

1.0 AMBITIONS

- Paddock Wood Town Council have been progressing a Community Centre for the past 8 years with considerable work to prove and define the need.
- A Community Centre is in part required due to the additional housing being proposed for the area.
- The proposed location is the Memorial Fields which was chosen following extensive research and public consultation.
- The Town Council current offices are based in the Podmore sport pavilion. Adjacent to this is St Andrew's Hall which is in need of significant updating. Lastly they have a long lease on the Day Care Centre which is adjacent Dowding House.
- The proposals will look to offer opportunities to rationalise the current facilities in order to deliver efficiencies that would help lower running costs.
- PWTC is anticipated to be the owner of the Community Centre freehold with the potential to rent or lease spaces to other organisations, including the possible formation of a corporate body to oversee the community elements.
- The outcome could look to ensure a long term viable and sustainable solution for community services.
- Works on site are anticipated to start in the latter part of 2018.

2.0 THE SITE

- The proposed site sits to the west of the B2160 at the northern end of the Memorial Fields, adjacent to the police station and village green.
- The sites proximity to Maidstone Road is key in terms of attracting potential users, benefiting from excellent travel options including bus, walking, cycling and driving.
- The eastern boundary of the site has a number of large trees which are to be retained.
- Despite the cricket pitch seeing little use over the past few years, building near the former cricket pitch could see Sport England object to planning. Sport England will need to be engaged with to overcome their concerns.
- The town is currently experiencing growth through the planned addition of 1000 houses. The population count exceeded 8,000 people based on the last census and this is expected to grow considerably with the developments.
- The external facade should be attractive but distinctive and readily identifiable as a community building. It should integrate into the wider context of Paddock Wood and sit comfortably a long side the village green.

