

SYLVIA BEAUFOY YOUTH CENTRE, MIDHURST ROAD, PETWORTH

Design & Access Statement

Context

The context of this application is to construct a single storey extension on the North elevation of the existing building facing the Midhurst Road (A 272) to provide a dedicated workshop to provide facilities to continue with the development of Greenpower cars.

Sylvia Beaufoy was a lady that resided in Petworth, she had a passion for young people & was instrumental in many projects. In the 1960's Sylvia set up the Petworth Youth Association. In 1964 a swimming pool was opened, by the mid 1980's the swimming pool was in a poor state of repair & this & the land that surrounds the centre to the North & East was sold off to Chichester District Council who developed it into a car park. The Youth Centre retained the building & the adjacent games court to the North of the main building.

In 2016 The Local Authority withdrew funding from youth services including the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre. The Petworth Youth Association continued to operate employing its own staff, the centre has continued to thrive & now employs 3 full time staff, the Sylvia Beaufoy Centre became a CIO in 2020.

The centre has nearly 400 young people registered at the centre with an average of 150 unique young people attending at least once a week, this equates to approx. 75% of young people in the Petworth area. These young people can access the following activities.

- 1) Social Drop-in
- 2) Youth Café
- 3) Junior Youth Club
- 4) Duke of Edinburgh Awards at all 3 levels
- 5) Greenpower (STEM)
- 6) Mindfulness & Wellbeing
- 7) Mountain Biking & much more.

The extension will provide a purpose-built dedicated workshop where the centre can get the young people more involved in designing & building the Greenpower cars, at present the centre has 4 cars, once these have been completed, they are taken racing competing in international competitions. The intention is to make this a hub to support other Greenpower teams in their STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Maths)

The Petworth Youth Association is a registered charity (Charity Number 1187451)

Amount

The proposed extension amounts to an increase in the floor area of the centre by 68.800 square metres (Nett)

Layout

The proposals allow for a single storey extension constructed on the North elevation of the existing building (Facing the A272) & provides a natural extension to the centre.

Scale

The proposals are in proportion to the existing centre & does not have a detrimental effect on any surrounding properties.

Landscaping

This category does not apply to this application.

Appearance

The proposed extension has been carefully designed to complement the existing centre & does not have a detrimental effect on the adjoining neighbours.

Access

Access to the site will not be affected by the proposals.

C. R. Fish ~ December 2023