

20 September 2011

NEWS RELEASE

South Oxhey Initiative: over 1,000 at open day

What should South Oxhey's shopping facilities look like over the next 60 years? That was the question put to residents, businesses and community leaders at a special consultation event at Watford Rural Parish Council in Oxhey Drive on Thursday (15 September).

A total of 1,080 people from across South Oxhey, Oxhey Hall and Carpenders Park took part in the open day. The options included a complete rebuild of the precinct, a part-rebuild or a refurbishment of the existing facilities.

The consultation forms part of the South Oxhey Initiative project which aims to improve facilities for the next 60 years. The project has cross-party support.

District Council Leader Ann Shaw said:

"Even at this early stage, people have strong opinions and important questions. This feedback will now help us to develop the proposals before we hold a further and more detailed public consultation next year."

Ann added:

"The phenomenal attendance must have set a record. It was especially good to see so many young people at the event. The outcome of the wider consultation will shape the future of facilities in this area – not just for them but for their children and grandchildren."

The full results of the consultation will be announced in the New Year but the early results indicate a first preference for a total refurbishment of the precinct with the rebuilding of the precinct as the second choice. Keeping the precinct as it is was the least favourite option. The final plan will depend on attracting the necessary commercial investment and on viability testing.

Other improvements to the area, including to swimming and other leisure facilities, may also be made as part of the Initiative.

Printed copies of the panels from last week's open day are available from Oxhey Library and Watford Rural Parish Council.

The Council is currently undertaking a second phase of engagement with young people's groups in order to reach as many teenagers and children as possible.

ENDS