

	Full Council
Date	10 December 2025
Agenda Item	10

To consider an update on the proposed Community Arts Centre

November has been a busy month for the development of this project. The following is a list of actions to date

1. Second meeting of the Community Arts Centre (CAC) CIO Trustees (Designate)
2. Business case updated for approval
3. CAC CIO registration – draft CIO ready for approval
4. Contact from BDC, Cllr Butland, regarding the allocation of S106 funds
5. Briefing with potential architect at Empire
6. BDC pre-application meeting – extremely positive meeting with Rory Hayhurst and David Sorapure. The Empire is seen as a non-designated Heritage asset. The planners are very supportive of the community initiative, and see it as a way of ensuring the survival of the building, and preserving the history. They felt that the new extension would not distract from the historic building, and installing solar panels on the main existing roof would be recommended. There will be a need for a contamination report on the petrol station, but no need for a Biodiversity Net Gain plan.
7. Quotes received from 2 architects subject to a confidential report at the January meeting

Recommendation:

1. That HTC approves the business plan for the Community Arts Centre
2. That HTC approves the setting up of a CIO to manage the Community Arts centre.
3. That HTC notes progress achieved so far.

Sarah Greateorex

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