

- No, funds surely could be better spent...

THEMES: Parking

- It is not a large plot, limited parking ... Smartening/refurb existing could be better
- Of course it could, but not if there is insufficient parking for people wishing to use a "Large" building. I note the Hall will accommodate 150. Where will they park ? I live adjacent to this site and already suffer from inconsiderate parking at all hours of the day, despite yellow lines. Please don't tell me there is sufficient parking in other areas near the High St.
- Within reason, but a larger hall with better facilities would attract bigger events and there is no real parking provision at the location. I would not want to see a premium location attracting outside users who would get preference over local users and push prices up and make it more difficult for local residents to access it.
- Would parking be an issue
- Only with enough parking to make useful

THEMES: architecture

- It should be in keeping with the buildings its behind. The Chequers and Harry's Bar/ Ravens Bakery
- Yes I do, however modern internally doesn't need a modern look externally
- Billericay, especially the Chantry area is not modern. I think this building would look out of place
- The particular design we have been shown is poor given its close proximity to the Town's Conservation Area and detrimental to the historical setting so close to listed ancient buildings of the area

THEMES: miscellaneous points

- Needs pointing out not obvious at present. Where is it located (sign posts) ?
- It needs a modern facility that homes a few different sized rooms that can be altered by either the removal of panels to make a larger area when required. A few different ideas should be contemplated before a decision is decided upon (*Ed. Note that other answers in this respondent's questionnaire suggest they hadn't realised there were a set of rooms upstairs*)
- Have cost implications been properly considered ?

Q3. Would you support a Community Hub which could potentially provide access locally to the Police and other support organisations ?

THEMES: Simple agreement

- Yes good idea
- Yes definitely
- Definitely. The community needs to be at the core of this project
- Absolutely
- Definitely
- 100%
- Yes, it is greatly needed
- Absolutely
- Yes if the police and other agencies had information it would improve communication to local residents
- Definitely
- Definitely
- Yes, definitely
- Yes..... an interesting initiative
- Yes. That would be beneficial to the area

THEMES: Not sure

- Maybe
- Might be a good idea
- As a local town council precept payer I would have to support it, like it or not.

THEMES: Agree - with additional information

- Can't envisage what it's like but a one-stop shop must be an improvement. Need to think through vs. what happens at the Library such as small electrical appliance recycling, battery recycling and other services such as hearing and batteries
- Facilities needed for relevant local brochures, Police notices & useful handout pamphlets
- Yes, providing the Police and other organisations actually turn up! Will there be adequate support for those within to use the IT facilities ?
- Yes absolutely, especially if this can support children with and without special needs
- Yes, but think of the costs...
- Providing it perpetuates facilities currently available in the existing centre
- Yes, providing it is well managed
- Yes, conditional on bringing in revenue to support the facility
- The younger generation is sorely missing out on somewhere they can gather as well as providing a base for more support groups
- Yes, but have cost implications been properly considered ?

THEMES : Other

- Don't understand the question
- What police ? Could these organisations not use the existing facility in Crown Yard when the Council Offices vacate the site ? (I now see below that Crown Yard is leased, and although I realise that the police have very little spare money, I don't think that Billericay residents should subsidise their premises. They still have the Sun Corner offices)
- I think it will fail if you try to make it too many things
- Too little access/parking
- Rather out of the way to make it useful
- We have a police station which used to give us local access to the police. If the police wanted to or could afford to provide such access again they could reopen the police station to the public. If the police station were to be sold and the police wanted and could afford to provide public access they could do so at a dozen other venues without adding to those currently available. The Reading Rooms and the church in the High Street is more central and more visible to the public. The Fire Service provide a public open day at the fire station and take part in public events on Sun Corner. Have the police or any other support organisation expressed frustration at

not being able to provide the public access now being suggested by this "Community Hub"? How often have they made use of the current Day Centre ?

Q4. Do you agree that the building should provide social facilities for both local community and charity groups?

THEMES : Simple agreement

- Of course, definitely
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, absolutely
- Absolutely
- Yes, it's important to have facilities for local groups
- Definitely
- Very much so
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, I agree wholeheartedly
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, most important
- Essential

THEMES : Agreement with additional information

- It would bring the community together
- Provided fees are maintainable at an acceptably low level
- I agree wholeheartedly. Too many social facilities these days are not within the reach of those who do not drive, this is especially true in rural areas
- Yes indeed - a multipurpose building for groups, societies, drama groups etc.
- There isn't enough in Billericay for these groups and charities like snap who need sensory areas
- Yes, then you need committee and escalation of costs
- Yes for local charities although care should be taken to ensure that large charities who are cash rich do not benefit at the expense of smaller local charities
- There are many groups - and there are some particularly "difficult" to reach groups (the socially isolated, those living with dementia etc.) who could benefit. What it will need are people to run these groups - but these should hopefully come from the community
- Yes, especially for teenagers, as there is nothing for them in Billericay if they don't like skateboarding or church
- Many local groups are charities. Has there been any suggestion that either local groups or charities should be excluded? If the Chantry Way Day Centre is to be lost a venue should be provided which, at least, provides the same services as it has done

THEMES: Other

- I used the hairdressing room for 14 years and it provided a service to the ladies at the coffee mornings. I hope there will be a room to hire in the new building
- The council should try to support such groups but this is a residential road with issues over parking. We already suffer from the noise and smells from the nearby High St facilities. I would not welcome late evening, large or noisy events. The meeting rooms on the plans look quite small, which would be OK for smaller quieter group meetings
- The new facility needs to support itself and not create a funding hole for the neighbourhood
- I think the hall should be available to all residents to hire, not just selected groups
- Should be made available without excessive costs for those groups
- Yes, but not essential

Q5. Do you agree that affordable rates are charged for community use to balance income from hiring rooms & hall out to businesses at market rates ?

THEMES: Simple agreement.

- Absolutely
- Quite right
- Definitely
- Yes, absolutely
- Definitely. Most community groups provide an excellent service on minimal funds
- A community facility financed at least in part by commercial rent would be ideal
- Hire fees must be affordable to local groups
- I have no experience of this but any facility for public or charity use should be affordable

THEMES: Agree - with additional information

- Local community groups won't want to pay much more than the old Day Centre prices
- Providing the charges are fair or business groups will not book the hall
- What about a sliding scale of costs for charities, compared to commercial activities!
- Within reason for lots of groups to use
- These should mirror the users - business yes but youth groups perhaps less to encourage full use
- Must be affordable £20 at moment is a target to aim for
- Yes, I think it's necessary to ensure the upkeep so as to not have it look like the state it's in now
- Makes perfect sense, income from business and supporting local residents
- Prices should encourage use of hall - not to make it a white elephant as too expensive for local groups to hire
- Non-profit making societies should pay a lower rate than commercial ventures. For example the Norsey Wood Society are using The Fold and being charged less. Price should not be a barrier to return.
- Affordable rates should be charged to community
- Should be on a case by case basis - ie free for charity, and a charge for commercial as standard
- Charities/youth groups etc should be offered reduced rates on the site.
- Care should be taken to ensure that a percentage of the availability is solely reserved for local group/charity use at reduced rates to prevent them being squeezed out of the venue
- All rates should be affordable but remember you need to consider your actual cost before fixing your charge scale.
- Must be a realistic rate for community groups, comparable to other venues in the town
- A business should be charged full rates if they are using it to promote their product/company
- Provided the overall revenue/cost equation does not require subsidy from public funds.

THEMES: Miscellaneous.

- Billericay rate demand must be carefully managed and efforts taken to show money is wisely used
- Partially
- Doubtful that this will be well received
- Some idea of rates would be helpful, especially for users such as Billericay Society and Norsey Wood
- Affordable rates should be charged regardless of whether and at what rates businesses may pay
- Not sure. Shouldn't everyone pay the same. Businesses also benefit residents and should be encouraged
- Agree, but do not understand the term "to balance income". Assume the aim is to be self-financing

THEME: Possible Misunderstandings

- Rates shouldn't be so high that businesses can't afford to be in the town

THEME: Prioritise Community Groups over Commercial.

- No, it should be freely available for certain community uses. Affordable rates should be charged to worthy local organisation, but, if they are not, those organisations will use the more affordable sites nearby. The purpose of the building to serve the public not businesses. The rates charged to local charitable organisations should be less than for non-charitable organisations. Those rates should not be affected by the take up of use by businesses

which may vary from year to year. Business interest is only suggested because the proposal is an over-provision of facilities beyond the public community's aspiration

- This is a false choice. The purpose of the building should be to provide cheap or free sites for community use.

Q6. Do you agree that the external view of the new facility will enhance the surrounding area ?

Broadly favourable

- Having looked at the external plans of the facility, I think that the view could be worse
- Provided it is kept in proportion. Some of the artist' drawings seem rather out of perspective
- It will enhance the surrounding area
- It looks fabulous
- Definitely
- The design of the new facility is great. Well thought out and in keeping
- It is a great design and in keeping with the overall image of the rest of the town and would one something to be proud of as well as great economic potential
- Yes; in keeping with surroundings. Not an eyesore, nor too large.
- Yes, very much so
- Designs look stunning !
- Definitely a great improvement
- Definitely.
- It's a bit modern, but the white does lead into the white of the Chequers / Kosthuree
- Without a doubt. Having the facility is the important thing, but if it can be a more attractive building that is a bonus
- So much smarter & aesthetically pleasing than the current building
- No. It is a poor design given its close proximity to the Conservation Area and detrimental to the historic setting so close to the listed buildings of the High Street
- Definitely. Specifically the lower roof profile as you come up the hill
- Yes, particularly if there is suitable landscaping including trees and shrubs.
- Positive development for the area
- Yes but this is not an area of high visibility within the town

Broadly unfavourable

- No - too much glass
- No absolutely not. The building in itself is OK in the right setting but in Chantry Way it is an overdeveloped building and will look awful from the High Street. Billericay has a great heritage and some amazing historical buildings and this new building should enhance that not battle with it externally
- I think the building is not in keeping with the High Street. It is in or near a conservation area, the current design does not reflect this. The current building design will stand out and not blend with the buildings around it
- Too tall, houses opposite too...
- It's bloomin' hideous. It's on the edge of the Billericay Conservation Area. Would it kill architects to come up with a sympathetic, classical design that gives us a modern day Reading Rooms - a building that has stood the test of time - rather than yet another ugly, modernist carbuncle we'll all be scratching our heads in 10/20 years time wondering what on earth we were thinking? Will this be preserved among our ancient heritage assets in 100 years time? I doubt it. It's a cold, functional eyesore. Let's have a Town Hall for the generations!
- The external design is too modern and a traditional design more in keeping with Billericay's history would be more appropriate.
- Needs to be in keeping with an old part of Billericay in the Chequers and Church area
- The external appearance is quite pleasing on paper, but does not match anything in the surrounding area. The Cloisters estate was built in the 60's and the adjacent 4 cottages only 3 years ago. The Chequers, Fleur de Lis, Felix and Ravens in the High Street are some of the oldest buildings in Billericay. Nothing matches and this very modern exterior looks out of place.
- The new plan looks ugly and modern and out of keeping with nearby buildings
- Not great design
- No, it looks like a Cathedral with those enormous windows and sloping roof
- No. Looks like a 60's church hall outbuilding

Additional comments (favourable & unfavourable)

- Yes, but must take account of local residents need, particularly for parking. Double yellow on road and bollards would assist relations with residents
- Yes if material will not deteriorate quickly rendering it an eyesore. How about having some archival pictures of Billericay. Will there be a terminal for Basildon website ?
- Yes - but how long will the building look good ?

- Long sloping roofs not particularly attractive. Roof space above main hall may be wasted space. Why not extend 1st floor across and above main hall and have a modern flat roof with solar panels. Would there be room to move the Library to this new area ?
- Unsure. It's extremely modern, it is attractive, but in thirty years will it look dated ?
- Not sure
- Not sure - since it is currently at the rear (working service) entrances of a number of businesses it will be hard to improve the look of the area to an extent. We should not be aiming to make it the main High Street attraction - above all else it should be accessible, economical to run and energy efficient to keep future costs down
- Not sure
- Presumably it will not be visible from the High Street
- If the building lasts 50+ years the design will be outdated
- Hard to say. It's a more modern building. It won't look worse than the current one.
- Don't be drawn in by architects who deem of their creativity hitting the headlines. Be sensible and realise that double height lobbies and other internal areas are just a waste of space and incredibly expensive to heat... Grand Designs this is not!!
- Perhaps - it will be difficult to answer until the building is in place
- It will be an improvement but some concerns current suggested design will dominate the landscape
- Neutral, it shouldn't have an adverse effect
- Yes, perhaps add some trees at the front ?

Q7. Do you agree that it makes economic sense for the Town Council to own and manage its own building, saving on costs of our current offices which are leased ?

Broadly Favourable

- If managed properly and costed so, this is always preferable
- It depends on the figures - ongoing maintenance costs etc have to be considered
- Provided repayment of loan costs are covered by income
- It's essential council keep costs to minimum. Owning its own property gives the council greater control
- If charges for hire are sensible.
- It makes total sense to have facilities in one place
- If the project funding doesn't bankrupt the Council !
- I think it should be kept within the Town Council's control
- Absolutely
- Leasing space is throwing away money. Better to invest in facilities for the town to use
- I could get behind that. Absolutely !
- Yes, but don't go overboard like the Basildon Council Chamber ! This new build looks expensive
- Yes, "but".
- Assuming it is financed partially by commercial rent
- Money well spent
- Definitely !
- If done so effectively
- Yes, definitely
- Yes, but not at the expense of Billericay tax payers. However, it needs someone with acute business acumen to take charge but not an overpaid business person
- Yes, renting space is dead money.
- Yes but this shouldn't prevent groups from being able to use the community facilities

Broadly Unfavourable

- No. It can hire rooms for many centuries for the cost of this. It makes economic sense to scrap the Town Council
- No - what happens if no local support & council folds ?
- No. The huge rises in the local precept are unjustifiable. Leasing a building is an extravagance. Building a new one is extortionate. With a leased building there would be no continuing expenses should the Town Council be abolished by local referendum or national order. We will pay too much for the new building. The management and servicing of the new building would be much more expensive than the Day Centre with maintenance of the lift and upstairs windows to clean
- This is a false choice. It would make more economic sense to stop leasing a building and hold committee meetings in one of the many rooms available to rent or committee member homes. Meetings open to the public could be held in the High Street Church

Additional Comments (Favourable & Unfavourable)

- Need direction to local parking locations for visitors / suitable local roads for parking use ?
- Depends on the payback, most projects need 6-12 month payback... If it costs 50,000 to lease per annum and 1,000,000 for new building then it makes no sense
- I have a funny feeling of deja vu - Oh wait, didn't councils used to do that before?! Then they sold them all off and leased properties instead - maybe they have finally seen the error of their ways!
- I do feel it's a bit of a vanity project for the council
- Are the benefits of it being owned offset financially ?
- It depends on the figures. This seems a very large and costly replacement

Q8. Do you agree that the size of the new hall will be large enough to accommodate community events?

THEMES: Ideas/General Concerns

- 3x20 to 30 people rooms + 1x160. Would it help to have a room for 50-60 as the is the number in the local group which I am in who have been here to March 2018
- Essential features required are good acoustics - hall used by senior citizens and people with hearing aids. Speaker needs to be heard in all areas of the hall.
- Reliable heating system if used in random manner
- Council chamber may not be big enough - especially regarding public seating capacity. Stage area might need greater preparation area
- Consideration should be given to moveable partition walls so that the main hall can be sub-divided to increase the earning potential and seating should be removable. Again, this would help maximise earning potential by making the menu suitable for many groups' needs
- It'd be really nice to also consider a stage for performance there to encourage local arts, performance and singers etc.!
- Hard to visualise. Seems the part under the Council Chamber will feel low and closed in
- Possibly a disproportionate area is allotted to the seating/stage. Would adequate space be left for activities et keep fit, snooker etc.
- I think having a scalable facility would be good but that wouldn't be possible with such a high ceiling. That said, the high ceiling makes an impressive room and I'm sure it will be in great demand.
- The height of the building is important and the current design is too high for the site
- Some residents are concerned about the height of roof so we must keep it in proportion to adjacent buildings
- Make the seating removable

THEMES: Too small

- 160 is quite small for Billericay - especially given the planned housing, but better than nothing
- Could it cope with protest groups eg recent protests at housing targets
- It will not be large enough for meetings of greater public concern. The secondary schools assembly halls will be required. What community events would need more than 100 seats ?
- It wouldn't accommodate the masses that attended the meeting re: the building of new houses in Billericay. Generally it should
- On the basis that the town's population is growing, possibly not
- No. School assembly rooms will still be required. Even they proved inadequate to the task when our Town Council proposed supporting an appalling Local Plan

THEMES: Too large

- If anything it may be too large. How often will there be more than 100 in the main hall ?
- We already have large halls at Emmanuel and Canon Roche plus school halls are often available. I don't believe we need one to accommodate 150 people. What Community events would you encourage to use this hall ?
- Yes, perhaps too large
- It's over large. I was advised it would seat 160. It doesn't look as big as Canon Roche which only has a license for 120 (or so I'm told). Why have such a large hall with no convenient parking. Chaos for local residents and those using the alleyway.

THEMES: Yes/Probably

- Probably
- I hope so
- Yes, but
- Yes. The addition of meeting rooms should help attract smaller clubs / societies
- Yes, generally
- I understand the limits
- I hope so
- It seems adequate to me
- Yes. It's large enough for some big events such as a concert
- Yes, large enough and flexible enough From the images I've seen the Hall size looks adequate - given the number of other halls available to hire in Billericay.

- Hope so
- Time will tell
- Just about
- It looks as if it will be
- Based on present use, yes
- It probably is as big as it can be on the site
- Just.
- Yes, but don't be drawn in by the architect's drawings. They should be mulled over before a final decision is made. Double height rooms again, tut tut.. wasted space.
- Yes. The choice of several different size rooms should be good to meet different needs.
- Yes, looks sufficient to be used for a range of uses.

THEMES: Parking

- Parking on the High Street - is this free during evening use ?
- The hall might be a decent size but there is nowhere near enough parking to accommodate the users which will invariably lead to issues in the surrounding residential areas
- Can only build to the size of the plot. Assume adequate parking will be provided for all users, workers and attendees and not gobbled up by Harrys Bar! As a community facility, parking must be a big consideration in order for it to flourish.
- I have reservations about the amount of car park space.
- Yes, as long as there is adequate parking
- Yes, but concerned about parking on Chantry Way and surrounding side streets

Q9. Do you agree that the mix of rooms is flexible enough to accommodate a variety of community groups and uses ?

THEMES: Ideas

- How much would bifold doors between 2 rooms cost ? (*Ed. relates to earlier comment about the need to cater for a group of 50-60*)
- Will noise travel through the walls ?
- Has sound travel been considered ?
- Lift may have much use, therefore needs to be reliable. How will the heating be controlled and operated with irregular use ?
- I'd be tempted to combine meeting rooms 1 & 2 in order to have a medium sized space for 30 - 50 people theatre style, with screen and projection
- I think it would be an excellent idea to have say two rooms that with bi-fold walls to enable the room size to accommodate the size required by various groups/uses
- I think Billericay is crying out for facilities for special needs children so another nursery/day school isn't needed but a place for parents to take children and meet other parents with children with additional needs is very much needed, especially with the little assistance they get from the authorities/schools
- I'm surprised to see gendered toilet facilities and only one disabled toilet.
- There is little flexibility offered with nothing between the three small upstairs rooms (12 each?), the Council Chamber (35?) and the 162 seat size room downstairs.
- A few well designed built in partitions would give the area the flexibility to be used as one or several small rooms and when required one large hall.

THEMES: Misunderstandings

- I hope there are rooms to hire
- More space for activities is desirable. Would the seating be fixed or would it be adjustable to allow ample floor space when not required for concerts etc. ?
- Mix of rooms ? There only seems to be one room ?
- Not clear on the plan if there is a lift.
- Would the Council Chamber be available for other uses or is it to be used on less than a dozen days a year? Presumably Planning Committee meeting would continue to allow public access, but it would be wasted space for over 340 days a year.
- I can't see a "mix of rooms" (*Ed. Note that other answers in this respondent's questionnaire suggest they hadn't realised there were a set of rooms upstairs*)

THEMES: Yes/Probably

- In some cases, depending on size of group
- One of the positive aspects of the proposed building
- We need to attract all size of groups so a variety of sizes is necessary
- I hope so
- I belong to the Billericay U3A and we would like to be able to access small meeting rooms at a reasonable cost. The Hall would be useful for larger groups like Horticultural Society or exercise/yoga groups.
- It appears to work from plans seen
- Probably yes
- Yes, good to have some smaller rooms for meetings

THEMES: Demand

- It should be - but I wonder if there will be enough demand for all the meeting rooms to be justified
- Not sure we need so many meeting rooms. Will this make High Street Reading Rooms redundant ? What new could this building be used for - don't demolish it (*Ed. Text copied as written*)
- Totally unneeded. The Reading Rooms will continue to have spare rooms available most days as will the WI in St Edith's Lane, the Red Lion and the room above Waitrose. The Fold is also unused or has unused rooms most days.
- Difficult to assess, who will want to use the facilities and for what purposes ?

THEMES: Miscellaneous

- Why large hall & a Council Chamber ? Why does Council not use the hall ?
- All ages !
- Again I think it's trying to be too many things
- I still think parking is your main problem.
- Uncertain
- It would cost a lot less and be more open to the public including agoraphobics if there were no upstairs. There would be no need for an upstairs fire escape and more floor space on the ground level without the flights of stairs and the lift with its maintenance contracts and potential reliability problems.

Q10. Do you agree that the building will provide a venue extending opportunities for residents to socialise, learn, develop new skills and take part in the wider community ?

THEMES: Yes / Probably / Unsure

- Possibly. This is yet to be seen
- Yes, if it's fully used
- It's much needed
- It could
- It should
- The widest possible number of uses is important to attract the highest variety of interest
- I hope so !
- Not certain
- The original building was widely used many years ago as a social hub for older residents when it provided meals on wheels. It became a recognised meeting place and was quite vibrant. Now I am an OAP myself, I and my friends are far too busy and active to contemplate using a facility in that way. We would use this place to continue learning new skills (as with U3A) or like the courses in the Reading Rooms or active classes
- Definitely. Ideal to reach the socially isolated elements of the community
- No more than the current one does - you can lead a horse to water
- This will be good for Billericay
- This will be a good thing for the community
- Possibly
- No more than existing building
- I would think and hope so
- I hope so
- Hopefully
- Hopefully
- Provided the room is able to be split. Why have a massive room with just half a dozen people using at one time. Think about the bigger picture!! *(Ed. Note that other answers in this respondent's questionnaire suggest they hadn't realised there were a set of rooms upstairs)*
- Hopefully yes
- Isn't that the main point ?

THEMES: Ideas / Concerns

- If suitable notice & information boards are available & accessible, pls holder to display brochures, newsletters from local societies. Could encourage coffee morning type meeting facilities.
- Is it not already fulfilled by the Library ?
- Don't we already have that at The Fold ?
- It will struggle with costs and charity donations
- Flexible seating might be desirable to allow floorspace for other activities eg keep fit or dances
- Not without adequate access. People won't visit if they can't have easy access.

KEY THEMES

In addition to the issues raised by Questions 1 - 10 a number of themes emerged both by residents including additional information in their answers to Questions 1 through 10, and from Question 11 "Do you have any other comments ?"

THEMES: Parking / Accessibility

- What about car parking for all these activities ?
- Parking is another issue.
- Need for more car parking.
- You need more car parking spaces for blue badge holders
- Parking is an issue. If the main space is full, where will say 100 cars be parked ?
- Not enough parking for clubs to come back
- Good opportunity for the community but parking is a ?
- Must take account of local parking
- Car park spaces should be labelled for Chantry use only - for visiting speakers, equipment drop off
- How much car parking
- More thought must go into the provision of groups needing to drop equipment off, then off to High Street to park
- Limited parking
- There is no mention of any parking facility for Disabled or General use. There needs to be space allocated for the unloading and loading of goods and equipment linked to hiring the accommodation. This is of prime importance
- Need disabled parking spaces
- Too few parking spaces. Seem to be 6 desks for Council, 3 meeting rooms, hall & chamber and only 4 spaces
- No venue in town useful for business hire at present due to lack of parking. This doesn't help.
- Limited parking could be a problem, especially as it is likely to result in on-street parking in adjacent residential areas. Publicity should emphasize the facility is well served by public transport
- Limited parking
- Due to the very low number of car parking spaces need to designate an area as "dropping off only" zone and to increase the size of one space to be designated "Disabled"
- Loss of parking spaces
- What parking facilities will there be
- Suggest designating a drop off area at the front of the building
- As ever it is the parking for elder people not blessed with a disabled badge
- Looks good except for disabled parking
- It's about time, but perhaps access without transport out of hours may be uncertain ?
- If the lift and stairs area were removed more parking could be provided for those who cannot walk from further away. The current design fails the Equalities Act by discriminating against those with a disability, who numbers would be restricted while those without a disability would not.
- If the new venue is to be more popular than the current one parking would be a worse problem. Parking is a limitation even beyond those for whom it would be an exclusion not to provide it.
- People should be discouraged from taking cars and encouraged to get there on foot and bicycles, yet there is no accommodation to safely store bicycles on site. Some of the area given to the lift and stairs could be given to this use if there were no upstairs
- Thought there was going to be underground parking?
- current day centre has more parking than new building has - are 4 spaces realistic ?
- Although Jim describes the centre as in a "Town Centre location" people tend to drive in the evening to the centre and then park on Chantry Way and surrounding streets. Horticultural Society nights were always busy and when Tuesday pilates ran. The evening parking is already used by parents doing pick up from the Dance School above Argos as no parking with that facility either.
- When we already have larger Community events like the Christmas Market or Remembrance Sunday Service the parking situation becomes ridiculous when people just abandon cars in unsafe positions. As there are minimal events we can manage this or just accept it will be over after the event. But with the new facility planned to be used by up to 150 people regularly, local residents need to be protected and able to get on and off their drive ways
- Emergency Service Access. We have seen on busy days emergency vehicles struggle to get up Chantry Way - this will only get worse when more people are parking to use the larger capacity facilities. How will you protect residents & our homes ?

- Assisted Living home opposite Day Centre - the Fire Brigade regularly have to attend this house if the smoke detectors / fire alarms are triggered. Access is gained via Chantry Way not the alley off the High Street. I don't believe the Fire eNginers can actually access via the High Street or choose not to - will your "Fired Risk Assessment" for the new building check routes for fire engine access?
- Access will be terrible and parking impossible
- Parking seems to be very limited to just 3 places. Parking is already limited in the neighbouring streets. How will this be address, especially in the daytime? Many visitors to meetings will come by car and, if a pre-school or similar group had the main hall then there is nowhere for parents to park. This could be a safety issue.

THEMES: General support

- Crack on !
- Only comment is that it's well overdue
- My wife and I are members of Billericay Horticultural Society and Norsey Wood Society. We are looking forward to returning. I do expect other clubs/societies to use a modern warm new building with up to date facilities.
- The current building has been a great asset to Billericay and used by many groups in the past. It is essential that once the new build is eventually back in use that a regular cleaning programme takes place and it is not left to deteriorate over time. I wish you good luck with the project (a Billericay Resident for 50 years)
- Very excited about new build, being able to offer community a large hall and smaller halls for a wide range of groups
- The design and practicality of the plans are really what this town needs. As an upcoming, family friendly town I think this is something we really need.
- Fantastic modern design replacing a big eye sore which will bring the community together and enhance the local vernacular
- Thank you
- Lovely design
- Definitely needed in centre of Billericay
- Concept and plans look good
- Most impressive display
- The new building would benefit the community,. Well sited centrally and could accommodate many different activities - drama, art, music, meetings, cinema. A definite bonus to the Billericay community
- The design looks very contemporary and I love it!
- Although not a current resident, I was born and bred in Billericay in the 1960s/70s/80s and have seen many changes and vast overbuilding.I work and have my family and friends here in the town. We lost the old Archer Hall (donated to the people of Billericay(and car park name years ago. Now time to save Chantry Community Centre.
- Miracle House in Wickford has been hugely successful in proving a hub for local residents and children. I hope that this Centre takes on a similar purpose and by doing so will also be a well used facility
- This is a very worthwhile project and should be of great benefit to Billericay and its community
- Yes, this will be good for Billericay
- The Town Council must be congratulated on this initiative.
- Fingers crossed the plans go ahead - all very exciting!
- It was used by lots of my clients in the past and it's a shame to see it closed. This will be better for lots of age groups
- A much needed building for the community
- This is a much needed project and will provide the town with a quality facility for community use
- Think this is great for community. Looks great ! Will be glad to support.
- So glad to see improvements/rebuild. Please make it happen ASAP!!
- I like the overall design of the building - fits in well with area
- Should have been done before
- The building should provide a hub for the community of Billericay.
- If it were a ground floor facility more space could be provided, for functions not requiring full public access, with extra security, by providing an underground storage area, for example, as shown as 7 sum upstairs on the current plans.
- Any building which improves the area is a good thing. Let us hope people make full use of it.

THEMES: Usage

- It would be good if it could attract performance groups (plays, opera society etc) which require changing facilities and "wings". Consultation with such local groups might identify internal changes necessary to allow them to use the main hall

- Group arrangements in main hall - need tables for some groups, afternoon tea etc.
- The local U3A might be interested for meetings. I hope the height will be OK for badminton
- I am interested in using the half for a new pre-school for 4+ hours a morning. I've seen the plans and agree if outside area is not a problem for Ofsted it would work as a preschool. It will need additional access door for safeguarding
- It would be great to have a monthly comedy club
- There needs to be proper provision for 7 day a week social / community interaction eg coffee bar etc
- I would like to see a room to hire for private hirers by the hour to do hairdressing
- Just please ensure there is a youth club night for teenagers, perhaps on a Friday? They really need somewhere safe to go, particularly if the street pastors or parent committee could get involved to police it discreetly.

THEMES: Current Building

- If the building is not dangerous, why is it not still available for users until planning is completed
- Would love to know why it's sitting empty when the previous clubs which used it happily for countless years have had to find new homes and in some cases are struggling to keep their members as they are now dotted about and not near bus stops etc

THEMES: Finance / management

- Favourable rates should be offered to Billericay residents
- How are the finances to be managed ?
- I hope the budget is kept to and precept charges are not increased
- What other options have been looked at for an alternative design? Billericay residents are paying for the facility, what consideration has been given to the cost and competitive quotes ? Penalties should be imposed for any overruns and substandard work also would it come with a building guarantee?
- I would suggest that the replacement building should be two storey. Flats on the top floor and they to be sold to help offset total cost OR top floor to be offices, let at market rate. Rents to be ring fenced to fund building maintenance
- Run it under the umbrella of a charitable trust and reduce your business rate liability
- Billericay rate demand must be carefully managed and efforts taken to show money is wisely used
- It will struggle with costs and charity donations
- Need to explain how it will be funded
- Is it still intended to increase the BTC Precept by £2.00+ plus to pay for this ? If so it is disingenuous not to have clearly and prominently stated this in the publicity. I believe this scheme should have been totally self funding and do not support raising tax to pay for it. we hope you like them !

THEMES: Design/architecture

- Please take (*the external look*) seriously. Getting the design right will be crucial in getting both buy-in from residents and ensuring the long-term viability of the new Town Hall as a community asset to be proud of.
- Just to say again that the design needs to be more sympathetic to the building around it and our High Street
- I think this building needs to be replaced but with something more in keeping with our local heritage
- Please reconsider the design, build something architecturally pleasing to the local community and not something that will be seen as an eyesore or battling with the look of the town.
- Ageing buildings do not inspire us. Modern clean buildings do
- All your CGI plans do not take into account the very steep sloping nature of Chantry Way. The site looks very open and airy on your plans but in fact the adjacent land slopes steeply away in front and there are residential and commercial properties nearby. The building itself stands on almost the highest point in Billericay, very visible as you approach up Chantry Way and is not an attractive sight (in my opinion)
- The planned pectoral proposed building looks totally out of character with the surrounding area

THEMES: Demand / Need / Alternatives

- Seems a bit much... Surely there are enough locations, roads, pavements, halls which need refurbishment first. Like the old hall/building in Lake Meadows?
- Don't do it. It is a waste of money. There is no justification for anything as large as the one proposed.

- Have you considered other possibilities to avoid building a new council chamber ? What is the old Post Office now used for? Might the old Magistrates Court become available ? How much would be saved by refurbishment or replacement in kind of the Day Centre ? How long will we have to go without the Day Centre ? Groups will find better places to meet while it is closed.

THEMES: Local Residents

- Local residents must be considered when in use as in traffic and noise
- Must minimise disturbance to local residents
- I agree the current building has reached the end of its life. I support the Council's decision to own its own premises and provide a central hub for the Town's Administration. I do not support overdevelopment of this small, almost inaccessible site and am concerned by the impact of such a large building on the surrounding residential area. I do not believe you have fully considered the difficulties of access, considering all the other provide and commercial vehicles that use the very narrow alley way. On a very personal note, as I live nearby, I dread the demolition and rebuilding process. In the last few years we have been surrounded by the building of the flats in Chapel St., rebuilding and extending Felix, extending Harry's Bar and the building of the 5 new cottages. Now this. Enough please.
- Currently the existing building has created very little noise and hours were limited. As in a predominantly residential location the hours need to be limited. Plus the higher design if not well sound proofed has potential with these larger group spaces to generate more noise pollution. Will nose level restriction be used to manage this potential issue. We are aware of other clubs in residential areas that uses these to limit noise.
- Adverse weather / snow. Already when we have snow on the ground Chantry Way is unaccessible due to hills in our and and never being gritted. It's amazing how a busy thoroughfare on a normal day becomes empty due to being cut off. If this is to become a "Community Hub" can we be added to the gritting rota or at least have a salt bin at the top of the hill for local residents to use
- We are fully supportive of a new Day Centre and believe moving the Town Council offices in there makes sense. We would just question the scale suggested may be too big for the existing site.
- I'm concerned about the disruption and possible danger during demolition and construction, although I know you will be monitoring this.

THEMES: Glass / Light / Heating

- There appears to be a lot of glass in the new build. The new modern look works well but will the building get overly hot, especially if we are to continue getting excessively hot temperatures in summer. Is air-conditioning being provided and will it be a problem to heat in the winter ?
- Will the glass provide any privacy ?
- It's important that the main hall has adequate black-out facilities for slide shows, etc
- I think air-conditioning should be considered. Also black-out blinds for the large windows in the large hall, particularly for films & slide shows
- Air conditioning would be a huge benefit in hot weather we are getting at moment
- The long windows will require blinds or curtains
- Can room be darkened for powerpoint displays etc.?
- The roof could use some sky lights and light chambers
- Will the large glass expanse near stairs create a local hot spot ?
- Stevenage college had too much glass and was very hot in the summer. This design appears to have too much glass (top to bottom) viewed from the High Street
- Make sure the heating / air conditioning are fit for purpose

THEMES: Sound

- Good acoustics are essential
- Please pay attention to acoustics, projection & PA system in the main auditorium.

THEMES: Miscellaneous

- Why "peppercorn" rent to Basildon ? They have washed their hands of it
- Keep the snooker table for hire if possible !
- Where will it be located ?
- The plan on the wall doesn't match the architect's drawing

- Where are the kitchens ?
- Will pink sacks be available ?

THEMES: Toilets / changing facilities

- Minor point - increase the ladies toilet facilities and reduce the size of the gents !
- Are baby changing places to be included ?
- Is the ground floor toilet publicly accessible (like Coggeshall) or could a small (1 male, 1 female) facility accessible from the street be added
- Make sure the toilet facilities are of suitable quantity. So often the ladies toilets are too low in numbers
- Can the plans be amended to include a changing places toilet facility available for use by those members of the public who require it as the High Street currently lacks this facility for this who need it in order to be able to enjoy the High Street like everyone else.

THEMES: General suggestions

- Is a removable stage a possibility to increase floor area when required ?
- Improve security
- I would like to see the building taking advantage of the geography of the High Street area. Land falls away to both east and west making this location ideal for an observation tower at say a 4th or 5th floor level. Almost 360 degree views would be available and this would bring revenue to the town and may in time be iconic in Billericay
- You need to look at multi functional rooms not just one large room....*(Ed. Note that other answers in this respondent's questionnaire suggest they hadn't realised there were a set of rooms upstairs)*
- It used to be a free layout it would not be possible to do what I used to attend there with the new layout

THEMES: Accessibility (non-parking)

- Looking at the plans exhibited some of the access space for wheelchair users are inadequate and need to be revised in the final plan
- Will the facility be suitable for OAPs ?

THEMES: Sustainability

- Considering the rise in global warming have you thought of methods of keeping the hall cooler in summer ? Perhaps a living roof ?
- Solar panels, windmill, underground water storage
- With so many front gardens being covered in concrete a "green roof" would send a useful message that BTC is committed to keeping Billericay "green"
- Why no solar panels ?
- What will the source of energy be for the building ? Ideal for solar
- I hope this design/build will incorporate materials that provide longevity and visual enhancement over many years
- It's a great opportunity to replace the current ageing facility. Renewable materials should be used where possible and if it could be carbon-neutral that would be a great example to set for the community.
- How about solar panels, the large roof is south-facing ? What other eco-friendly measures will be incorporated ?

THEMES: Meeting Room facilities

- A small kitchen facility should be provided on the upper floor
- On the plan on the first floor would think in the lobby it would be a good idea to have a small kitchen area

6. Verbal Responses from Open Day

In addition to the formal Consultation Questionnaire, a number of responses were received by Town Councillors at the Chantry Way Open Day.

Councillor Dear has summarised those that she received.

1 Parking

Overall residents were very enthusiastic about the new building and welcomed it as an improvement to existing facilities. However, several mentioned the lack of parking in relation to:

- parking for the disabled
- dropping off the disabled
- transporting equipment for clubs/groups to the hall
- parking spaces used by non-hall users

I spoke to the architects who informed me that it was a requirement that one of the four parking spaces would be allocated to the disabled and have disabled marking. It would be either parking space 2 or 3 which are closest to the walkway to the building. This is good news as this space will be protected for the disabled. I passed this information to residents.

I asked the architects if "*Dropping Off Point*" could be marked on the ground in front of the building but they advised this cannot be done and would be a highways issue. I informed residents that it would be possible to drop off equipment/people but then the vehicle concerned would have to leave the area.

Residents were also concerned that the parking spaces would be used in the evening by non-hall users. I spoke with Cllr Devlin about bollards to protect the parking spaces once the office was closed. Cllr Devlin suggested a bollard in front of each parking space that sunk into the ground and was operated electronically from inside the building which would protect the parking spaces out of office hours. When a legitimate hall user accessed the building in the evening they could operate the bollard to sink into the ground.

2 Glass area

A resident, who formally worked for the RAF assessing projects, was concerned about the large glass area of the lift space. I asked the architects who advised that the glass would be reflective to block heat coming in but let the light through.

This resident was also concerned about the windows being too large and possibly overheating the area. I asked the architects who informed me that the windows were mirror image in that from the outside they present a mirror image of the surroundings but hall users would be able to see out. As regards heat, the architects informed me that the large windows would be the kind that cannot be opened and it was therefore necessary to have air conditioning. The windows were large as there as the back wall would have no windows as it formed part of the internal structure of the building.

Speaking to Cllr Devlin about blacking out the windows for performances/lectures/presentations etc we thought about blinds that can be incorporated into the internal space of double glazing. I spoke to the architects who advised this could be explored and could probably be operated electronically.

3 Storage

A resident wanted to know how groups could store their equipment. He referred to the railway enthusiasts request, at the open evening for hall users last year, to store their equipment some of which was machinery like lathes. I explained that it would not be possible to store this kind of equipment since it was a balance between having excellent facilities and storing equipment. Facilities bring in revenue which is good for the public purse but unfortunately storage of large pieces of equipment would probably not be possible.