

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2021



Parkside Community & Sport Ground, Sheffield Road, Barnsley, S74



Produced by: **Forge Community Partnership**

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2021

Produced by: **Forge Community Partnership**

INTRODUCTION:

Due in part to Local Development Plan identifying a replacement facility for the Rockingham Sports Ground, Coupled with the rise to fears over the future of the community provision.

The Forge Community Partnership felt that a community consultation should be undertaken as quickly as possible to ascertain the views and opinions of the local people regarding the centres future. They felt that local opinions mattered and need to be heard and taken into account by the decision makers in respect of the centres future.

To this end the Forge Community Partnership consulted the local community regarding the Rockingham Centre and new Parkside vision, Barnsley. This community consultation work consisted of;

- Carry out a local consultation with Rockingham Centre users, Local residents regarding the very existence of Parkside Community and Sports Ground.
- Understand the needs of the community for the centre now and or in the future.
- Identify if the very community the centre will be developed to serve sees a need for the centre.

Due to the urgency of the need, work began on 5th June 2021 and was completed by 15th July 2021 The work consisted of leafleting in the local area, door step consultations, current user interviews and an open access day. This report presents the discoveries and findings of the consultation with the local community.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION 2021

This report is a summary of the discoveries and findings of the community consultation which took place over June and July 2021.

DOOR TO DOOR

The work began with the design and creation of a leaflet to publicise and express the objectives of the consultation. The resulting A4 leaflet (see appendix a.) was then hand delivered to dwellings in the local area of Blacker Hill and Platts Common adjacent to the Centre a total of 300 homes.

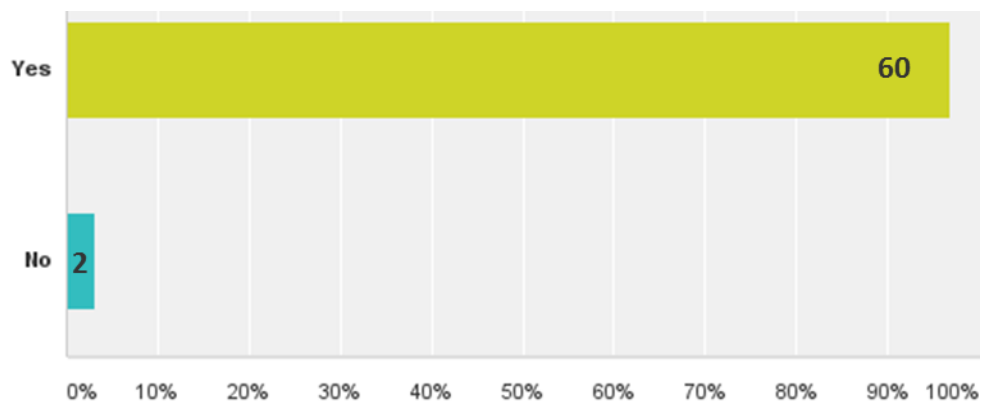
The objective was to raise community awareness around the centre and provide opportunities for local residents to voice their opinions on the matter. Whilst distributing the leaflets the opportunity to consult on the door step with individuals was also taken.

The finding of these door step consults was that most were aware of the centre but believed that it had already closed (often quoting local press reports). They were surprise to hear that the centre was open and still being used. All expressed views that it should continue to serve the community and remain active. Many express that they would use the centre if the right provision was put in place. This included more social and community activities rather than the previous more formal model of learning and qualification. All indicating that it would be a shame to see it closed.

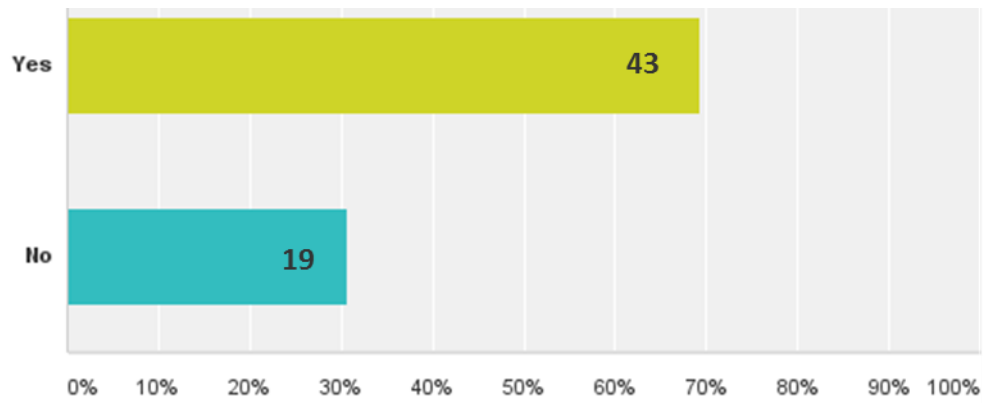
CONSULTATION EVENTS - SURVEY

A simple straight forward community consultation was conducted to gauge a broad representation of need and ambition for the new facility along with a survey created using Survey Monkey in line with the objectives of the commissioning. This was then advertised and published locally with a link being placed in the leaflet distributed to households and on the community website. The survey remained open throughout the consultation and realised a total of 62 responses. The questions and results of the survey are recorded below:

Q1. Are aware of the Rockingham Centre?

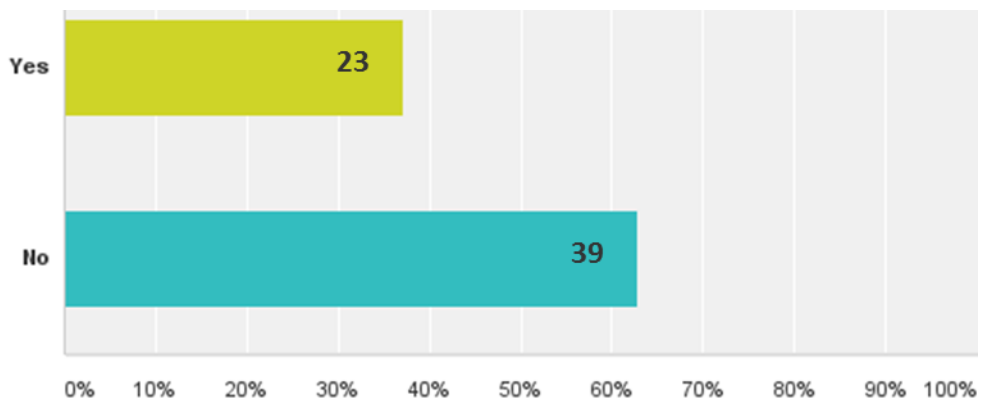


Q2. Have you ever used the Rockingham Centre?

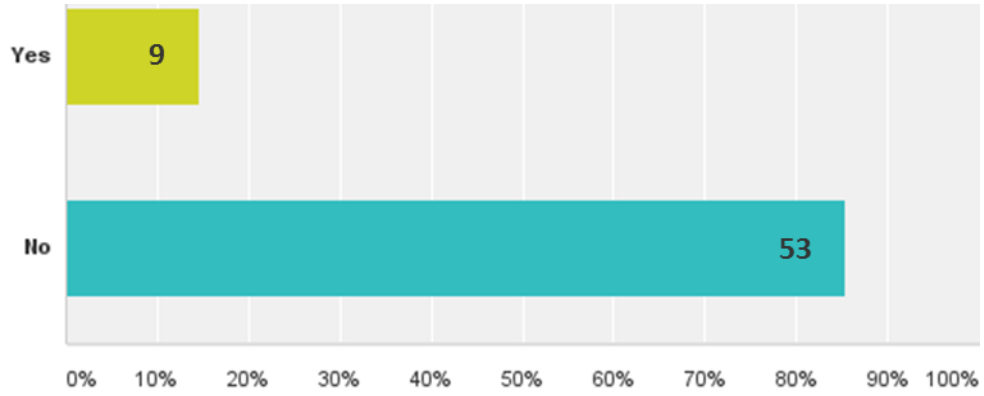


Initial Consultation at Rockingham Centre

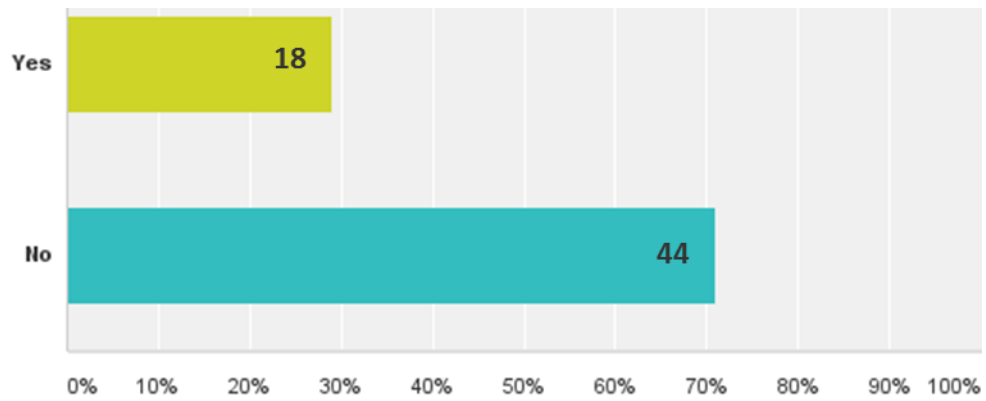
Q3. Are you aware of the planned new development at Parkside?



Q4. Are you aware that you can hire it for private events?

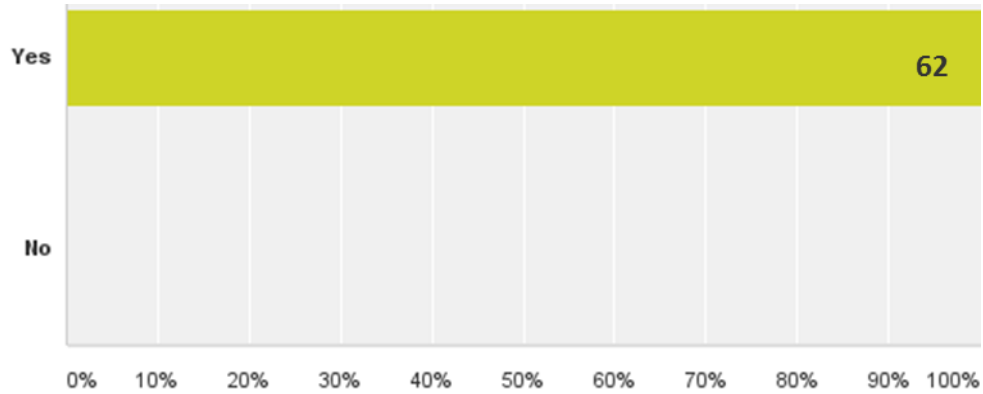


Q5. Are you aware that it is run and managed by a Community of volunteers?

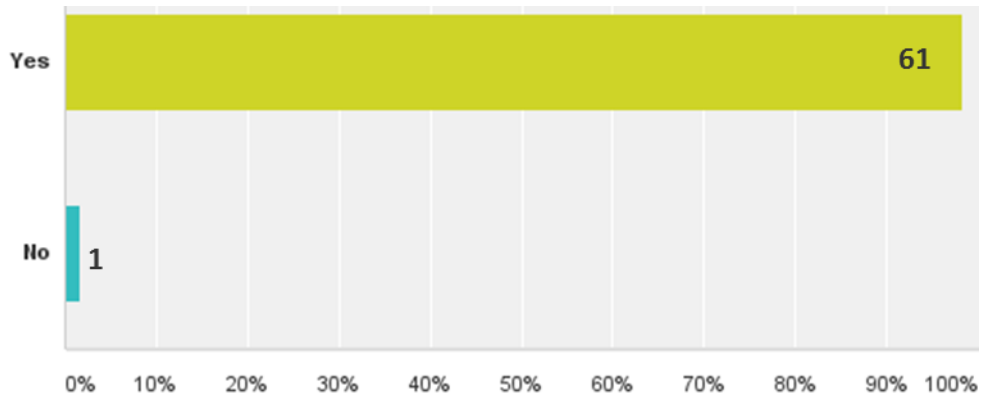


Follow Up Event.

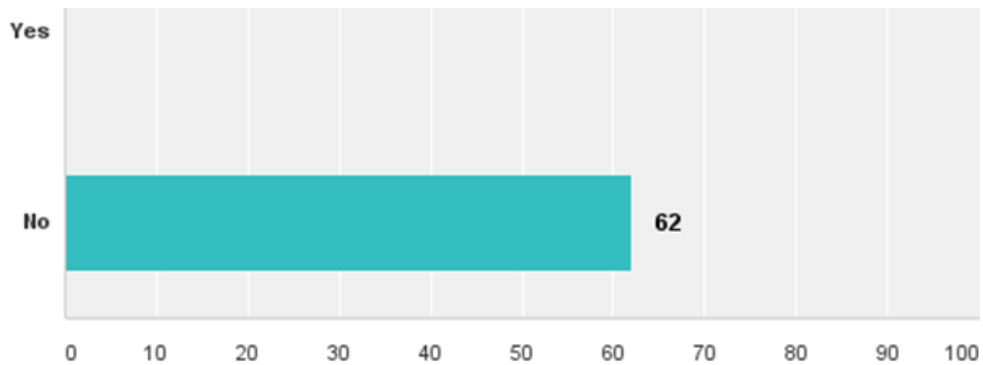
Q6. Do you see a need for the community centre in the future?



Q7. Would you use the centre in the future?



Q8. Do you think that the centre should be for one exclusive group or interest?



Analysis of above results shows that most people are aware of the centre but not necessarily of its use and function today. Some 70% of respondents indicated that they had used the centre in the past but only 23% were aware of the facilities there. With less than 15% aware that it was available for hire or that it was home to the Youth Partnership.

Yet all respondents felt there was a need for the centre and improved facilities that meet known & emerging interest in the future and only 1 indicated that they would not use the centre. Question 8 should the centre be exclusive for one interest received a 100% no with all respondents saying it should remain open for all.

CURRENT USE

The Rockingham centre currently hosts a broad range of services across 6 days a week which is attended on average by 100-120 customers. These are mostly local (footfall) residents who find the service of great value given the difficulties they would face in getting to alternative provision..

The New Parkside facility needs from the opening to offer a broad range of facilities to plan and deliver some excellent work. Work that as included launching social action with the Sparkles intergenerational events, Warm Spaces for families, recreational activities for individuals to socialise and become engaged with the planned and structured events as a progression along with the formal recreational sport from Archery, through to Football and the emerging interest from Rugby along with having safe space to undertake general wellbeing activity and the wider Cardio Pulmonary rehabilitation that have been delivered across the community.

The centre housed the Winter Warmer project which delivered winter warm packs to some of our most vulnerable citizen. With the project currently being developed to meet the future needs of local residents from all three wards and hopes to expand to tackle social isolation.

The New Parkside facility has need for a social café to be developed that engages the community through direct social action and support extended families in the positive encouragement of their children's participation in all aspects of physical development.

FUTURE POTENTIAL

Local residents have come forward and expressed an interest in developing a group or committee to support the development of the centre. These names have been retained by the Forge Community Partnership to develop as the plans for the site firm up.

There are emerging themes from support for gentle exercise with a trim trail idea through to a reflective space to support those who may have emerging or known mental health issues where the pleasant managed outdoor space provides a small respite to this effect further development is planned with the Creative Minds team of the South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust to further expand on arts, recreation and physical activity you can do in the home or garden to keep you occupied, stimulated, connected, fit and well.

Interest is developing with Barnsley Fit Reds & the Coal Field Regeneration Team who both are working within the community to support individuals through a variety of mediums to be more active and lead on a ground upwards plan to support healthier active lives.

CONCLUSION

The consultation has highlighted definite feelings of support and a sense of need for the Parkside Community & Sports Centre. It has sparked a renewed interest amongst the local community and a desire to refine the centres provision and use. There is perhaps an opportunity to re-visit the centres provision once built and develop new community lead activities with a more community embrace. Giving the centre organic life that could evolve and give service to its community in a time when community services are shrinking.

Above all the consultation has shown that given the support the centre could provide facilities and opportunities for the local community long into the future.

John Lang
Forge Community Partnership
15 July 2021