

## The Deepings Neighbourhood Plan - Project Proposal

This outline presents initial considerations on the scope of this project to aid planning and development.

To establish and develop a new integrated **Multi-purpose Leisure, Sports, Arts and Social facility** in The Deepings with parking and excellent access for the whole community.

Key features:

- Project to be funded through SKDC area development fund in recognition of The Deepings as a rapidly growing population.
- The emerging new Local Plan proposes high growth, and a replacement for the current Leisure Centre - which is recognised as no longer adequate to meet demand - is an essential component of that growth.

### Outline:

- a) **Leisure and Sports** –to replace/relocate/extend the current range of sports and leisure provision that is currently available at The Deepings Leisure Centre. The scope of facilities needs to be agreed but the current uses include swimming pool, sports/activity hall, gymnasium, squash courts, other sports and leisure provision, kit shop, plus reception area, café and related ancillary services.
- b) **\*Arts and Social** – to take this opportunity to introduce an additional new range of community provision by way of a theatre/performance space with cinema capability, large meeting/conference venue/social space, workshops and exhibition gallery for functions, plus kitchen and licensed bar facilities to service regular and occasional arts and social activities and events.

*\*Theatrical performance, dance, music, film, painting, sculpture, crafts.*

### How the venue can contribute to local needs:

- Supporting a well-managed expansion of households in The Deepings for people of all ages
- Improving physical health through access to a wider range of sports and leisure activities
- Contributing to good mental health through supporting community cohesion
- Providing a wonderful venue for large gatherings that is otherwise not available (eg for weddings, birthdays, special parties, social functions, community events).
- Supporting its own running costs by provision of income-generating activity
- Providing much needed social and cultural opportunities for residents in The Deepings
- Promoting a wider range of activity opportunities for children, teenagers and young adults
- Promoting a wider range of activity opportunities for active adults and older people
- Providing additional performance art space for all schools to use and for touring performers
- Contributing to local Job creation
- Increase potential for Deepings as a tourist location, putting the Deepings on the map as a destination for Arts and Leisure

**Emerging Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan Policy implications:**

- ✓ Allocation of a suitable and sizeable plot of land for the new building and parking use
- ✓ Scoping alternatives and local consultation on possible locations within The Deepings
- ✓ Consideration of safe walking, cycling, and other non-car use to access the new facility
- ✓ Relationship with present sports, Arts and leisure facilities
- ✓ Potential links with the new Deepings Green Walk project-[www.deepingsgreenwalk.co.uk](http://www.deepingsgreenwalk.co.uk)

**The Deepings Neighbourhood Plan - Project Proposal****Notes:**

- This outline project proposal has been developed through the Neighbourhood Planning process in recognition of the Deepings as a rapidly expanding neighbourhood and in anticipation of accommodating several thousand more residents over the coming years.
- There is a clear need for more sport and leisure provision in quantity and range.
- The concept of a new Multi-purpose Facility for the Deepings has arisen out of consultation with the residents of The Deepings in which the lack of accessible Leisure, Sport, Arts and Social provision has been highlighted as a clear need to be addressed. Survey results are available for reference.
- By comparison to our nearest Market Towns, of Stamford, Bourne, Spalding and Grantham we have no large central community Arts and Social Centre. Residents have no option but to travel to other towns for any cultural experience of theatre, music or film.
- There was recently a previous intention to develop an Arts building in the Deepings but this has not been possible so far.
- Our existing public Leisure Centre requires replacement, and activities like swimming, are only available when the facilities are not being utilised for the school's use.
- The 2017 draft of the Local Plan launched the idea yet no project plans have been forthcoming.

**Proposed criteria to include:**

- The new Centre to be easily accessible sited as centrally as possible within the Deepings to enable everyone to walk or cycle, buggy push or mobility scooter use to it from Market Deeping, Deeping St. James, and adjacent villages.
- The new Centre to be positioned as a core location on the Deepings Green Walk
- The building to be a showpiece landmark structure with well-designed, environmentally sustainable, and stylish features that are in keeping with our history, geography and heritage as a market town/parish.
- The integrated facilities to be welcoming and supportive for people of all ages i.e. the 'target market' is that the new Centre is for everybody.