

From: S. McAlister

Response to library consultation in West Barnes

In particular, I believe that Merton should actively consider NOT making the site a residential one, but incorporate many other community facilities (Health Centre, Nursery provision etc.) ahead of that. There are many new families moving to this area, as housing is relatively cheap and London is very accessible by train. These community facilities would be better received and are much needed by local people.

I think that the building ought to be transformed into the hub of the community and a destination in its own right, rather than somewhere that you pop into on the way to somewhere else.

Consider a name change to Motspur Park Village Hall (provide a true focus for the locality).

Public rooms:

Library facilities with semi-separate quiet study and computer areas

Two Community Rooms (or one larger room with divider) with kitchenette for teas/coffee

Toilets for Library and community room users

An informal meeting space e.g a café.

To pay for this:

1. Café can be franchised, giving ongoing rental income.
2. Nursery school or playgroup/pre-school
3. A doctor's surgery or other health specialists' consulting rooms.
4. Private residential development (downside of private residential development is lack of parking, which would almost certainly cause massive public dissent, unless perhaps the development is restricted to car club only).
5. Perhaps consider instead a residential care home development (may not need much parking space except for staff/visitors)
6. private hire of community rooms – so the more versatile these are, the better