

**Beacon Hill Working Party**  
**Report to Full Council January 2024**

In November 2024 the Beacon Hill working party was set up by Full Council to consider alternative locations for a Beacon Hill Community Hub after the Manorstead site was deemed too expensive to continue with.

At its first meeting the working party has co-opted Hindhead Waverley Councillor, Julian Spence and County Councillor David Harmer.

The working party has been discussing two interrelated topics.

1. Provision of a 'community hub' in Beacon Hill area and;
2. Provision of additional space for the Grayshott doctor's surgery which most Beacon Hill and Hindhead residents use and is in need of expansion.

A number of options for the community hub have been considered as follows:

1. **Building a new facility on the Beacon Hill recreation ground**, which lies in the centre of Beacon Hill behind the Waverley run car park. This land is owned by Waverley. The benefit of this site is that it is in a central position with parking adjacent but would mean loss of recreational amenity and would require transfer of freehold from WBC. This idea is on hold for now.
2. **Utilising the current sports pavilion on Beacon Hill playing fields** (next to PGL) which would involve rebuilding and sharing the space with current sports users (as per Fernhurst Pavilion project). This site is owned by the trust; Hindhead Playing Field Association. Unfortunately there is already a project underway at this site to renovate the clubhouse and the 'out of town' location makes it less desirable, although it does have parking. This idea is unlikely to be achievable.
3. Purchasing and developing the property currently for sale on South Corner of Beacon Hill Parade as shown below.



Further information at

<https://www.owenisherwood.com/property/1-2-beacon-hill-and-1-bankside-beacon-hill-hindhead-surrey-gu26-6nr/856>

The working party considers this building to have excellent potential, both as a community hub, extension to the Grayshott surgery and possibly to encompass some social housing, in the way of flats above. These considerations are at a very early stage as the property has just come back onto the market and a lot of work needs to be done in terms of scoping the project and finding

funding. It may well be that this project is something that Waverley Borough Council may want to take on. Equally, there is no reason why Haslemere Town Council should not consider whether it wants to take on the redevelopment.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- I. That Cllrs Davidson and Spence approach WBC to get their view on whether or not this project is something they would consider undertaking.
- II. That in parallel, HTC officers and the BH working party are authorised to work towards providing Council with a more detailed report on how, if desired, Haslemere Town Council could acquire the site for development. Any small costs involved to be paid from the Council's professional services EMR.

**Expansion of Grayshott surgery.**

Cllr Arrick and Spence have met with Dr Akande at the surgery. They are keen to develop their site to expand current capacity and would very much welcome financial support from Waverley and surrounding town and parish councils. This project is to be initiated and run by the surgery, and is in very early stages. HTC's role may be to consider a CiL application if received.

**\*\*REPORT ENDS\*\***