

**NOTE OF A MEETING ON THE
FUTURE OF NORTHOLME COMMUNITY CENTRE
HELD ON 9th DECEMBER, 2021
ON TEAMS**

PRESENT –

Cllr R. E. Carroll

Cllr D. M. Whipp

Cllr M. Adams

A. Davis

J. Fishwick-Mahon

J. Eccles

Pendle Borough Council (PBC)

PBC

PBC

Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, Together Housing

Neighbourhood Manager, Together Housing

Committee Administrator, PBC

(Apologies were received from Councillors J. Purcell, T. Whipp and M. Goulthorp.)



Cllr R. E. Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that the purpose of the meeting was to look at the possible future use of Northolme Community Centre by local residents.

Cllr D. M. Whipp explained that he had brought the matter up at West Craven Committee following approaches from residents on the estate who wanted to see the building being brought back into use as a community centre. Some of the uses mentioned had been a children's day centre, youth services and general use providing activities for all ages.

J. Fishwick-Mahon said that the community centre had not been used for several years. It was currently being used for storage. She explained that the Together Housing Group were currently undertaking a review of all the community centres that they owned, which were all closed at the moment due to Covid. Northolme Community Centre would be part of this review. The review, which had been ongoing for several months, was likely to conclude in March 2022. Together Housing were also looking at how to engage with their customers in a safe, effective way, so maybe the option of having pop-up events if there was no community centre, also looking at when to have digital and face to face meetings.

She said that Together Housing had not been approached by any of their tenants about using the community centre. Together Housing could certainly consider this proposal but they would need more detail of the groups and someone who would be willing to take on its management. The more interest there was from different groups, the better. The annual running costs were estimated to be approximately £15k.

She said that there was the possibility of linking in with their charity, Newground Together, with potential funding/grant opportunities for residents groups and local projects.

AGREED

- (1) That the outcome of this meeting be reported back to West Craven Committee.
- (2) That J. Fishwick-Mahon provide the number of tenancies Together Housing had on the Northolme Estate.

- (3) That Councillor D. M. Whipp make enquiries in the neighbourhood and see what level of interest there was in using the facility, and whether this would extend to helping run the centre.
- (4) In the meantime, J. Fishwick-Mahon to pass on the outcome of the discussions to Caroline Grosvenor who was leading the review of community centres, and to await further information.