Rosewell Community Hub - Community Consultation

Rosewell Development Trust recently commissioned consultants (Development Trusts Association Scotland) to carry out a community consultation exercise. The purpose of this was to gather information about what local people felt about the proposed community hub for Rosewell. This is important for two reasons.

1) To demonstrate project need and articulate our vision to deliver social and economic regeneration in the village of Rosewell.

2) To consult the community on the services residents would like to see incorporated that will shape the design of the new building.

A leaflet and questionnaire was distributed to every door in Rosewell (and the rest of EH24). If you were one of the many local people who completed and returned their questionnaire – a very big thank you from all of us at RDT.

A detailed Final Report has been produced on the community engagement exercise with a full analysis of the results. Copies are available from the Rosewell Development Trust office in the Resource Centre at 85 Carnethie St next to the primary school. This short summary has been produced to give local a people a flavour of what was said.

The Community Consultation

By the end of the consultation, 171 questionnaires were completed and returned. This is a very high return and included the views of 154 Rosewell households. This is a response rate of over 22% which means that more than 1 in 5 households took part in the community consultation. There was a very good spread of returned questionnaires from different parts of the village, as the diagram below shows.

There was a good return across the different age ranges, and in general, slightly more women than men completed and returned the questionnaire.
The Need for a Community Hub

1) A lack of services and facilities within Rosewell

2) A need to enhance community cohesion and better integrate the old and new areas of the village

This rationale was tested during the course of the community consultation exercise and was completely borne out by the results.

The consultation exercise went on to explore whether developing a community hub was the best way to address the lack of facilities and amenities and the need for integration. While there was a range of views around the size, nature and detail of a community hub, respondents gave an overwhelming ‘yes’ to the concept of a community hub being built in Rosewell.

Encouragingly, the consultants detected no noticeable opposition to the community hub project – either during the exercise or in analysing the returned questionnaires.

Living and Working in Rosewell

The consultation questioned resident’s views about living in Rosewell, and while there was a wide range of issues and concerns raised there was an overwhelming view that a combination of the location and community cohesion make Rosewell a good place to live.

All the issues and concerns raised within the questionnaires are listed in the Full Report, but these include (in no particular order):

- Issues with the local bus service
- Traffic and parking
- The removal of the hanging baskets in Rosewell.
- Cleanliness and litter
- The need for training and employment opportunities
- Meeting local housing need
- More things for young people to do
- A café / tea-room / meeting place in the village.
- Upgrading some of the current facilities within the village
- More shops and a better choice of shops.
- The need for improved broadband speed

Preferences for Services

The community consultation exercise gathered preferences from local people about the services and activities they would like to see within a community hub.

The following diagram highlights people’s preferences.
As you can see, the preferences expressed within the questionnaire return confirm the importance of a café and meeting place, a farm shop and other retail provision, and other accommodation which can host a range of activities and services which local people would likely to see on offer.

In sharing their thoughts about a community hub for Rosewell, people who filled in the questionnaire made comments and offered suggestions not only about what should be in the community hub, but also what the building should be like – its character and design – and how the Rosewell Development Trust should take this ambitious project forward.

**Sustainability**

The biggest initial challenge in delivering a community hub in Rosewell is securing funding to ensure project delivery.

1) A business plan will need to be developed that will demonstrate to potential funding organisations our ability to deliver the project and manage a sustainable business.

2) RDT are aware of the need to balance social outcomes and service delivery while operating the facility with a cost effective pricing strategy and prudent financial management.

**You can help**

Rosewell community hub is being built by the community, for the community. Local people are giving up considerable amounts of time to take the project forward and make it happen. If you feel you would like to contribute here’s a few options.

- Become a member of Rosewell Development Trust
- Become a volunteer with RDT
- Support fundraising activities which are organised by RDT
- Attend RDT meetings and further community engagement events
Some Comments from the survey

It would be a great boost for Rosewell and help make it good again

Delighted to hear it is going ahead

It will be fantastic to have a place for people to meet and socialise – I’m looking forward to it

This will be a superb addition to a lovely village. We look forward to using it

Brilliant! More power to your elbow

The Community Council and the development trust are doing a fantastic job!

The community hub will be very well supported by the community!

I think it is a wonderful idea and would be a real benefit for Rosewell

I appreciate the local groups, who in recent years, are working to make Rosewell better

What an excellent idea – it will be exciting to watch it develop

Rosewell is getting bigger – it needs a focal point so that it remains a community!

A community hub is long overdue, and with the expansion of the village is an absolute essential