

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

WILFRID NOYCE CENTRE – SECURITY MEASURES

Following a recent spate of incidents involving local youths repeatedly accessing the Wilfrid Noyce Centre roof and causing damage to the newly refurbished centre, Members considered that, in order to safeguard both the building and the individuals who are damaging it, they had little option but to agree to the expense required for the installation of CCTV cameras, additional lighting and the installation of an access gates in the hope this will prevent further incursions.

Members were informed that incidents of youths climbing on the roofs of buildings was not confined to the Wilfrid Noyce Centre but had been experienced by many others in the town. Councillors expressed their disappointment that such a small minority of youths are causing so much damage in our town and reflected upon the fact that the use of funds for these additional security measures could deprive others within the town of much needed support. Ultimately the money needed to protect the council property comes from the local community via their council tax and in a bid to limit any further expense to the people of Godalming it was felt that these measures were warranted.

Cllr Reynolds, Chairman of Godalming Town Council's Policy & Management Committee said: "It is deeply disappointing and extremely frustrating that the council has to spend its limited resources on measures such as these when there are so many other priorities within our community. Climbing onto roofs, especially in the dark, is extremely dangerous which is why the Council is having to take preventative and deterrent measures. It is to be hoped that the local police are able to catch these youngsters before they injure themselves or do further damage to other people's property. I would encourage all residents to call the police immediately they see any children or youths climbing onto the roof either at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre or indeed at any other property."

Ends

In case of query please contact:

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