

*Future plans for  
the replacement  
of the*

# **Memorial Hall**

**Issue 2 - March 2012**

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**The Council is committed to providing high quality entertainment and leisure facilities in Northwich; which will also contribute to the major regeneration proposals for the town.** Cheshire West and Chester Council has decided to replace the Memorial Hall with a new facility on the site of the Memorial Hall and Magistrates court. The new building is planned to open in January 2015.

**Cheshire West and Chester Council met with users and neighbouring residents of the Memorial Hall to discuss the implications of the Memorial Centre proposals on the Memorial Hall and Moss Farm, in mid February.**

A community competition has been launched to select a name for the centre with the selected preferred names to be released at the public consultation in April for public vote.

The public consultation will commence this April through May on the draft proposals for the scheme which currently includes a pool, events and entertainment venue, gym, space for sports, dance studios and squash courts. The outline design currently includes a permanent stage, dressing rooms and bars and kitchen.

£12.5 million has been set aside by the Council for the new leisure and entertainment centre in Northwich.

Following the opening of the new facility the Pool, gym and squash courts at Moss Farm will be decommissioned.

The future use of the pool building at Moss Farm will be decided following consultation with users but the Council is clear that Moss Farm is to continue as a top quality outdoor facility. None of these changes to Moss Farm will be made until the new building is operational.

In order to meet the timescale for the opening of the new facility the Memorial Hall will need to close in February 2013.

It is not practical to keep the Memorial Hall open whilst construction works are taking place on the rest of the site; and phasing the works would mean that it would take longer to build the new facility.

The Council and Brio Leisure (who operate the Council's leisure facilities) will work with user groups at the Memorial Hall between now and the end of this year to try and re-home them during the time that the Memorial Hall is closed. We are also looking at the possibility of providing a temporary venue.

The closure of the Memorial Hall is a sensitive subject and we are consulting the ex-services organisations and the Merchant Navy (together with the community of Northwich) on how the new building and its surroundings can continue to be used in commemoration of those who have died in conflict.

**Some key indicative dates for the proposals are:**

- Decision on the new name by the end of May 2012.
- First round of public consultation on the design of the new building between April and end of May 2012
- Demolition of the Magistrates Court between July and September 2012

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- Second phase of public consultation on design December 2012 to February 2013
- Memorial Hall closes February 2013
- Site preparation (asbestos investigations, service disconnection etc) and construction of the new building March 2013 – Dec 2015
- Planning application March 2013 which will also provide further opportunity for consultation (with a decision expected by end of June 2013)
- Demolition of the Memorial Hall between July and September 2013
- Construction of the new building between July 2013 and December 2014
- The new building opens in January 2015

**The Council will keep you informed and consulted** from now until the new building is open through the Northwich Guardian, Weaver Valley Partnership and council websites, leaflets, exhibitions and meetings.

## Frequently asked questions

**Q.** Who will own the new building?

**A.** Cheshire West and Chester Council

**Q.** What parking will be available at the new centre?

**A.** A similar amount to that currently available. Car parking provision always causes concern. Requirements are investigated as part of the design development and planning approval process taking into account other planned developments in Northwich.

**Q.** Why not refurbish the Memorial Hall?

**A.** The Memorial Hall has passed its design life and is costly to operate and maintain. The new centre will be state of the art and accommodate a wide range of entertainment and sports activities.

**Q.** Have you looked at other locations for the new centre?

**A.** Yes, a number of other sites were considered as part of the development process. The Memorial Hall and Magistrate Court gave the best solution and preferred site to meet Northwich's regeneration aims.

For further information go to [weavervalley.org.uk/](http://weavervalley.org.uk/) which will be updated with answers to frequently asked questions as the consultation progresses.

Information boards will be updated at the **Memorial Hall, Moss Farm, the Information Centre and Northwich Library**. Staff at the Memorial Hall and Moss Farm may also be able to answer your questions and if not will take your contact details and someone will get back to you.

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