

## Public vote on the future of The Armstrong Hall Complex

Following failed negotiations between Thornbury Community and Arts CIC (TCA CIC) and the Armstrong Hall Trust, a YES/NO poll will be held for Thornbury residents who are on the Electoral Register, as follows:

***“Would you like the Town Council to carry out a consultation with residents and Armstrong Hall users as was previously done when coming to a decision on the future of the Armstrong Hall?”***

The Armstrong Hall Trust has stated its intention to work with South Gloucestershire Council and the Turnberries Community Centre trust to develop, instead, a new facility on the Turnberries site, which would require the sale of the existing site of the Armstrong Hall Complex. There is no information available yet about the nature of the new facility or when it will be available; and the former user groups, especially those which need the capacity of the Armstrong Hall or the acoustic benefits of the Cossham Hall, are suffering or leaving the town.

The Armstrong Hall Action Alliance (AHAA) is increasingly concerned about how this decision has been reached, as:

- It runs counter to the outcome of public consultations held in 2017 and 2018;
- All the discussion has taken place behind closed doors;
- Community facilities at Turnberries draw footfall away from the High Street;
- All the facilities offered by the whole Armstrong Hall Complex, including the historic Cossham Hall, would need to be installed on the existing Turnberries site;
- The precious heart-of-the-town site, which was a gift to the town, will be lost for development.

AHAA formed a Community Interest Company, called Thornbury Community and Arts, to offer a viable, financially sustainable alternative to the Turnberries scheme, by way of a social enterprise. It would retain the Armstrong Hall Complex, restore it to use, maintain it until more costly redevelopment can be funded, and run it not only to re-enable its former use for the benefit of local people, but also to increase usage by creating an arts centre, with exhibitions – including displays from Thornbury Museum, more films, more events – especially comedy and new small acts.

The poll will be held on Thursday 26 May, between 4 pm and 9 pm. There are no postal or proxy votes, and no voting cards. Only people who can reach one of the three polling locations can vote. Those locations are St Mary’s Church Hall, Eastbury Road; the Scout Hut, Park Road; and Turnberries Community Centre at the lower corner of the Rock Street car park.

Please email [info@ahaathornbury.co.uk](mailto:info@ahaathornbury.co.uk) or call 413850 if you would like to vote but have no means of getting there, and we will try to help.

If you would like more information, please use these same contact details.