

# GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mayor of Godalming lays the Foundations at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre**

On Friday 17 July 2015 Mr Ken Seymour of Gee Construction Ltd helped the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Anne Bott lay the foundations of the £1 million refurbishment of the 50 year old Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre.

Opened in 1962 the old community centre was undoubtedly a building of its time, which had become dated and expensive to run and maintain. Faced with a choice of either closing the centre or carrying out a major refurbishment, Godalming Town Council voted unanimously to create a community venue to serve the residents of the town for the next 50 years and appointed Godalming based chartered surveyors Drake & Kannemeyer LLP as the lead designers to create a modern community centre out of the shell of the existing building.

The Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Anne Bott said that she was "delighted that the first phase of the planned improvements will keep the centre at the heart of the community, serving the many voluntary organisations who have made it their home, whilst also providing new opportunities for even more community organisations and activity groups". The Mayor went on to say "The first phase of the refurbishment will see vast sustainable improvements to the existing buildings, making the centre fully accessible and useable for all members of our community. The project is on schedule and I look forward to the Centre reopening in November in time for Santa's annual visit on 28 November, when the Chamber of Commerce creates Santa's Grotto at the Christmas Festival."

### **Ends**

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### **Notes to editors:**

Originally built by Godalming Borough Council, Godalming Youth Centre was opened in 1962 by Wilfrid Noyce. Although best known as a member of Sir Edmund Hillary's climbing expedition which achieved the first successful ascent of Mount Everest in 1953, Wilfrid Noyce was also a Master at Charterhouse School and local councillor who had a keen interest in youth services. Wilfrid died in a climbing accident 18 days after the centre was opened and the Godalming Youth Centre was renamed the Wilfrid Noyce Youth and Community Centre in his honour.