



South Brent Old School Community Centre

Reaching Out To Everyone

Our Charity Review - 2017 and beyond

South Brent Old School Community Centre is a Charity that sits at the very heart of South Brent. The Centre offer a wide range of opportunities to local groups and individuals - including permanent homes for South Brent Preschool and South Brent Caring, the community library and Ashmoor fitness centre along with a range of flexible community spaces.

More than this the Charity aims to reach far beyond the building itself. The primary aim of the Charity is to promote facilities and activities supporting social welfare and recreation for South Brent residents – and whilst the Centre is fundamental to this the Trustees feel it is timely to look afresh at how the Charity reaches out to individuals and groups beyond the Centre. We will ask ourselves – could we do better?

The Centre was secured for community use through a widely supported public campaign in 1997 and will celebrate its 20th birthday in 2017. Ahead of this the Trustees have undertaken a review of the Charity with the aim of refreshing the roles and aims of the work the Charity undertakes. This has included a public consultation which sought the views of anyone with an interest in the Centre. The results of this consultation are issued along with this Review.

The Review has led to Trustees identifying 7 key areas for work for the next year and beyond. These are set out in this report and achieving these will ensure the Charity meets the future needs of the South Brent community. This Review Report also includes a short Community Action Plan that sets out how the aims will be delivered to ensure we get community benefits.

Our measure of success will be if everyone in South Brent and surrounding areas knows about the Old School Community Centre, feels they can access it and that there is something for everyone at the Centre irrespective of age or ability.

More than that we want to take our activities beyond the school gate and into the wider community by working and supporting others.

Our Seven Aims

Grow membership and Volunteers

We want to promote a greater sense of ownership of the Centre and encourage everyone in the community to think about what they can bring to the Centre, what they can use it for and how they can help us to secure a long term future.

Work with other groups

We want to reach out to other village groups and ask if we can work in partnership, supporting their aims or work in a way which is mutually beneficial, sharing our expertise and resources or attracting new resources or funds into shared community activities. This will pick up support to wider working set out in the recently adopted Parish Plan

Foster new activities

We want to be seen as an organisation that encourages new activities, especially with groups who have not yet used the Old School as a venue. We propose doing this through the fields of arts & culture, health & wellbeing, education and social eating, building on the successes of such things as the Corridor Gallery, the Arts Exhibitions, the Ashmoor Fitness Suite and South Brent Caring.

Invite everyone in

We will look at what the barriers are to people using the Old School and work towards removing them, adopting a plan to ensure there is something here for everyone

A home and support for other groups and organisations

From using the Old School Centre as a registered postal address to using space on a permanent basis we want to encourage groups to use the Centre and identify how we can support them.

Rejuvenating the Centre

Looking at what is working and what is not, looking where things can be more inviting, looking at the Centre with new eyes – those of someone who has never come in before.

Marketing the Centre and improving communication.

Acknowledging that not everyone knows about us or that we are here and what we stand for. Ensuring we get the message out.

Our Community Action Plan

The aims won't deliver themselves. The Old School Centre Charity Trustees need to consider how we use all of our resources to focus on delivering the aims.

This will involve looking at how the trustees, volunteers, members, friends and staff all work to deliver clear outcomes. We need to look carefully at how we raise funds and manage the budgets and the Centre itself to focus on supporting local groups and individuals.

To focus the work of the Charity the following community action plan will shape our activity in 2017 and in coming years

Our Aim	Our Target	What we'll do	The Outcome
Grow Membership and Volunteers	Increase trustee membership Increased volunteers Develop Friends of Old School membership	Call out to the community Clear and accessible recruitment and induction process for Trustees. Support Volunteers, Members and Friends	Old School is supported by robust trustee membership Volunteers support the Charity work including activity at the Old School Centre
Work with Other Groups	Increased partnerships with other community groups.	Explore Partnership Opportunities following the adoption of the South Brent Parish Plan	Joint projects are developed and pursued that benefit the community
Foster New Activities	Increase new user attendance	Establish a programme of activities making use of others who wish to provide activities at the Centre. Target hard to reach groups with a focus on wellbeing and social activities aimed at those at risk of social isolation. Identify funding for activities	Increase attendance from new users – particularly those at risk of social isolation and with health needs Partnership agreements with those who can provide activities at the Centre

Our Aim	Our Target	What we'll do	The Outcome
Invite Everyone In	Increase accessibility of Centre	Provide a welcoming and friendly environment, accessible to all. Equal opportunities	Individuals and families use the Centre and feel that there are activities for them at the Centre
A Home & Support for Groups & Organisations	More groups and services working in partnership with Old School Centre	Market the Centre and provide clear and attractive branding Improve the website and the accessible booking system Supportive user agreements for groups and individuals and flexible tenants Licenses	The Centre provides facilities that meet the range of needs of the community
Rejuvenating the Centre	Improved external and internal spaces that respond to increased activities and uses	Simplified internal and external signs Improved common areas and access to ,and through, the Centre	Centre environment is inviting and aesthetically pleasing
Marketing the Centre & Improving Communication	Everyone in South Brent knows about the Centre and feels they can access it	Marketing of Centre with targeted activities based on what people want Opportunities provided that attract a wide range of users	Centre is a community hub for all

Delivery of this plan will lie with the Trustees to oversee. There will be a need for the Centre to be well managed (and a refreshed Charity Management Manual also accompanies this Review). However the greatest change will be achieved by harnessing people's imagination and enthusiasm.

The management of the Charity and Centre needs to be simple and straightforward to allow the activities in the Centre and beyond to be developed and delivered with passion. These are trying times for small rural communities and the Old School Centre can be central to a strong and confident South Brent in future years. There is a role for everyone in delivering this and benefitting from this.