

EXCITING NEW FUTURE PLANNED FOR CLANFIELD CENTRE



Plans are taking shape to breathe new life into Clanfield Sports and Community Centre with a re-opening at the beginning of April 2021. The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached with local charity Community First to take over as the new operators of the centre.

The good news was shared at Clanfield Parish Council's meeting on Tuesday evening of this week.

New operators, Community First, will shortly be publishing a User Survey inviting residents' views on a number of topics and outlining more information about their plans over the coming weeks including considering suggestions to rename the centre.

Commenting on this news, Parish Council Chairman, John Bannell, said:

"Following the excellent news of a Covid vaccine, this is another positive message for residents as we look forward to a better year ahead.

"Our talks with Community First have been progressing very well and, behind the scenes, we have been getting the property ready for handover to them at the beginning of February, a couple of months ahead of the provisional opening date. Everything is on track for that to happen.

"I hope that as many people as possible will respond to the User Survey. It will be an excellent way for residents to express their views and it will be an enormous help to Community First and their team."

Community First's Chief Executive, Tim Houghton, added:

"We are delighted to be working with Clanfield Parish Council and are excited by the opportunity to create and manage a vibrant hub on behalf of local residents. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their cooperation and considered approach to partnership working. We look forward to welcoming you all to the re-opened centre and would very much like your thoughts and views on what you would like to see at the centre. We'll keep you all informed as our exciting reopening plans develop in the months ahead and will be reaching out to the community to further ask for your help and support with a number of volunteer roles."

At Tuesday's Meeting, Councillors also agreed that the Centre could continue to be offered, when required, to the Local Resilience Forum as a Covid Mobile Testing Unit until the handover to Community First takes place.

- ENDS -

3rd December 2020

All Enquiries to:

John Bannell - Clanfield Parish Council 07711 255488

Hywel Small - Community First 07467 941003

www.cfirst.org.uk

www.clanfieldpc.org.uk

Notes to editors

Community First:

Community First is the largest Council for Voluntary Service in Hampshire, having revenues in excess of £3m and employing around 100 people.

We provide support and advice to local voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises building their capacity and ensuring a thriving and successful voluntary sector across East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant, New Forest and Winchester. We also provide a one stop shop for all aspects of volunteering; helping recruit and place volunteers throughout our local communities and providing specialist training for voluntary organisations.

In addition to Community Development we provide a range of services including operating community buildings, Dial-a-Ride and Community Transport, Specialist Counselling, Health and Wellbeing including support for vulnerable adults, Education and Training, Shopmobility and support for Young Carers.