

Report of meeting of Hythe and Dibden Community Association
User Groups at the Community Centre, Brinton Lane, Hythe
on Thursday January 16th, 1986

Present: Representatives of 20 organisation associated with
the association:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The chairman welcomed members and outlined the work of the association during the past year and said the time was now appropriate to update the constitution to keep pace with the changing situation since the opening of the centre.

He paid tribute to the work of individuals involved in the running of the centre and its activities and added that the association must now work towards the next stage in its development, i.e. extensions to the building and its facilities.

On the question of soundproofing - one of the major problems of the present building- Mr. Wade said the costs were prohibitive and there was no guarantee of success. The cash would be better spent replacing the building.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Batchelor said that a surplus of £2,600 had been anticipated when the auditor's report was received. This compared with £37 in 1984, a year when the association had incurred many costs during the opening of the centre. The association now had bank balances totalled around £5,500.

He hoped that in future the association would adopt policies to run the centre on more business-like lines. On the question of hire charges, he was looking into a new range of charges that would achieve a fairer system.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The secretary appealed for more volunteer helpers, for both office and kitchen duties. The success of the centre depended on a large pool of helpers. New groups had been formed for Mah Jong and Chess enthusiasts.

The executive committee had spent many hours reviewing the constitution and copies were distributed to group representatives for consideration. It included proposals for a larger voice in association affairs for user groups.

SOCIAL REPORT: Mrs. Hunter drew attention to the activities that were being organised by the social committee as a means of raising funds for the association.

USERS' DISCUSSION: The meeting was of the general opinion that not enough people knew of the existence of the centre. They called for more signs. Parish council representative Mr. Brian Dash suggested that the parish be asked to support an application for better signposting. Mrs. F. Mairey put forward a fund-raising idea of selling home-made cakes from the centre kitchen. She promised to contribute with cakes of her own.

Offers were made to help with posters and it was suggested that more should be done to attract the attention of passersby. The drab window facing the public car park was regarded as a lost opportunity for advertising the kitchen facilities and the work of groups meeting at the centre.

Generally groups had little problems using the centre. After the meeting individual points were dealt with by executive committee members.

Representatives were told that under the proposed new constitution their interests would be catered for by a general committee - similar in composition to the present User Group Council - which would meet three times a year.