

Cabinet meeting

Sheila Crocombe – Keynsham resident since 1962

My focus here is the first floor space in the library/one-stop-shop building which may be available for hire.

As a member of Keynsham Community Association I worked with the District Council for 7 years between 1994 and 2001 trying to establish a community building worthy of Keynsham and we failed. The Association disbanded in 2009 disillusioned but I retain an interest in any possible new community provision.

It is disappointing that the new space will in fact be a replacement Council Chamber so the community will have to make do with the times left-over from council business but I would like to flag up one particular group who could make good use of the space if they can get a regular slot and if it has a good sound system.

Keynsham has a thriving Film Club now in its 6th year run by a group of 10 volunteers showing a film once a month at the Fry Club.

This is a very comfortable venue which is not a church or a school and has excellent parking in a safe environment.

We have our own projector and screen which we have to carry and mount each time but we plug into the sound system at the Carter Room and at the moment no other hall in Keynsham can offer this except Broadlands school. This is actually too big and too expensive for our needs and the school has plans for major changes there anyway.

The proposed retractable raked seating is an excellent idea.

If the new space also had a projector unit and screen built-in this could be an income-generator as other groups would welcome it.

The Carter room is 266 square metres and we use about half of it so the new space at 136 square metres would be ideal.

We have 50 members paying an annual fee and our numbers are regularly swollen to about 80 with guests. We find many of our patrons enjoy an evening out here but would not travel further.

Our numbers could be further increased if the venue were accessible by public transport which the Fry club is not.

We do not want to move from the Carter room but this may be forced upon us in the future in which case we would have nowhere to go.

This issue may seem like a detail in the context of this major project but it could make a significant difference to the cultural life of the town – if we get right.

Thank you for your time.