

What will happen to the Scouts?

In 2017, Eastleigh Borough Council, in consultation with the Parish and the 2nd Fair Oak Scout Group, built the Woodland Community Centre at Crowdhill. Part of the building included a bespoke storeroom with external access for the Scouts. The Scouts now have a license to occupy at the Community Centre and have been in residence since 2018. They no longer require the premises at Shorts Road and have now formally relinquished their lease. The derelict and dangerous scout hut will be demolished by the Parish Council. Notices will be placed on-site and on the Council's website and social media pages informing residents of when this will take place.

Why a Community Café?

In 2019, as part of the Play Area survey, residents indicated their desire to have a café on-site. This coincided with the Fountain Café's vision to find a permanent residence. Previously, the Café only had the ability to run out of Wyvern for one day a week. The Parish Council set up a Task & Finish Group in 2019 to explore site options for the Café. With the Scouts relocating to new premises, Shorts Road provided the perfect opportunity.

When will the Café be open?

The Project Steering Group hope that the Café will be completed for official opening to the public in January 2022. The Fountain will consult with the community regarding preferred opening days and times. Initially, the Café will only be open for 2.5 days a week. This will increase year on year as the Café and its team establishes itself.

We already have a Café in Fair Oak, what's different about this one?

This will be a community-based hub where, alongside a café, community initiatives can also be held. As the project progresses, small outbuildings will be put on-site to facilitate other offers such as Men's Sheds, a repair shop, arts and crafts workshops, and a community fridge. We want to involve the whole community as much as we can in the project, from inviting ideas and suggestions, to the practical tasks involved in getting the café and surroundings ready for opening!

How is the project being funded?

The Bishopstoke, Fair Oak & Horton Heath Local Area Committee are responsible for agreeing Section 106 developer contributions in the area. At their meeting on 10 March, they awarded £157k for the provision of a Community Café at Shorts Road. The Parish Council also have £40k in Ear Marked Reserves for the project too. The Parish Council will be responsible for overseeing the spending of these monies and the project finances are set out in section 7.3 of the business plan (which can be found on the Council's website). A final monitoring report will be submitted to the Full Council upon completion of the project.

Who will run the Café?

The café will be run by the Fountain Café CIC (Community Interest Company). They have been running a Community Café one morning a week from Wyvern College for the last 15 years.

What about Parking?

Whilst the Council and the Fountain would encourage greener forms of transport such as walking and cycling (bike racks will be provided), we know that is not always possible for residents. Dedicated disabled parking bays will be available on-site. The Parish Council is also in discussion with the Village Hall Management Committee about the potential use of their car park (for clarity, the car park isn't owned or managed by the Council). Should the Village Hall feel that the use of their car park isn't feasible, the Council will explore the hard standing accessed via Brookfield Road. As the Café will be open at different times of the day/weekends, people will come and go at different times. We therefore don't anticipate that parking will become congested. Both the Fountain Café and the Council will carefully monitor the parking situation and any issues, particularly for Shorts Road residents, will be examined carefully as and when necessary.

Why not put the café in the Library?

Fair Oak Parish Council is working in partnership to support the Community Library volunteers who wish to maintain the core library function for the village. Unfortunately, the library is too small for a café and would take away valuable space from its core function. The Library and Café will both operate to provide much needed facilities and activities for residents. For more information on the library please visit <https://www.fairoakcommunitylibrary.org>

Why is a temporary structure being proposed rather than a brick-built permanent structure?

Due to covenants on the land, the Parish Council cannot put a brick-built permanent structure on the land.

I've heard rumours about a splash park?

Some residents in previous surveys have expressed the wish to see a splash pad in Fair Oak. The Clerk & Operations Manager have made enquiries into this and have discovered that the initial outlay required is far greater than anticipated. The estimated running costs for the pad also exceeded expectations.

The Parish will need to source further funds to support this initiative and would like the development of the park and splash pad to be phased in after the establishment of the Café. In short, it has not been ruled out!

What will the Café look like?

The Café Task & Finish Group (made up of Cllrs & Officers of the Council and Fountain Café Representatives) have produced initial designs detailing a single-storey wooden clad building, with decking and soft landscaping. There will be large, glazed areas looking out on to the play area as well as internal toilets for café users. The team are currently working with an architectural consultant on the final plan and design for the site which we hope to share with residents soon.

How can I get involved?

The Fountain and the Council have had overwhelming messages of support for the Café and many of you, including local businesses, have offered your support. As this is a true community project, we are thrilled with this engagement. To register your interest in helping, please email enquiries@fairoak-pc.gov.uk with your skillset, times available and contact details.

What about antisocial behaviour on the park?

The Parish Council will upgrade the CCTV on-site and is currently looking for a company to monitor the footage 24/7 so that incidents can be dealt with in real time by the local Police. The Police have also advised that greater presence/footfall on the site will act as a natural deterrent. The Police do not believe the Café will increase the level of antisocial behaviour but will help to reduce it.

How will you keep us informed?

The Council and Fountain Café will post regularly on social media pages and will provide a dedicated page on the Council's website. Where appropriate, notices will also be placed on the site for those without access to a computer. The Fountain Café will also be out and about in a mobile van over the summer months, with volunteers on hand who would love to tell you more about the project. Keep an eye out for the van and there will be more information on dates and times posted on our social media pages.

What can I do if I have any comments and/or concerns?

If residents have any comments or concerns that they wish to raise, they can

**email enquiries@fairoak-pc.gov.uk
or telephone the Parish Council on
02380 692403.**

WWW.FAIROAK-PC.GOV.UK



Fountain Community Café

FAQ'S

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