



Public Meeting

Monday 18th January 2010



Welcome



Nigel Collyer,

Vice-Chairman, Melbourn Parish Council

Housekeeping

Introductions

Agenda

'Housekeeping'



Fire Exits

Mobile Phone etiquette

Meeting principles:

'One at a time'

If you are invited to speak, please state your name and location

Parish Councillors are in the room tonight, and will listen to you privately if you prefer

Written questions may be passed to the Chair to be read out on your behalf

Members of the Public are invited to raise any issues at Council meetings

– 1st Tuesday of each month

– or e-mail us your concerns melbournparishcouncil.org.uk

Agenda



Background

Proposals from Melbourn Community Group

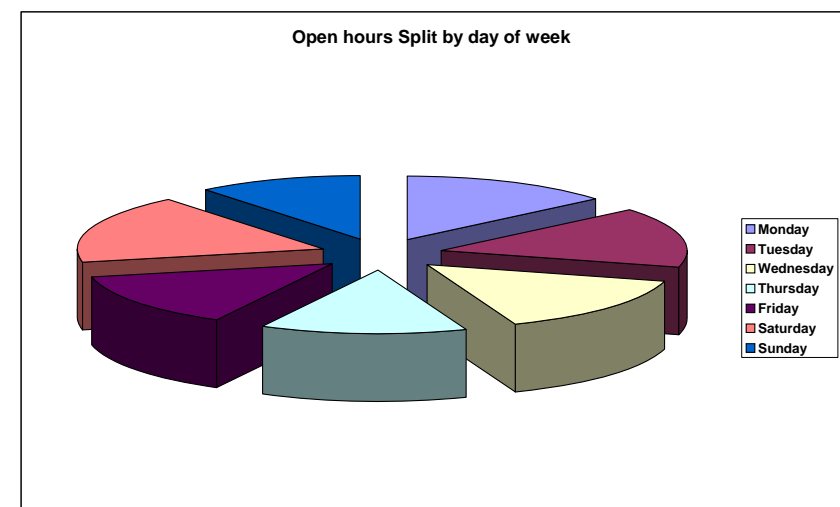
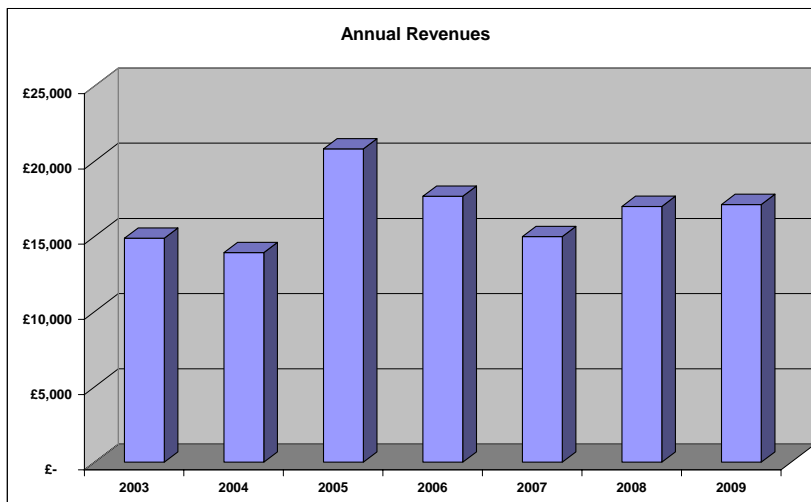
Public questions

Close at around 21.00

History



- School closed in 1977
- Opened as a Leisure Centre – a fine historic building, but is it fit for purpose?
- Administrated by the Parish Council
- Long campaign to get SDDC to spend a little money on the place
- New 5 year lease signed 2009 with aspiration to have a new facility by 2014
- Feasibility Study under way



What's the current situation?



- Proposal to run the centre received November 2008
- Initially a divided reception from the Parish Council
 - but voted to ask the proposers to explain their vision & plans
- PC laid down stipulations, and received a reworked proposal in September, still a division of opinion
- PC wanted to give the public this opportunity to comment before reaching a final decision

Melbourne Community Group

Who are we?

- We are a group of Melbourne Residents. We were involved with the Arts & Leisure and Conservation & Tourism sections of the Parish Plan and listened to what was said about the Leisure Centre during the consultation.
 - Phil Dobby
 - Brian Dollamore
 - Blase Lambert
 - Philip Heath
 - John Robinson

What is the proposal?

To transfer management responsibility from the Parish Council to a Community Group

Guiding Principle

To make the Bill Shone Leisure Centre an inviting, welcoming and responsive facility, aiming to serve the public as well as possible within the constraints of the building and of finance.

Objective for this evening

To explain how we intend to do that, and

Get your support.

What we will cover

- What the Parish Plan said
- What the Community Group want to do
- How will it work
- What happens to the employees
- How can it be paid for
- What if it goes wrong

Results from Arts & Leisure Section of the Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Principle

- Our Proposal for the Bill Shone Leisure centre stems from the Parish Plan, which was completed and issued at the end of 2009.
- The Parish Plan set out to obtain the views and wishes of the people of the Parish of Melbourne across a range of topics to inform and guide the Parish and District Councils and those interested in developing the facilities and environment in which we live.
- The Plan is divided into sections covering all of the main aspects of living in Melbourne including Arts, Leisure and Indoor Sports Activities (which is the section relevant to tonight's discussion).



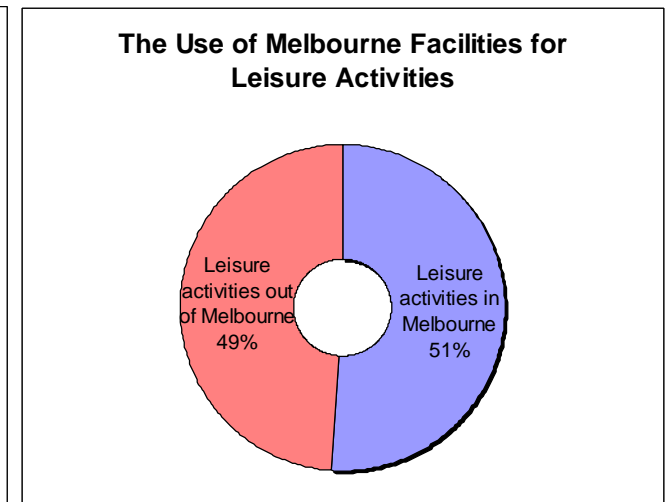
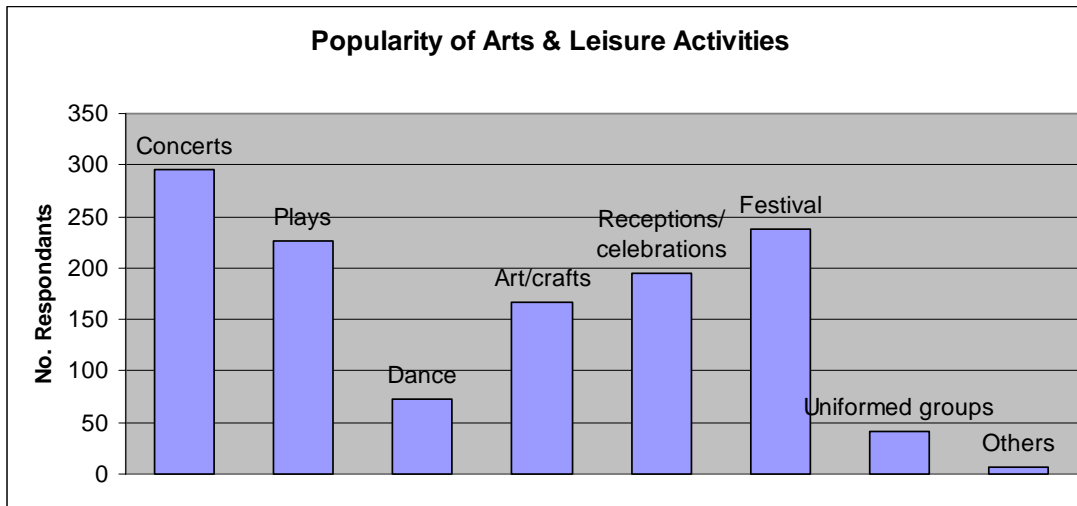
Melbourne Town Band



Results from Arts & Leisure Section of the Parish Plan

The Basis of the Parish Plan Survey

- 97% of respondents answered this section.
- 78% of respondents take part in arts, leisure & indoor sports activities.
- Half of these activities take place in Melbourne.
- Some activities currently have to take place outside Melbourne due to lack of suitable facilities here.
- Melbourne clearly has a very active Arts and Leisure scene and there is a thriving spirit of self sufficiency in making its own entertainment.

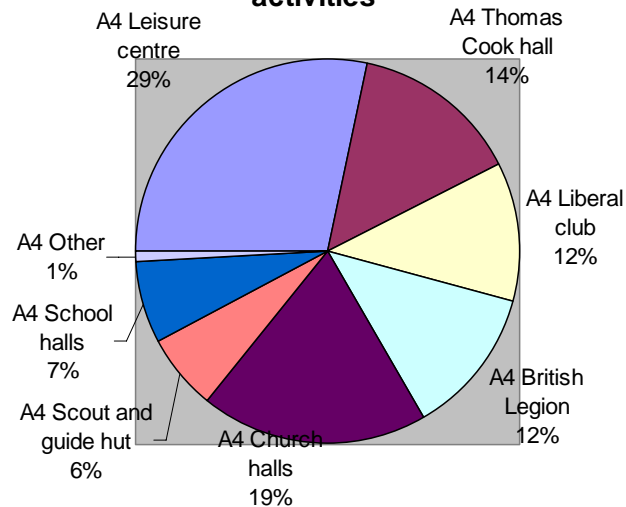


Results from Arts & Leisure Section of the Parish Plan

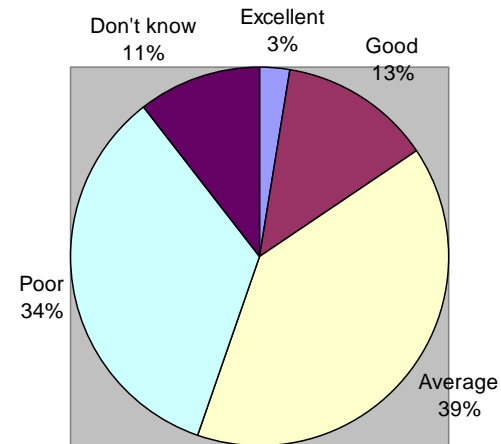
➤ Venues and Their Quality

- The Leisure Centre is the most popular venue for arts, leisure & indoor sports activities, with other venues also being popular.
- However, the overall quality of the facilities for these activities is not well rated, with nearly three quarters of respondents rating them average or poor.

Use of venues in Melbourne for Leisure activities



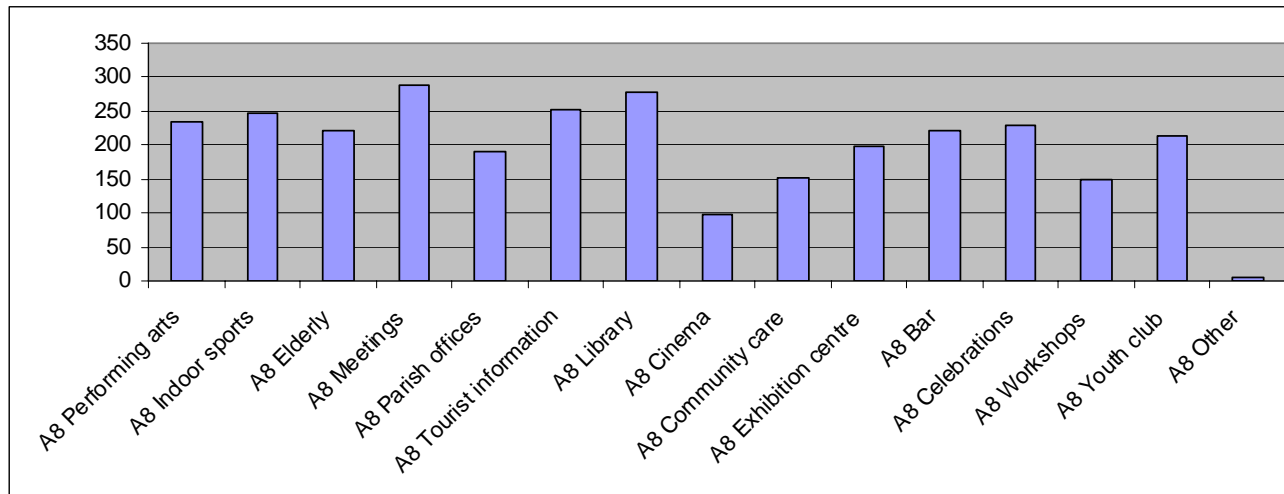
How Existing Melbourne Leisure Facilities Rate



Results from Arts & Leisure Section of the Parish Plan

➤ What Activities are wanted?

➤ A wide range of activities are wanted, some of which are available but not all at present.

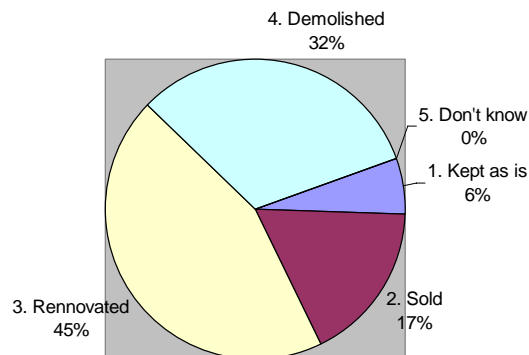


Results from Arts & Leisure Section of the Parish Plan

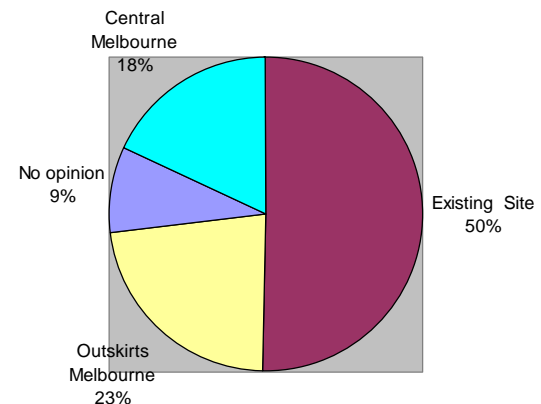
The Existing Leisure Centre

- The Bill Shone Leisure Centre is currently the main venue for arts, leisure and indoor sports activities in Melbourne.
- The existing facilities are not well received, being fondly regarded but not well suited for the range of arts, leisure and indoor sports activities which the people of Melbourne want.
- General comments were of the view that the Leisure Centre has had little investment in the building or the way it is run since it stopped being a school.

What to do with the Bill Shone Leisure centre



Where to locate a new leisure centre



The Conclusions we draw from the Parish Plan

- This is the asset we currently have. It is conveniently located and it is available now for the people of Melbourne to use and improve.
- The mandate from the Parish Plan is to improve it and make it suitable for our arts, leisure & indoor sports activities.
- This is the basis of our proposal.

Why does the Community Group want to do this?

The basic essentials for day-to-day running of the building are already provided.



The Parish Council has actively campaigned for better maintenance of the building.

The new group would keep the existing resources, while providing additional input.

What additional input do we think is necessary?

Why does the Community Group want to do this?

A new group can:

Think ahead, instead of managing just day to day.

Devise small projects as targets for fundraising

Improve the presentation of the building

Market the facilities

Develop a website

Make use of volunteer help

Be responsive to public input

None of the above are provided for under the current management regime, meaning that the building still has the furniture and atmosphere of an old school more than thirty years after it closed.



Why does the Community Group want to do this?

The future is unknown...

In the meantime, within the existing financial constraints, it is in the best interests of our community to make the best of what we have. We need to demonstrate that the enthusiasm of the local community is deserving of outside investment.



How will it work

Register a not-for-profit company, Melbourne Community Centre Ltd., with the sole purpose of providing a community service based at the Bill Shone Leisure Centre

None of the Directors will be paid, or receive dividends or benefits of any sort.

Any surpluses made by the Company will, be reinvested to the benefit of the building and the services it supplies.

Melbourne residents can become members of the company, with the power to elect the board and vote on key elements of the Company's operation.

How will it work

The current 5-year lease will be transferred by SDDC from the Parish Council to the Company. All of the clauses in that lease will remain exactly as they are; all obligations will be taken on by the Company.

The Company will run the Centre in all its aspects.

The Parish Council will become a tenant for any meetings it holds in the Centre

The Company will be a lessee of SDDC and will refer to them as defined by the existing lease, exactly as the Parish Council does.

The Company will report regularly to the Parish Council.

What happens to the employees

All Centre employees of the Parish Council will be transferred to the Company under TUPE legislation, which preserves all their existing contractual rights. This is the law and it will be honoured.

Finances

SDDC has agreed to make a grant to the Company equal to the current grant to the Parish Council for the maintenance of the building, staffing and associated services.

The new Company does not require any funding other than the Parish Council funding that is currently budgeted. All changes and improvements by the Company will be made from within that budget or from money that it raises.

There will be no increases in fees demanded from existing users other through service improvements and as a result of inflation. The service obligations that the Parish Council has within the existing lease will remain in force.

The company will be free to bid for grants that the Parish Council, as a public body, cannot apply for.

What if it goes wrong

In the event of the new Company failing and being put into administration, responsibility would revert to SDDC.

Any Questions?



‘One at a time’

If the Chairman invites you to speak,
please state your name and location/organisation

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What happens next?



The Parish Council will meet (in private, due to the legal and contractual issues) to consider all representations, and

A proposal will be requested, on which a vote will be taken at the next meeting of the council, this could be:

- Cease discussions and concentrate on making the best of what we have

OR

- Continue to a phase of due diligence
 - SDDC will need to satisfy themselves that they wish to novate the lease

And finally...



Thank you, and Good Evening