

# Thurncourt Scout Hut

Findings of the public consultation  
April 2013

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*This report provides a summary of the findings of the public consultation.*

*It includes information about:*

- *The options considered;*
- *The method of consultation;*
- *The public response and views expressed;*
- *The decisions taken in light of what was learnt.*

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Thurncourt Scout Hut**

The disposal of the 55th Scout Hut on Nursery Road, Thurnby Lodge was a major issue for the local residents of the area.

Following an approach to the Council by the As-Salaam Trust to take over the lease of the Scout Hut there were objections from residents and the adjoining public house, the Stirrup Cup.

Although meetings were held with different representatives of local interest groups and As-Salaam with the City Mayor a series of protests by some local residents occurred which heightened the tensions in the area and resulted in significant policing demands.

An option appraisal was undertaken to find a solution and following discussions with the City Mayor two options were identified to be put to the local residents as part of a consultation process.

### **Public consultation process**

During December 2012, the council surveyed households in Netherhall and Thurncourt for their views about the options for future use of the scout hut.

Consultation closed on 21 December.

## **CONSULTATION METHOD**

### **Postal survey**

Leaflets containing a freepost questionnaire were delivered to approximately 7,000 homes in Netherhall and Thurncourt to tell residents about the proposals and to ask for their views on the options.

### **The options**

**In both of these options the council would first of all buy back the lease of the hut from the Scout Association.**

#### ***Option A***

- Leicester City Council would lease the hut to the Forgotten Estates Committee. This would be subject to setting agreed success criteria.
- The Forgotten Estates Committee would then help people in the local community to use the building to develop their own groups and activities.
- The council would lease the Raven Centre to the As-Salaam Trust at an agreed price and subject to setting agreed success criteria.
- The small number of existing services that are provided in the Raven Centre would be moved to the Thurnby Lodge Community Centre or other facilities in the local area.

#### ***Option B***

- Leicester City Council would lease the hut to the As-Salaam Trust at an agreed price.
- The use of the Raven Centre and Thurnby Lodge Community Centre would be as at present.

## **RESPONSE AND VIEWS EXPRESSED**

### **Response**

In total there were 1,407 responses received giving a return rate of 20%.

### **Stated preferences**

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Option A	1,047	74.4%
Option B	125	8.9
Neither A or B	120	8.5
No preference stated	116	8.2
	<b>1,407</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Summary of comments**

A significant number of the respondents made an additional comment on the options. These have been grouped for analysis and broadly fall into the following themes:

- Option A but do not want the As-Salaam Trust to have the Raven – 22 comments
- None of these options, they are not what the community wanted – 24 comments
- Why should any community building be used by only one community organisation – 17 comments
- More options should be available to choose from – 2 comments
- All the local facilities should be used by all Thurnby Lodge residents – 8 comments
- Community resources must be retained for the whole community – 11 comments
- The Council has not listened to the local residents – 3 comments
- Don't agree with any options – 35 comments

## **CONCLUSIONS**

### **Decisions taken**

The City Mayor made the decision on the basis of the responses to adopt Option A. The decision was relayed to both the Forgotten Estates Group and the As-Salaam Trust together with Ward Councillors and local community representatives. A press release was issued and the City Mayor undertook media interviews.

As the Option directly affected the young people using the Raven Youth Centre a special session was undertaken to inform them of the decision and the implications for future sessions.

### **Further dialogue**

Discussions continued with the young people about the design of the relevant areas in the community centre and they were fully involved with the colour scheme and furniture requirements.

Although positive about the transfer to the community centre, the young people requested a meeting with the City Mayor. A meeting took place between the young people and the City Mayor where there was a good discussion. It was agreed that the City Mayor would visit the new facilities to see how things were progressing.

A series of meetings were held with the Forgotten Estates Group about the Scout Hut and a Heads of Terms Lease was signed with keys handed over. The FEG have completely refurbished the building and opened it officially to the public on 23 March 2013.

A series of meetings were held with the As-Salaam Trust about the Raven Centre and a Heads of Terms Lease was signed with keys handed over. The As-Salaam Trust took over the Raven Centre from 1st April 2013.