



Moving Forward Together at Five Acres

Community Drop in Event at Five Acres High School

25th November 2021



Introduction

On 25th November 2021, Forest of Dean District Council hosted an open evening at Five Acres High School from 3pm to 7pm to encourage members of the community to comment on indicative plans for the Redevelopment of Five Acres as part of a £20 million pound Levelling Up Fund bid.

As part of the successful Levelling Up Fund, the project titled, Destination Five Acres was awarded £9M to begin the redevelopment of the former Gloucestershire College & Coleford Leisure Centre site.

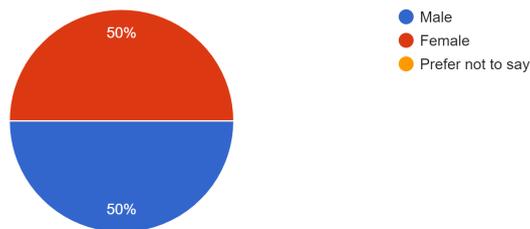
The Survey

As part of the engagement Forest of Dean District Council asked attendees to complete a short feedback form to help shape the decisions moving forward. 43 responses were received.

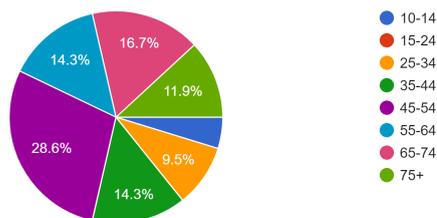
The Results

Out of the 43 responses, 42 of these provided details on their age and gender:

What Gender are you?
42 responses



What age are you?
42 responses



It is noted that the majority of those who completed the survey, some 28.6% were aged between 45-54 years old and the gender split was equal.

The community were asked if they were supporting the leisure and community led redevelopment at Five Acres. 100% of the respondents were supportive of this.

Speedwell House

The community was presented with indicative plans for the 3 floors of Speedwell House, which will be the only original structure retained within the plan. This building will be redeveloped as part of the £9M bid.

The community were asked to comment on the plans of each of the floors and to indicate whether they were in favour of the indicative plans or whether they had alternative ideas that may be suitable for the space.

Ground Floor:



The indicative plans for the ground floor of speedwell house introduces a new reception area, cafe, gym, changing facilities and office/meeting spaces. 64.1% of those who answered this question, were in favour of these plans. 2.6% were not in favour and the remaining 33.3% made the following suggestions:

- Swimming pool
- Art Gallery
- Public House
- Less office space

First Floor:

AHR SPEEDWELL HOUSE, FIVE ACRES
FEASIBILITY REPORT

3.1 Proposed First Floor

- 2nd dance studios located above the gym to convert the gym to one end of the building. Dance studios to hang over existing floor provide a mezzanine for different types of dance or movement
- Community multi-function room to flexible space that could be used for a variety of community activities
- Centrally located fitness suite allows for people to walk or cycle before or after their leisure activities. Soft landscaping around the gym suite along with daylight from the atrium mezzanine
- Bridge across the atrium is designed to allow more daylight into the lower levels



The indicative plans for the first floor of Speedwell House included 2 dance/studio spaces, meeting/office & community facilities and a breakout area. 67.6% of those who answered this question were in favour of the indicative design, with 8.1% opposing the plans. The key themes of suggestion for this floor plan were:

- Less office space
- Removal of the studios
- A Theatre
- Spin Studio
- Bouldering Room

Second Floor:

AHR SPEEDWELL HOUSE, FIVE ACRES
FEASIBILITY REPORT

3.2 Proposed Second Floor

- The larger multi-function room available on the second floor to provide an increased space for multiple smaller groups to create
- All the floors are generated by the two main and the retained platform lift.
- Flexible furnishing, partitions and movable walls would allow the office and meeting rooms to be adapted to multiple uses.



The indicative plans for the second floor of Speedwell House included a satellite learning space for Hartpury College and University, meeting/office & community facilities and a

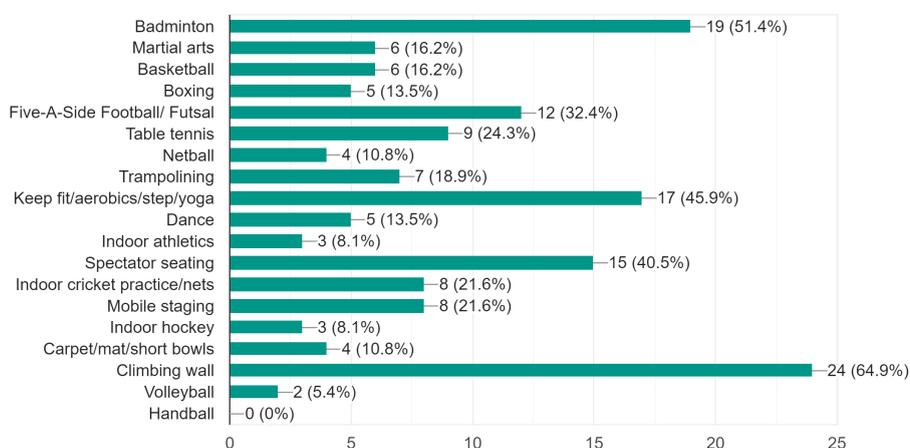
breakout area. 76.5% of those who answered this question were in favour of the plans. 5.9% were opposed to them. The key themes of suggestion for this floor plan were:

- Kitchen area
- Less office space

Sports Hall

As part of the engagement, the community were asked to comment on the Phase 2 plans of a new 4-court sports hall. They were asked to select up to 5 types of **DRY** sport/leisure activities they would like to see the space used for.

Please tick up to 5 sports/activities you would like to see included in the design of this building:
37 responses



The key favourites from this activity were a climbing wall, badminton and spectator seating. It is to be noted that a number of the respondents using the physical form, ticked all of the options and these responses were not included in the above results.

A number of other uses were suggested by the community:

- Swimming pool
- Theatre
- Squash Courts

Masterplan

The community was asked to comment on the illustrative masterplan showing the proposed locations for new build sports facilities, 3G artificial pitch and future hotel use.

48.6% of those who answered this question were supportive of the proposal. Concerns and suggestions were noted on:

- Lack of swimming pool
- Position of the 3G pitch
- Loss of grass pitches
- Unused spaces
- Lack of 4G pitch
- Lack of Theatre
- No Adventure/Softplay area for children
- Lack of outdoor childrens play area

Although not recorded via the feedback forms, other comments were provided regarding the site proposals:

1. Concern that the 3G pitch was located in the wrong place, this would be better sited to the northernmost part of the existing playing fields where ground conditions are particularly poor in winter. Existing grass pitches closer to the tennis courts to be retained.
2. During the demolition and clearance phase - could this be organised so that demolition takes place from east to west of the site so that the former College/Leisure Centre car park could be quickly brought back into car parking use.
3. Local sports expressed an interest to create a new focus group that could bring local expertise & knowledge and help to inform the site design and development process - this new group to include the schools and Hartpury Uni/College.
4. Swimming pool - could a geo-thermal renewable energy heating solution be researched for a pool/building to reduce future operating costs?
5. Interest expressed from an existing Forest based community & voluntary sector organisation (supporting children and young people with disabilities and their families) to take ground floor space within the refurbished Speedwell building.