



Full Council

Agenda Item CC2425/23

Future of the Red Cross Centre

Introduction

To inform the Council of previous discussions about the future of the Red Cross Centre and agree the Council's approach to future negotiations.

Discussion

In March 2019 the British Red Cross (BRC) announced at a meeting attended by many residents that it intended to give up the use of the building and it would immediately stop allowing it to be used by other community groups.

The site is owned by Three Rivers District Council (TRDC). The BRC had a 99 year lease on the building with about 44 years to run. Apparently, the BRC had been in discussion with TRDC about surrendering the lease for some time previously. The building is registered as a community asset. The Parish Council expressed an interest in taking over and running the building. The working group on Land Transfer was tasked with investigating and negotiating.

Discussions between the BRC and the Parish Council continued for some time, and the Parish Council asked TRDC about the future of the building. There were a few meetings with officers, and with elected councillors, but without any agreement.

In preparing the revised Local Plan TRDC did not include the site in the "Potential sites for Consultation" issued in October 2018 but did include it in the "Sites for potential allocation" consultation issued in June 2021, with the potential for 6 dwellings.

The future of the building has been a matter of local controversy since March 2019 and has featured in election campaigns. Several of the Parish councillors elected in 2019 pledged to "*Secure the future of the Red Cross Centre as a resource for the whole community and ensure it is sustainably funded.*"

The matter was raised at the Local Area Forum on 15th June 2023 and the TRDC Councillor leading the local plan sub-committee (Cllr Giles-Medhurst) undertook to convene a meeting including Croxley Green District Councillors and the Parish Council to consider the options for the site and the building.

Recommendations

- The Parish Council wishes to see the site and the building retained as community assets.
- The Parish Council wishes to be included in any discussions about the future of the building and the site.