

**RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING PDS COMMITTEE
23 JANUARY 2023**

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY WITH ANSWERS

1. From Mr Andy Richardson to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing

With regard to Item 9a: Future of Community Resource Centres:

1. With reference to paragraph 3.3, apart from the flooding issue which should be sorted out through building insurance and proper maintenance, why is the existing Cotmandene Community Resource Centre building no longer suitable?

Reply:

It is no longer tenable to operate the service from this site due to the number of issues experienced which have caused the service to be disrupted. In the past year alone the site has been subjected to two sewage leaks and five waste water leaks into the building, with two further outside. This is on the back of leaks in previous years which have resulted in the closure of the building on numerous occasions. The leaks being experienced in the building are due to the adjacent properties, particularly above the shop, and therefore the Council has no control over these or the steps being taken by the owners to fully rectify. The Council has already claimed on its insurance numerous times in relation to rectifying the leaks to date but cannot prevent recurrence. This is why in the November committee report remaining at the existing site was not an option to be taken forward for consideration

Supplementary Question:

Is this proposal a ploy by Bromley Council to get the Cotmandene Community Resource Centre building sold?

Reply:

No. It is because we cannot be sure we can continue to provide this extremely valued community service from the current site due to the number of outages experienced.

2. With reference to paragraph 3.34, can you confirm what is meant by 'current service provision'? Is it the limited service the Cotmandene Community Resource Centre presently provides from the library OR the more extensive service they were providing from their original building before the flood?

Reply:

The intention is that the full service will be restored. The library site will be remodelled to make better use of the space creating a dedicated area for the resource centre service. Accessibility will also be improved with an accessible toilet installed at the library.

Supplementary Question:

There was a public consultation on the proposal for the Cotmandene Community Resource Centre but this proposal also impacts library users. Will users of St Paul's Cray library be consulted on this proposal?

Reply:

There is no intention to reduce the service at St Paul's Cray Library, indeed there are plans to expand and increase the facilities the library can offer with an investment of over £250,000 in the library building linked to this proposal. Library users will not be affected except during the short period of redevelopment works.