



Armstrong Hall

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Friday, 16 February 2018

Consultation on the future of the Armstrong Hall

Improvement to the facilities currently provided at the Armstrong Hall have been a long term priority for Thornbury and the Town Council who act as sole managing trustee of the Armstrong Hall complex. In the Autumn of 2017 the Town Council and Armstrong Hall Trust undertook consultation jointly with South Gloucestershire Council on the future location of community facilities in the town that looked at how and where the library and the Armstrong Hall facilities could be based in the future. In December, South Gloucestershire Council made the decision to relocate the Library to Turnberries. The Armstrong Hall Trust and Town Council have listened to the views expressed through the Autumn consultation and have spent the past few months undertaking further work to address the main issues raised concerning the Armstrong Hall. This consultation enables us to share with you further information and to gather your views on a new additional option which has been developed.

The current condition of the existing Armstrong Hall means that continuing with re-active repairs and maintenance will no longer be sustainable beyond the next few years. The deteriorating condition of the building and the facilities available mean that the building will become unsafe to operate, financially unviable and will not meet the needs or expectations of the community or our users. As a result of this, the Trust and Town Council believe that a 'Do Nothing Option' is not viable or sustainable and is therefore committed to working with the community to raise the significant investment necessary to ensure that this valued community facility can operate and serve the needs of our growing town for at least the next 20 years. To achieve this, the Trust and Town Council are considering three options to improve the existing facilities and this consultation seeks the views of the community on which option should be progressed.

We are writing to you as our neighbour as we know that you have a particular interest in what happens on our site and how you may be affected or impacted so that you can find out more and participate in the consultation that is running until 9 March. A decision on the future of these important facilities is expected to be taken by the Armstrong Hall Trust and Thornbury Town Council on 20 March.

Option 1: Rebuild of facilities on the existing Armstrong Hall site

This is a new option that has been developed as a result of feedback from the previous consultation. It is estimated that this would cost approx £4.9 million. This option would see the existing facilities demolished and replaced with a larger capacity and multi use hall, significantly larger stage and performance space and additional meeting rooms to meet the growing population of Thornbury and the surrounding area. The historic Cossham Hall would be refurbished and incorporated into the new building and access to the museum would be improved.

Option 2: Refurbishment of the existing facilities at the Armstrong Hall site

The plans for this option have been revised to provide further detail which was requested during the previous consultation. The costings have also been updated and now stand at approx. £2.85 million. This option would see the Armstrong and Cossham Halls refurbished and provides new dressing rooms, improved accessibility to the museum and more toilets and foyer space, heating and other systems would be upgraded, the roof repaired and doors and windows replaced.

Option 3: Relocate to a new build extension at Turnberries

The plans and approximate costings for this option remain unchanged from the Autumn, with further information now available on ownership and governance issues as well as the potential future use of the current Armstrong Hall site which were significant concerns raised through the last consultation. This option is estimated to cost approximately £4 million depending on the exact split of costs between the Armstrong Hall extension and planned library works. It would provide a larger performance hall and stage than the current Armstrong hall, associated dressing rooms and a new meeting room. Other facilities such as toilets, foyer space, office, cafe and bar would be shared with the existing Turnberries building. If this option is progressed, it is proposed that the existing Armstrong Hall site would be sold for redevelopment, and the proceeds used to part fund the new facilities at Turnberries.

Have your say through the consultation.

Information about these proposals is attached and is available from our website: www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk or from displays at the Town Hall and Armstrong Hall. You can also complete the survey online through our website.

A consultation drop in with Trustees and Town Councillors will be held on Saturday 24 February in the St Mary's Shopping Centre from 10am to 1pm and a public town meeting to discuss the future of the Armstrong Hall will be held on Thursday 1 March, 7.30pm at the Cossham Hall.

For further information or to comment you can email: info@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk or write to: Thornbury Town Council, Town Hall, High St, Thornbury, Bristol, BS35 2AR. Alternatively please phone: 01454 412103

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns that you would like to discuss with us.

Best wishes



Louise Powell
Thornbury Town Clerk and Armstrong Hall Manager