

Do you support Godalming Town Council exploring options for the Borough Hall (including potential cultural and performance uses), with early feasibility funded from Town Council reserves? Additional Comments

Public Comment	GTC Response
I consider it very important to maintain the Borough Hall for the use of the local community.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the importance placed on maintaining the Borough Hall for the use and benefit of the local community. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Hall can continue to serve residents, community groups and local organisations in a sustainable and accessible way. The Council's aim is to ensure that any future arrangements protect the community value of the Borough Hall and support its long-term use by the people of Godalming.
The Borough Hall is an important historical building in Godalming and has potential to be used more frequently	GTC notes this comment and recognises the Borough Hall's importance as a historic building within Godalming, and also notes the view that the Hall has potential to be used more frequently and to provide greater benefit to the local community. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the building's heritage, condition, accessibility, future programming and operational arrangements could support increased community use in a sustainable way.
A valuable resource for cinema, concert and other events.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the Borough Hall's value as a venue for cinema, concerts and a wide range of other events. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Hall's role as an accessible cultural, entertainment and community venue could be protected and supported. The aim would be to ensure that any future arrangements continue to provide a flexible and sustainable facility for residents, local groups, performers and audiences in Godalming.
This is a fundamental character building to Godalming and can be a hub to strengthen community activities that bring Godalming its appeal and culture.	GTC acknowledges the view that the Hall has the potential to act as a stronger community hub, supporting activities that bring people together and add to the town's appeal. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Borough Hall could be retained, developed and managed in a way that strengthens community activity, supports local culture, and delivers long-term benefit for Godalming residents.
It's important to retain and develop the BH as a community resource. Having this central venue for arts and community events is a key factor in Godalming's character.	GTC agrees that a central venue for arts, cultural activity and community events contributes significantly to Godalming's character and sense of place. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Borough Hall's community, cultural and civic role could be protected, enhanced and made sustainable for the long-term benefit of residents, local groups and the wider town.
The Hall is a vital local resource for film, dance, and class events for the local community.	As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Hall's existing cultural, recreational and community uses could be protected and supported. The aim would be to ensure that any future arrangements continue to provide an accessible, flexible and sustainable venue for local residents, groups and organisations.
I think it is really important that we have a performance space and hall available for hire for Goslings nursery and Repair Café and various groups who use it. There are relatively spaces in Godalming which are available of this capacity and with the facilities. It is really important to have this space as part of our social and cultural life in the town. What can we do for our local young people? With cuts in youth work there is a distinct shortage of social opportunities for teenagers in our town.	As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Borough Hall could continue to support existing users, cultural activity, community hire and future programming, including opportunities that benefit young people and strengthen community life in Godalming.
The Borough Hall must remain as a community venue for the performing arts. I'd happily pay to see quality performers	GTC notes the support for attracting quality performers and providing cultural opportunities for residents. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Hall's role as an accessible arts, performance and community space could be protected and developed in a financially sustainable way, while continuing to serve the needs and interests of Godalming residents.
Makes sense to explore the options at this stage to see what is possible, how much it would cost, and potential external funding contributors.	GTC notes this comment and agrees that it is sensible to explore the available options at this stage before any decisions are made. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess what may be possible, the likely capital and ongoing revenue costs, operational responsibilities, and any opportunities for external funding or partnership contributions. This work would help ensure that any future proposal is evidence-based, financially sustainable, and in the best interests of Godalming residents.
I agree that the probability of this being neglected by the Unitary Authority seems likely.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the concern that, under future local government arrangements, valued local facilities may not receive the level of attention or investment residents would wish to see. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, GTC would assess whether local ownership or management could provide greater focus, accountability and long-term protection for facilities such as the Borough Hall. Any decision would need to be based on clear evidence, financial sustainability, and the best interests of Godalming residents.
Options could quickly be generated by third parties interested in making use of the facilities and limited by clear scope provided by GTC.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the value of exploring a range of options for the future use of the facilities. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council could seek input from interested third parties, community organisations and potential users where this can help identify practical and sustainable opportunities. Any such engagement would need to be guided by a clear scope set by GTC, ensuring that proposals remain aligned with community benefit, financial responsibility, and the long-term interests of Godalming residents.
Please ensure the hall remains cheap to hire by not spending too much on renovation	GTC notes the concern that any renovation or improvement works should be proportionate and financially responsible. As part of assessing any potential community asset transfer, the Council would carefully consider the balance between necessary investment, long-term maintenance, hire charges, and the need to keep the facility sustainable and available for community use.
This is a key facility in the town and we should do all we can to keep it open	GTC understands the importance residents place on keeping the facility open and available for community use. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would continue to assess the options, responsibilities and financial implications carefully, with the aim of securing a sustainable future for the Borough Hall in the best interests of Godalming residents and local organisations.
It is an important asset for the community.	GTC notes this comment.

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Public Comment	GTC Response
Apart from its historical status it is an integral part of the town. It could have a lot to offer local people but needs investment and modernisation.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the Borough Hall's importance as both a historic feature and an integral part of Godalming's civic and community life. The Council also notes the view that the building has significant potential to offer more for local people, provided that appropriate investment and modernisation can be secured. These matters would form an important part of any community asset transfer assessment, including consideration of the building's condition, heritage value, accessibility, running costs, future use, and long-term financial sustainability.
It's an important facility for a lot of artist performances and must remain as it currently is	The Council understands the desire for the facility to remain available for these uses. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would assess how the Borough Hall's current community and performance functions could be protected, supported and developed in a financially sustainable way for the benefit of residents, performers, community groups and local audiences.
The borough Hall and Holloway Hill recreation ground are each in their own way integral to the vitality and longevity of a community spirit within Godalming. Community cohesion is created by the ability for casual meetings between residents arising from use of local amenities and by the support of shared interests through local venues. I fully recommend that GTC pursue full ownership of these vital facilities.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the important role that both the Borough Hall and Holloway Hill Recreation Ground play in supporting community life, wellbeing and cohesion in Godalming. The Council agrees that accessible local amenities and venues can help residents meet, take part in shared activities, and strengthen community spirit. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would continue to assess the benefits, responsibilities and long-term implications of any future ownership or management arrangements for these facilities. The Council's aim is to ensure that any decisions are made in the best interests of Godalming residents and support the continued provision of valued community spaces for current and future generations
I fully support GTC in regard to taking responsibility for both the Borough Hall and Holloway Hill rec. The organisation has proven to have the towns interest at the heart of what they do.	GTC recognises the importance of both facilities to the town and will continue to approach any potential community asset transfer carefully and responsibly. The Council's assessment would focus on long-term community benefit, financial sustainability, operational responsibilities, and ensuring that any future arrangements serve the interests of Godalming residents.
Look at the example of the St. Agnes mechanics institute (Cornwall) - a wonderful multipurpose community space.	GTC notes this comment and the reference to St Agnes Miners and Mechanics' Institute in Cornwall as an example of a successful multi-purpose community space. As part of exploring any potential community asset transfer, the Council could consider relevant examples of community-managed venues elsewhere, including how they are governed, funded, maintained and used by local groups. The aim would be to assess whether lessons from similar facilities could help secure a sustainable and accessible future for the Borough Hall for the benefit of Godalming residents and the wider community.
It is a much needed building, has a lot of use. Would be awful to loose such a building	GTC notes this comment and recognises the Borough Hall's importance as a much-needed and well-used facility in Godalming. The Council understands the concern about the potential loss of such an important building to the community. As part of considering any potential community asset transfer, the Council would continue to assess how the Borough Hall could be protected, maintained and used sustainably for the benefit of residents, community groups and local organisations.
The more we have local input to local services the better	GTC notes this comment and recognises the importance of local input in shaping local services and facilities. Community involvement is an important part of considering any potential community asset transfer. The Council will continue to take residents' views into account as it explores options for the Borough Hall, with the aim of ensuring that any future arrangements reflect local priorities and deliver clear benefits for Godalming residents.
The Borough Hall is a wonderful Godalming asset and I would be very sorry to see it lost to our community. Nor do I wish to see it turned over to the private sector like G Live, with associated high prices.	GTC notes this comment and recognises the importance residents place on the Borough Hall as a valued community asset for Godalming, and also acknowledges the concern that the Hall should not be lost to the community or operated in a way that makes it inaccessible through unaffordable charges. A key part of assessing any potential community asset transfer would be to consider how the building could remain available, sustainable and of genuine benefit to local residents, community groups and organisations. The Council will continue to explore options carefully, including governance, management, financial viability and community access, before any decisions are made.
We strongly support the Town Council taking over responsibility for the Borough Hall.	GTC notes this comment.
What ever happens to the Borough hall I feel total control should be with the Town council for the benefit of Godalming residents.	As part of the community asset transfer assessment, GTC would consider the most appropriate governance, management and ownership arrangements to ensure that the building's future use remains accountable, sustainable and focused on community benefit. Any decisions would need to take account of the legal, financial and operational implications of a transfer, as well as the long-term interests of the town.
A town of Godalming's size needs to have a well-maintained hall.	GTC recognises the importance of Godalming having a well-maintained hall that can serve the needs of residents, community groups, organisations and visitors. The condition, maintenance requirements and long-term running costs of the Borough Hall will be important factors in assessing any potential community asset transfer. The Council will continue to consider these matters carefully to ensure that any future arrangements are financially sustainable and support the continued provision of a valued community facility.
This is a major facility to the town and surrounding villages and should be kept.	GTC agrees that its community value is a key consideration in any potential community asset transfer. The Council will continue to explore options for securing the building's future, with the aim of retaining a valued local facility for the benefit of residents, community groups and the wider area.
Safeguard our local community space is a great positive idea. Investigate heritage protection status.	GTC notes this supportive comment and agrees that safeguarding valued local community space is central to the consideration of any potential community asset transfer. GTC also notes the suggestion to investigate heritage protection status for the Borough Hall. This will be considered as part of the wider due diligence process.
Just please do not turn into flats!	The purpose of exploring a potential community asset transfer is to consider whether the Borough Hall can be retained for community use and secured for the long-term benefit of Godalming residents, community groups and local organisations. The Council will continue to assess the options carefully, including the financial, operational and legal implications, before any decisions are made.

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The Borough Hall is a key facility in Godalming and securing its future is a high priority. I support the Town Council's approach to investigating possibilities using reserves where necessary.	<p>GTC notes the response and welcomes the clear recognition of the Borough Hall as a key community facility for Godalming. Securing its long-term future remains a high priority, and the Council is committed to exploring all realistic options for community asset transfer. The Council also notes the support for its current approach, including the careful consideration of using reserves where appropriate. Any use of reserves would need to be proportionate, financially responsible, and aligned with the Council's wider priorities and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>GTC will continue to investigate the opportunities, risks and costs associated with any potential transfer, with the aim of protecting this important local facility for the benefit of residents, community groups and future generations</p>
I think it is vital to retain the Borough Hall and I wholeheartedly support the Town Council exploring options.	<p>GTC welcomes the support for the Town Council exploring options for its future.</p> <p>The Council recognises the Borough Hall as an important community asset and will continue to explore potential options constructively. Any preferred approach would need to be supported by a robust options appraisal and business case.</p>
I would like the exterior appearance of the Borough Hall to be preserved.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's wish for the exterior appearance of the Borough Hall to be preserved. The Council recognises that the character of Godalming town centre is closely linked to its historic built environment and the setting of key civic buildings within the Conservation Area .</p> <p>If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would expect any repair, refurbishment or upgrade proposals to respect and, where possible, enhance the building's external character. Any external alterations would need to be developed in line with the relevant planning framework.</p>
This would be a fabulous idea and we could set up a CIC to run it.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for the proposal and the suggestion that a Community Interest Company (CIC) could be established to run the facility.</p> <p>The Council recognises that, in some circumstances, an arms-length operating model (such as a CIC, charitable trust, or other not-for-profit body) can help to attract volunteers, access certain grants/funding streams, and focus specialist management and programming. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC could explore a range of governance and operating options, provided they demonstrably protect community benefit and are sustainable long-term.</p>
As long as it doesn't use too much money	<p>GTC notes the respondent's clear concern about affordability and that any proposal must not require an excessive call on public funds.</p> <p>The Council agrees that any Community Asset Transfer (or other long-term arrangement) should only be progressed where there is a robust business case demonstrating value for money, clarity on all ongoing costs and liabilities, and a realistic plan to keep the venue financially sustainable. Any decision would need to set out clearly the likely impact on the Town Council's budget and precept, with options and risks presented openly before commitments are made.</p>
I think it is very important for Godalming to be in charge of its surroundings. Godalming Town Council has already proved they are excellent at looking after the town. It is a pleasure to live in. I don't think any of us wanted this transfer, to a larger unitary authority, I think the more that we can put into Godalming Town Council out of Waverly the better. Many thanks.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's strong preference for local decision-making and stewardship of Godalming's surroundings and community assets, and welcomes the positive feedback about the town and GTC's contribution to maintaining a pleasant environment for residents.</p> <p>GTC recognises the concern that, as local government structures change over time, decisions can feel more remote. Where there are opportunities for more local accountability, through devolution of services or community asset transfer. GTC is willing to explore options constructively with partner authorities, where this can be shown to deliver clear community benefit and improved responsiveness.</p>
I would certainly be likely to support any reasonable initiatives which you might wish to take, and accept the consequence that this would quite possibly lead to an increase in my council tax bill.	<p>GTC notes and appreciates the respondent's willingness to support reasonable, evidence-based initiatives and the acknowledgement that, depending on the option pursued, there could be financial implications for GTC's budget and precept.</p> <p>GTC recognises that affordability and value for money are central considerations. If transfer proposals are developed further, GTC would ensure decisions are taken transparently and are supported by a robust business case.</p>
Despite not being listed it is an attractive building with useful spaces.	<p>GTC recognises the importance of maintaining the quality and character of prominent buildings within Godalming town centre. If future arrangements for the transfer of the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would want any plans for repair, upgrade or adaptation to respect the building's character while ensuring the spaces remain safe, accessible and fit for community use.</p>
The Borough Hall is a vital resource as a community centre, a focus fir all important artistic activities, health and well being classed, and the Repair Shop	<p>GTC recognises the value of having a flexible, accessible town-centre venue that can host both creative and wellbeing activity. This aligns with GTC's corporate priorities to encourage and promote access to leisure facilities and the arts for all.</p>
a vital part of our town	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
I would be very much in favour of retaining this building and for the town council to use their reserve funds to pay for a feasibility study.	<p>GTC recognises that a properly scoped feasibility study can be a sensible first step in testing options, costs, risks and deliverability before any long-term decisions are taken. The use of any Council reserves would need to be considered carefully and transparently, with a clear purpose and value for money rationale. Any proposal to commission a feasibility study would therefore need to be brought forward through the appropriate Council decision making and procurement processes.</p>
Visitor centre - Cultural and Performance Centre - Open for keep fit classes and art classes - Use for Private events & Catering	<p>GTC notes and welcomes the respondent's suggestions for the Borough Hall to operate as a more flexible multi-use venue, and recognises that a broader mix of uses can help increase footfall, improve year-round occupancy, and strengthen the Hall's long-term sustainability, provided community access and affordability are protected.</p>

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It's not clear what would be the impact of having reduced reserves	GTC agrees that this is an important consideration. Reserves play a key role in maintaining financial resilience and stability, including the ability to manage unexpected costs, fund essential repairs, smooth cashflow, and meet future liabilities. A material reduction in reserves can reduce the Council's capacity to respond to emergencies and can increase reliance on future income (including the precept) if unplanned costs arise. If proposals are developed further GTC would ensure that members and residents are provided with clear, transparent information on reserves, proposed expenditure and associated risks.
Could do more with this value asset than currently happens	GTC recognises the importance of ensuring that key community facilities are well used, well promoted and financially sustainable, and that they maximise community benefit. If future arrangements for the transfer of the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would want to explore how the venue's use could be strengthened through a clear programme and operating plan.
If this does not become part of the town council's responsibility, it will be sold off for housing and we will lose this valuable asset and a lovely building	GTC notes the respondent's concern that if the Borough Hall does not become GTC's responsibility there is a risk it could be disposed of and redeveloped, potentially resulting in the loss of a valued community asset and an attractive civic building. GTC recognises the strength of local feeling that the Borough Hall should be retained for community benefit and the importance of decisions being based on clear evidence and confirmed proposals.
The Borough Hall is a vital asset for Godalming.	GTC notes this comment.
I have long thought that Godalming deserves a vibrant Arts Centre and the Borough Hall would be the perfect location.	GTC recognises the importance of cultural facilities in supporting community life and participation and that a well-programmed town-centre venue can contribute to the wider vitality of the town by supporting events and activity within the central area . If future arrangements for the transfer of the Borough Hall are progressed, the Town Council would want any Arts Centre ambition to be underpinned by a robust options appraisal and business case.
Unless you fund it by selling the "vanity" project that is the MS site in the high street and which seems to be going nowhere	GTC notes the respondent's concern about how any proposal would be funded, and the suggestion that funding should come from disposal of the (assumed) M&Co site on the High Street, which is owned and managed by Waverley Borough Council. It is important to be clear that decisions on the redevelopment of the M&Co site sit with Waverley Borough Council and are separate from this Community Asset Transfer survey, which is focused on the future arrangements for specific community assets such as the Borough Hall.
The Godalming Music Festival is just one of many great things that take place in the Borough Hall	GTC notes the respondent's point that the Godalming Music Festival is one of many valued activities that take place at the Borough Hall. The Council recognises that having a central, accessible venue capable of hosting concerts and cultural events supports participation in the arts and strengthens community life.
I fully support the idea of keeping as many local assets under local stakeholder control and significant influence. The principle of subsidiaries applies and the more local people can control the local interests the better. The borough hall should be listed and is of critical value to the character of that area of Godalming, and by association the whole of Godalming.	GTC notes the respondent's strong support for keeping local assets under local stakeholder influence and control, reflecting the principle of decision-making being taken as close to the community as practicable. The Council also notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall is of critical value to the character and distinctiveness of this part of Godalming, and by association the wider town. In relation to the suggestion that the Borough Hall should be listed, the Council notes that formal statutory listing is a separate process. However, as part of any future proposals for the Borough Hall (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would expect the building's heritage and townscape value to be properly assessed and for any refurbishment or upgrade proposals to be designed to preserve and respect the building's external character.
I agree with Godalming Town Council's assertion that the Borough Hall is an important feature of the town and it's heritage. It must be maintained for the benefit of the local community.	GTC recognises that the Borough Hall sits adjacent to a conservation area, where the character of the area relies on the historic built environment and its heritage features . The Town Council also recognises that town-centre buildings and spaces provide a focal point for organised activities and community life.
Please make sure we save this piece of Godalming's history	GTC notes this comment.
We totally agree with Godalming Town Council exploring options for the Borough Hall to remain in local hands. For this we would be happy to pay an extra £0.60 per month to Godalming Town Council by way of Council Tax, in order to make this happen.	GTC notes the respondent's support for exploring options for the Borough Hall to remain in local stewardship, and the willingness expressed to pay a modest additional amount through council tax to help secure a sustainable future for the building. The Council recognises the strength of local feeling that the Borough Hall should be retained for community benefit. Any proposal that could affect the precept will be considered carefully and transparently. If transfer options are progressed further , GTC would ensure decisions are based on a robust business case.
Performance and cultural use makes sense, also ability for residents to rent the hall for receptions, exhibitions and other private functions possibly	GTC recognises the value of a flexible, town-centre venue that can host a broad programme of cultural activity alongside community and private hires. This aligns with GTC's adopted priority to encourage and promote access to the arts for all and to keep the town's events and cultural offer under review . The Borough Hall's role as an accessible setting for organised activity also supports wider town-centre vitality and community life.
As this was previously our asset and transferred to Waverley we have a right to have it back in the borough. Otherwise you will decimate the beauty of Godalming as a rural town.	It is important to clarify that any right to have an asset transferred back would depend on the current legal ownership and any historic transfer documentation (e.g., title, covenants, trust provisions and any agreements at the time of transfer). As part of any Community Asset Transfer discussion, GTC would expect these matters to be checked carefully alongside the financial and practical implications, so that any proposals are evidence-based and deliverable.
I find the borough Hall a splendid asset for the Godalming Film Society and other events. It would be most unfortunate if it were allowed to deteriorate.	GTC recognises the concern that it would be most unfortunate if the building were allowed to deteriorate, as this would risk the loss of an important town-centre facility used by residents and local groups. If future arrangements for the transfer of the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC's priority would be to secure a sustainable long-term solution that safeguards community access and is supported by an appropriate maintenance and investment plan, so the Hall remains safe, welcoming and fit for purpose.
Praise the council for using a municipal functioning office for community events	GTC notes this comment.
It would be a shame to potentially lose this valuable community asset	GTC notes this comment.

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<p>The Borough Hall is an important landmark in Godalming and should be protected. It is very important that the community see this building as a focal point in their town.</p>	<p>GTC recognises that the character and identity of Godalming town centre is closely linked to its historic built environment and heritage features, and that town-centre buildings and spaces provide a focal point for organised community activity and civic life. Respondents' comments such as this reinforce the importance of safeguarding the Borough Hall's role and presence within the heart of Godalming.</p>
<p>We need a good arts venue in Godalming.</p>	<p>GTC recognises the importance of accessible arts and cultural provision for residents of all ages, and this aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts for all and to support initiatives that widen participation.</p> <p>In the context of this Community Asset Transfer survey, GTC would want any proposals for an arts venue (including any future arrangements for the Borough Hall) to be underpinned by a sustainable operating and investment plan, so that community benefit is protected and the venue remains viable long-term.</p>
<p>I am President of Godalming Operatic Society who use the hall for their annual Gilbert & Sullivan performances and have done since 1925. This site is central in Godalming making it easy for people to get to it, especially if they don't have their own transport. We need this in the town for many activities which bring pleasure to the residents and those from further away. This benefits other amenities in the town, catering for visitors needs.</p>	<p>GTC recognises the Borough Hall as a valued, central venue that is easier for many people to reach, particularly those without access to private transport, and which supports a wide range of activities for residents and visitors.</p> <p>GTC notes the respondent's point that cultural events at the Borough Hall bring wider benefits to the town, including supporting local businesses and other amenities by generating visitor footfall, particularly in the town centre. Protecting and sustaining this type of community provision will be an important consideration in any future decisions about the Borough Hall's long-term management, including any potential community asset transfer, and would need to be supported by a viable operating and investment plan to secure ongoing community benefit.</p>
<p>The Borough Hall is a vital town asset for all manner of activities and not least the annual Godalming Operatic shows since 1925. The WBC council offices were essentially "a bolt on addition" If the council office complex is sold off the surely a proportion of the sale money should be devoted to the Borough Hall. Activities at the Hall bring much other benefit to the town economically. I am a member of Godalming Operatic and have written two books about the Society and I recognise the value of the Borough Hall. The Hall belongs to Godalming 60p per month per £1M borrowed is a small price to pay and as said if the council complex is sold then a proportion of the sale is due to Godalming.</p>	<p>GTC recognises the Borough Hall as a valued and longstanding community asset, with a well-evidenced cultural and economic contribution to the town. GTC notes the strength of local feeling that the Borough Hall should be treated as a Godalming asset and protected for ongoing community use. If the wider Waverley Borough Council office complex were to be sold or redeveloped, GTC would support an approach that ensures the Borough Hall benefits directly, particularly through appropriate reinvestment in the Hall's fabric, facilities, and long-term financial sustainability, so that community use can continue and grow.</p> <p>GTC is willing to engage constructively with Waverley Borough Council on viable options for the Borough Hall's future. The priority should be a sustainable outcome that safeguards the Hall for residents and community organisations, recognising both its heritage value and its ongoing role in the town's economic and social life.</p>
<p>It is really important that Godalming has a cultural space. It needs investment, so National Lottery funding may be an option. otherwise, expensive for local residents who are already seeing steep Council Tax increases under this government with funding also being diverted away to Labour constituencies further north in yet another stealth tax. Appalling!</p>	<p>GTC agrees that it is important for the town to retain accessible cultural and community spaces and notes the respondent's view that such facilities require ongoing investment to remain viable and fit for purpose.</p> <p>GTC also recognise residents' concerns about the overall cost-of-living and the cumulative impact of council tax and other household pressures. Any proposal that could result in additional local cost would need to be considered transparently.</p> <p>If a community asset transfer (or related arrangement) is progressed, GTC could support early exploration of external funding opportunities, alongside other grants and partnership funding, to reduce the burden on local residents and improve long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Any future decision would be subject to a robust business case, appropriate consultation, and due diligence.</p>
<p>The Hall has been really valuable for cultural and performance use, and is right in the heart of the town. Losing this would be a major dulling of Godalming's ambience</p>	<p>GTC agrees with the respondent's view that the Hall is a highly valued cultural and performance venue and that its central location makes it particularly accessible and integral to town-centre life.</p> <p>The Council recognises the concern that losing this facility would have a significant negative impact on Godalming's character, ambience and vibrancy, as well as reducing opportunities for residents and community groups to participate in and enjoy local arts and cultural activity.</p> <p>If a community asset transfer (or other future management arrangement) is progressed, GTC's priority would be to support an outcome that safeguards the Hall for continued community use, with a sustainable plan for investment, operation and long-term viability, informed by a robust business case and appropriate consultation.</p>
<p>I have been performing and attending many Godalming Operatic Society's (GOC) performances at the Borough Hall for 30 years. GOC celebrated its 100th anniversary last year.</p>	<p>GTC recognises that the Borough Hall supports long-running local organisations and events that contribute significantly to community life. Any future arrangements considered through a community asset transfer (or other model) should prioritise a sustainable outcome that enables the Hall to continue hosting cultural and community activities, supported by appropriate investment, clear governance arrangements, and ongoing accessibility for local groups.</p>
<p>Yes, it must be saved for the community. Needs better marketing of events</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC acknowledges that the Borough Hall's events programme would benefit from stronger, more consistent marketing. GTC recognises that increasing awareness of what's on (and how to book) can materially improve attendance, income, and the overall vibrancy of the venue, supporting both community access and long-term sustainability.</p> <p>If GTC were to take over responsibility for the Borough Hall, the Council would expect an early priority to be a clear marketing and communications plan, developed with current users and hirers. GTC would also want to ensure that marketing activity is proportionate, cost-effective, and supports a balanced programme of commercial hires and community use.</p>

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<p>Its imperative to Godalming and people in the area that this building is protected for the future</p> <p>I don't trust West Surrey to protect Godalming community assets. I am sure its priority will be to asset strip all boroughs in order to pay back the £4 Ben debt dumped on it.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC notes the respondent's concern about whether the future unitary authority would prioritise the long-term protection of Godalming's community assets, particularly in the context of its wider financial pressures.</p> <p>The Council recognises that public confidence depends on clear, enforceable safeguards.</p> <p>GTC has previously indicated it is open to taking on and stewarding local assets where this delivers a clear benefit for residents and can be supported by a viable, long-term plan. The Council's current priorities focus on assessing opportunities for managing assets currently held by Waverley Borough Council. Any decision on the Borough Hall would therefore need to be based on a robust business case, due diligence, and appropriate consultation.</p>
<p>A very good idea</p> <p>We fully support GTC defence of Godalming special assets and amenities, including Holloway Hill recreation ground, Lammas Lands, Borough Hall, and special car parks.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>The Borough Hall is a valuable venue that must be preserved.</p> <p>People voted on to the council must not declare any political affiliation and should be elected on their merits as persons with knowledge of community affairs with a track record of community involvement at any level including schools, youth/church organisations, youth/adult sports clubs or groups and the like.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC welcomes the respondent's strong support for the protection and long-term stewardship of Godalming's special community assets and amenities. The Council recognises that these assets contribute materially to Godalming's character, community life, and accessibility, and that residents place a high value on them being managed in the town's interests. GTC remains committed to working constructively with partner authorities to secure sustainable, transparent arrangements for the future management of important local assets, where this is deliverable and supported by a robust case.</p> <p>As reflected in the Council's established approach to place-shaping and asset stewardship, GTC continues to assess opportunities for local management of assets currently held by the principal authority, where that would benefit residents and strengthen long-term accountability. Any proposals would be considered through proper governance, due diligence, and consultation.</p>
<p>This is an important community asset and it is imperative it is retained as us, safe from any asset realisation plans of the new unitary authority.</p>	<p>GTC acknowledges that the Borough Hall is an important community asset and that its future should be secured against any proposals that could lead to disposal or loss of community use as part of wider local government reorganisation or estate rationalisation.</p> <p>The Council recognises that residents want long-term certainty. If a community asset transfer (or any alternative governance/management arrangement) is progressed, GTC's priority would be to ensure that the Borough Hall is retained for community benefit through clear, transparent and enforceable protections.</p> <p>Any decision by GTC would be subject to a robust business case, due diligence, and appropriate consultation.</p>
<p>Godalming deserves a facility like the Cranleigh Arts Centre. A well run appeal for funding from local residents could be considered. I don't know the technicalities but if it had charitable status donations could attract tax relief.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's aspiration for Godalming to have a high-quality cultural facility comparable to venues such as the Cranleigh Arts Centre, and agrees that well-used arts and performance space can bring significant social, cultural and economic benefit.</p> <p>GTC also notes the suggestion that an appeal to local residents and supporters could form part of a future funding package, alongside external grants. The Council recognises that, depending on the governance model, charitable status (or delivery through a charitable body) may help unlock additional funding streams and may enable eligible donations to attract tax relief through established mechanisms such as Gift Aid. However, the technicalities are important. Any proposal for the Borough Hall, whether a Community Asset Transfer to GTC or an alternative arrangement, would need a robust business case.</p>
<p>Other similar-sized towns in the area (Farnham, Haslemere & Cranleigh) all have a theatre or arts space so I think it is important that there is one for Godalming too.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's comparison with other similar-sized local towns and villages (including Farnham, Haslemere and Cranleigh) and agrees that accessible arts, theatre and performance space is an important part of a thriving town.</p> <p>The Council recognises that cultural venues support community life, provide opportunities for local groups and residents to participate in the arts, and contribute to the wider vitality of the town centre through footfall linked to events and activities.</p> <p>In considering the future of the Borough Hall, GTC's priority would be a sustainable, long-term outcome that protects community benefit. This would need to be underpinned by a robust business case.</p>
<p>Godalming & its villages is certainly big enough to support an arts/entertainment centre. The Film Society has 100 plus members, GTG play to full houses & other , newer Am Dram groups, music groups etc. are all looking for spaces..plus the music gigs that used to happen at St John's Church had to relocate to Haslemere... that is before other creative arts and entertainment shows & events.. so think it could pay its way...</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that Godalming (including the surrounding villages) is of a scale that can support an arts and entertainment centre, and welcomes the specific examples provided of existing and growing demand for venues.</p> <p>GTC also notes the concern that when appropriate local venues are unavailable, events can be displaced to neighbouring towns, which can reduce local participation and divert associated footfall away from Godalming. Cultural events and town-centre activity are recognised as part of what supports the vitality and wider benefits of the town centre.</p> <p>In considering the future of the Borough Hall (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), the Town Council would want the level of demand described by respondents to be captured and tested through a clear programme plan and robust business case so that decisions are based on evidence and long-term sustainability.</p>
<p>Fully agree with the TC's position on this</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>

Do you support Godalming Town Council exploring options for the Borough Hall (including potential cultural and performance uses), with early feasibility funded from Town Council reserves? Additional Comments

Public Comment	GTC Response
It is important for Godalming to retain this venue for events and performances.	GTC notes this comment.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
I liked the idea of using it as a performance space (which is already is, but developing that idea). Could it also be hired out for conferences? Would that generate some extra funding?	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for retaining and developing Borough Hall as a performance space, reflecting its existing role as an arts, cultural and community venue. The Council also recognises the suggestion that Borough Hall could be made available for conferences or similar hires. This type of use could help diversify income and support the long-term sustainability of the building, provided it remains compatible with community access, affordability, and the Hall's core function as a local performance and community space.</p> <p>As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect potential uses to be considered against clear criteria, including community benefit, accessibility, heritage considerations, running costs, investment requirements, and opportunities to generate income that can be reinvested into the facility for the benefit of Godalming residents.</p>
Concerts, theatre, afternoon disco, wedding reception/ functions, cinema, quiz or hobby events, fundraising events, town meetings, social and sporting events, parent and child activities are a few suggestions as to the use of the Borough Hall.	<p>Godalming Town Council welcomes the wide range of suggested uses for Borough Hall. These suggestions reflect the Hall's potential to operate as a flexible, multi-use venue serving different age groups and interests across the town. They also support the Council's view that any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should prioritise continued community access, cultural use, affordability, and opportunities for local groups and residents to use the building.</p> <p>The Council would expect any future operating model to consider how a varied programme of events could be delivered sustainably.</p>
Continuing to use it as community hall for local events	GTC notes the respondent's support for Borough Hall continuing to be used as a community hall for local events. This aligns with the Council's view that Borough Hall should remain an accessible and flexible venue for the benefit of Godalming residents, local organisations, and community groups. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how the building can continue to support local events while remaining affordable, well-managed, and financially sustainable.
Continue with live music, fitness groups, children activities, cinema, local meetings, and theatre	These uses reflect the Hall's established role as a flexible arts, cultural, wellbeing, and community venue. GTC considers that any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should prioritise maintaining this breadth of community use, ensuring the building remains accessible, affordable, and capable of supporting a varied programme of activities for residents and local organisations. Any future operating model should also consider the facilities, management arrangements, and investment needed to sustain these uses over the long term.
Arts centre in the style of Aldershot's excellent west end centre.	<p>Godalming Town Council notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could be developed as an arts centre, drawing inspiration from successful multi-use arts venues such as Aldershot's West End Centre. This supports the view that Borough Hall has potential to remain and develop as a central cultural and community facility for Godalming, providing space for performances, workshops, classes, events, and wider community activity.</p> <p>As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect this type of option to be considered alongside practical issues such as investment requirements, operating costs, accessibility, affordability, heritage considerations, and the need to ensure that the venue continues to serve Godalming residents and local organisations.</p>
Could have some cultural festival activities in conjunction with other GTC venues	<p>GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could be used for cultural festival activities in conjunction with other Town Council venues. This would support the Hall's role as part of a wider network of community and cultural spaces across Godalming, helping to host performances, exhibitions, workshops, talks, and other festival-related activities. It could also encourage greater collaboration between local organisations, artists, community groups, and the Town Council.</p> <p>As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect opportunities for linked programming across Borough Hall and other Council venues to be explored.</p>
I think it is really important that we have a performance space and hall available for hire for Goslings nursery and Repair Café and various groups who use it. There are relatively spaces in Godalming which are available of this capacity and with the facilities. It is really important to have this space as part of our social and cultural life in the town. What can we do for our local young people? With cuts in youth work there is a distinct shortage of social opportunities for teenagers in our town.	<p>GTC recognises the Borough Hall as an important performance, arts and community venue, and as one of the few spaces in Godalming with the capacity and facilities to support a wide range of local activities. Future use should protect its role as an accessible hall for hire by local groups and should remain a flexible, multi-use space that supports the social and cultural life of the town.</p> <p>The Council also notes the importance of considering how Borough Hall could better serve young people in Godalming. With reductions in youth work and limited social opportunities for teenagers locally, any future asset transfer assessment should explore how the Hall could support youth-focused activities, events and safe social provision.</p> <p>Overall, the Town Council considers that Borough Hall should continue to operate as a community-focused venue, with future plans prioritising accessibility, affordability, cultural use and clear benefit to Godalming residents.</p>
Flea markets, craft fairs, community groups!	The response highlights support for Borough Hall continuing to operate as a flexible, multi-purpose community venue. Suggested uses such as flea markets, craft fairs and community group activities demonstrate the value of retaining accessible hall space for local residents, small traders, voluntary organisations and community-led events.
As above, plus exercise classes, msybr mums and toddlers groups, retirement tgroups	The response supports Borough Hall being retained as an accessible community venue for activities across different age groups. Suggested uses such as exercise classes, mums and toddlers groups, and retirement groups show the importance of flexible hall space that can support health, wellbeing, social connection and intergenerational community use.
Yes..! A venue for performances, including concerts and gigs	This would support Godalming's cultural life, provide opportunities for local performers and audiences, and help ensure the building remains an active, well-used community asset. Any community asset transfer should therefore consider how Borough Hall can continue to provide affordable and accessible performance space, while also allowing a wider programme of community, cultural and income-generating events to support its long-term sustainability.
Godalming film club, Tai Chi and Yoga classes, Ceroc and other dance events.	The response highlights support for Borough Hall continuing to operate as a flexible, multi-purpose community venue. Suggested uses such as film club, Tai Chi and Yoga classes, Ceroc and other dance events demonstrate the value of retaining accessible hall space for local residents, voluntary organisations and community-led events.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
Local theatre groups, film society, exhibitions, NCT fairs, space for exercise and dance clubs, children's nursery, Repair Café, other community and civic events throughout the year. It would be great if we could have films on general release like Chiddingfold, Haslemere and Elstead, plus live links to shows/ballet in London (like Haslemere offer). We don't have many spaces of this size available for hire and I think it would be a distinct loss to our town if it was no longer around.	GTC notes the strong support for retaining a venue of this size in the town and recognises the concern that its loss would be significant for Godalming. The suggestion of expanding film provision, including general-release screenings and live links to theatre, ballet, and other performances, demonstrates the potential for Borough Hall to develop further as a cultural and community hub. As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect these opportunities to be considered alongside the practical requirements. Any future model should seek to safeguard Borough Hall as a flexible, accessible venue serving residents, local groups, and civic life throughout the year.
Theatre, clubs., danceS.	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall should continue to be used for theatre, clubs, and dances. These uses are consistent with the Hall's role as a flexible community and cultural venue, supporting performance, social activity, and local group use. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how Borough Hall can remain accessible, affordable, and suitable for a varied programme of community events and activities.
No but think it would be better served buy the town council than the unitary authority	GTC notes the respondent's view that Borough Hall would be better served by the Town Council than by the future unitary authority. While the response does not identify specific future uses, it supports the principle that local management and decision-making could help ensure Borough Hall continues to meet the needs of Godalming residents.
As it is currently used - film, pop acts with maybe some theatre performances thrown in.	This response reinforces the importance of Borough Hall as an established cultural and entertainment venue within the town. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how its existing uses can be protected and enhanced, while exploring opportunities to broaden the programme where this is practical, affordable, and sustainable.
Much the same as its current use, but with the reintroduction of a regular cinema showing	GTC notes the respondent's support for Borough Hall continuing to be used broadly in line with its current role, with the specific suggestion that regular cinema screenings could be reintroduced. This supports the view that Borough Hall should remain a flexible cultural and community venue, while also exploring opportunities to strengthen its programme and increase regular use by residents.
I like the idea of a central performance, culture and arts space for the town, in the same way as they have The Maltings in Farnham.	This suggestion reflects the potential for Borough Hall to act as a cultural hub for Godalming, supporting performances, arts activity, exhibitions, workshops, community events, and wider civic use. The Council recognises the importance of retaining a central venue that can contribute to the town's cultural life and provide accessible opportunities for residents, local groups, and visitors.
Cinema nights, talks from experts, regular youth group meet ups	GTC notes these ideas which support the Hall's potential as a flexible community and cultural venue, offering activities that appeal to different age groups and interests. The Council particularly notes the value of providing opportunities for young people, alongside cultural and educational programming for the wider community. As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect these options to be considered alongside practical matters such as safeguarding arrangements, staffing, programming, affordability, accessibility, equipment, licensing, and long-term financial sustainability.
Arts centre. Incorporating cinema and theatre.	This suggestion supports the view that the Hall has potential to operate as a central cultural venue for Godalming, providing space for performance, film, creative activity, and community events. Any Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how arts, cinema, and theatre uses could be supported in a way that remains accessible, affordable, and sustainable for residents and local organisations.
I think it's current uses are exactly right.	GTC notes this comment.
Entertainment, music, film, performance and arts.	GTC notes these uses which align with the Hall's established role as a cultural and community venue and reinforce its potential to provide a central space for creative activity in Godalming. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how these uses can be protected and developed, while ensuring the venue remains accessible, affordable, well-managed, and financially sustainable for the benefit of residents and local organisations.
Access point for local police. Concert hall, community centre for fitness groups, youth activities, talks, etc. Offices upstairs let out businesses, social sevicees, police, etc.	These ideas highlight the potential for Borough Hall to operate as a flexible multi-use facility, combining cultural, community, civic, and income-generating uses. As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect these options to be considered against clear criteria, including community benefit, accessibility, affordability, safeguarding, security, operational management, compatibility between different uses, investment requirements, and long-term financial sustainability. Any future model should prioritise benefits for Godalming residents while protecting the Hall's role as a central community and cultural asset.
A versatile cultural space with a broad range of activities would be great. cinema theatre, cultural festival	GTC welcomes the respondent's support for Borough Hall being used as a versatile cultural space offering a broad range of activities, including cinema, theatre, and cultural festival events. This reflects the Hall's potential to operate as a central cultural and community venue for Godalming, supporting performances, film screenings, festivals, exhibitions, workshops, and wider local activity.
Music and performance for local groups Yoga, t'ai chi etc	GTC notes the respondent's support for Borough Hall being used for music and performance by local groups, alongside activities such as yoga, t'ai chi, and other wellbeing classes. These suggestions reflect the Hall's potential to continue as a flexible community and cultural venue, supporting both creative activity and health and wellbeing uses for residents.
The current uses are great and I support keeping it available for community uses such as cinema, tai chi, craft sales, meeting spaces, dance/drama lessons etc.	These examples demonstrate the Hall's value as a flexible and accessible venue supporting cultural, social, educational, and wellbeing activities for residents and local groups. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how these existing uses can be protected and sustained, while also exploring opportunities to improve the building and broaden its community offer where practical.
Theatre/cinema/ educational classes	These uses are consistent with the Hall's role as a flexible cultural, community, and learning venue, supporting entertainment, arts, and opportunities for residents to take part in classes or informal education.
MUSIC, BANDS, THEATRE, PANTOMIME, COMEDY, EXHIBITIONS, LOCAL RESIDENT MEETINGS	These suggested uses reflect the Hall's value as a flexible cultural, entertainment, civic, and community venue. They also reinforce the importance of retaining a central space in Godalming that can support performances, creative activity, exhibitions, public meetings, and opportunities for residents to come together.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
Cinema, theatre, warm hub, community space, evening classes, exhibitions, communications space.	These ideas reflect the Hall's potential to serve a broad community role, supporting cultural activity, learning, social connection, public information, and practical support for residents. The inclusion of a warm hub also highlights the importance of accessible community facilities that can respond to local needs. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how Borough Hall could accommodate a varied programme of cultural, civic, educational, and community uses, while remaining affordable, accessible, well-managed, and financially sustainable for the benefit of Godalming residents.
Needs to be used for more community events but would need greater flexibility of the internal workings. Again needs investment and modernisation but could be the jewel in the crown although competing with the Wilfrid Noyce Centre for the same markets and users.	The Council also recognises the comments about the need for investment and modernisation, and the potential for Borough Hall to become a significant community and cultural asset for the town. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider the improvements required to make the building more adaptable, accessible, and attractive to a wider range of users. The Council would also expect the assessment to consider how Borough Hall's future role would complement, rather than duplicate, the offer at other local venues such as the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. This would help ensure that any investment delivers clear community benefit, supports sustainable use, and strengthens Godalming's overall provision of community spaces.
Bring back the cinema!	This suggestion reflects the Hall's potential to continue as a cultural and community venue, offering accessible entertainment for residents in the town centre.
Day time use as a drop in medical centre. Maintain current use for exercise classes, cinema, shows. Provide table tennis tables for use by private clubs / U3A.	The Council notes the suggestion of daytime use as a drop-in medical or wellbeing facility. This highlights the potential for Borough Hall to support wider community needs, provided any such use is practical, appropriately managed, and compatible with the building's main community and cultural functions.
I would love to see the borough hall become a cultural hub for Godalming. Farnham Maltings offer so much to the community it would be great to see the hall being used like that. Although obviously on a smaller scale.	Godalming Town Council welcomes the respondent's aspiration for Borough Hall to become a cultural hub for Godalming, drawing inspiration from the broad community and cultural offer provided by Farnham Maltings, while recognising that any model for Godalming would need to be proportionate to the scale and capacity of Borough Hall. This suggestion reinforces the potential for the Hall to support a varied programme of arts, performance, film, workshops, markets, community events, and social activities, helping to strengthen Godalming's cultural life and town centre offer.
A theatre and arts venue would be good. Community led cafe and spaces for groups.	As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect this type of cultural hub model to be explored alongside practical considerations. Any future approach should prioritise benefits for Godalming residents and local organisations while protecting Borough Hall's role as a central community asset.
A theatre and arts venue would be good. Community led cafe and spaces for groups.	These suggestions reflect the potential for Borough Hall to operate as a welcoming cultural and community hub, supporting performance, creative activity, social connection, and regular use by local organisations. A community-led café could also help increase daytime activity and provide an accessible meeting point for residents, subject to practical considerations.
Could we have films and relays from ROH back again?	Godalming Town Council notes the respondent's support for reintroducing film screenings and live relays from venues such as the Royal Opera House at Borough Hall. This suggestion reflects the Hall's potential to provide accessible cultural programming in the town centre, offering residents opportunities to enjoy cinema, theatre, opera, ballet, and other performances locally. As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect options for reinstating this type of provision to be considered alongside practical requirements such as technical equipment, licensing, programming, audience demand, staffing, affordability, and long-term financial sustainability.
I have been to the hall to see the show. Sorry I can't come up with a wonderful idea	GTC notes this comment.
A youth club or expansion of current offers.	Godalming Town Council notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could support a youth club or an expansion of current offers for young people. The Council recognises the importance of youth provision in the town and would expect any future use of Borough Hall to be considered alongside existing services, including the Godalming Youth Service. Rather than duplicating established provision, the Community Asset Transfer assessment should explore whether Borough Hall could complement current youth activities, provide additional capacity, or support partnership working with existing providers. Any youth-focused use would need to be considered alongside safeguarding, staffing, affordability, accessibility, supervision, programming, and compatibility with Borough Hall's wider community and cultural uses. The Council would welcome further exploration of how the Hall could contribute positively to opportunities for young people in Godalming.
If it is feasible to operate it separately by the town council fine but costs might be prohibitive	GTC notes the respondent's view that Town Council operation of Borough Hall could be supported if it is feasible, while recognising the concern that the associated costs may be prohibitive. This reflects the importance of carrying out a full and transparent assessment before any Community Asset Transfer decision is made. The Council would expect future consideration to include acquisition terms, running costs, staffing, maintenance liabilities, investment requirements, income opportunities, external funding, use of reserves where appropriate, and long-term financial sustainability. Any proposal would need to demonstrate that Borough Hall can be managed in a way that protects community benefit, maintains accessibility and affordability, and represents a responsible use of public funds for Godalming residents.
Concerts, theatre, cinema, folk dancing, craft fairs. In other words, all the events that we used to be able to enjoy here.	GTC notes the respondent's support for Borough Hall being used for concerts, theatre, cinema, folk dancing, craft fairs, and similar events previously enjoyed by the community. These comments reinforce the value of Borough Hall as a long-standing cultural and community venue for Godalming, and highlight the importance of protecting and, where possible, restoring a varied programme of local events. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how the Hall can continue to support arts, entertainment, social activities, markets, and community gatherings in a way that remains accessible, affordable, well-managed, and financially sustainable for residents and local organisations.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
It is an important performance venue for Godalming - Godalming Opera, pantomime, film society etc. and must be preserved as such.	GTC notes the respondent's strong support for preserving Borough Hall as an important performance venue for Godalming, including use by groups and activities such as Godalming Opera, pantomime, film society, and similar cultural events. These comments reinforce the Hall's established role in supporting local arts, performance, film, and community entertainment. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how Borough Hall's performance function can be protected and sustained, while ensuring the venue remains accessible, affordable, well-managed, and financially viable for the benefit of Godalming residents, local organisations, and cultural groups.
Continue to provide a venue for the Music Festival and theatre/music performances. Also to be available to anyone who wishes to hire it for a private party	GTC notes the respondent's support for Borough Hall continuing to provide a venue for the Music Festival, theatre, music performances, and private hire. These comments reinforce the Hall's role as an important cultural, community, and social venue for Godalming. The Council recognises the value of retaining a flexible space that can support established local events, performances, and private functions, while remaining accessible to residents, groups, and organisations.
Public meetings, entertainment (theatre, film, comedy, music), public lectures, political meetings, clubs & society meetings, adult education classes e.g. arts & crafts, badminton, table tennis?, retail fairs e.g. vintage/antiques (as in Farnham Maltings)?	GTC welcomes the respondent's wide-ranging suggestions for Borough Hall. These suggestions demonstrate the potential for Borough Hall to operate as a flexible, multi-use venue supporting civic life, culture, learning, leisure, and community activity throughout the year. They also highlight opportunities to broaden the Hall's programme and generate income through appropriate hires, while maintaining its core community purpose. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should consider how these uses could be accommodated safely and sustainably.
Community events	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall should be used for community events. This supports the Council's view that Borough Hall should remain an accessible and flexible venue for the benefit of Godalming residents, local organisations, and community groups.
An arts centre	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could be used as an arts centre. This reflects the Hall's potential to serve as a central cultural venue for Godalming, supporting performance, exhibitions, workshops, creative classes, film, and wider community activity. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how an arts centre model could be delivered in a way that remains accessible, affordable, inclusive, and financially sustainable for residents, local groups, and cultural organisations.
Theatre, cinema, seasonal events, cafe, local services, adult education etc	GTC notes the respondent's suggestions that Borough Hall could be used for theatre, cinema, seasonal events, a café, local services, adult education, and other community activities. These ideas reflect the potential for Borough Hall to operate as a flexible cultural and community hub, supporting arts and entertainment, learning opportunities, social connection, public-facing services, and year-round activity for residents. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should consider how these uses could be accommodated in a way that is accessible, affordable, inclusive, and financially sustainable.
Cultural, performing and arts centre	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could be used as a cultural, performing, and arts centre. This supports the view that Borough Hall has the potential to remain and develop as a central cultural venue for Godalming, providing space for performance, creative activity, exhibitions, workshops, film, and wider community events. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should therefore consider how this type of use could be delivered in a way that is accessible, affordable, inclusive, well-managed, and financially sustainable for the benefit of Godalming residents, local groups, and cultural organisations.
A tasteful everyman cinema with affordable snacks would be lovely	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could provide a cinema-style offer, with an attractive setting and affordable refreshments. This reflects the wider interest in reinstating or expanding film provision at Borough Hall as part of a broader cultural and community programme. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should consider whether regular or occasional cinema use could be delivered sustainably.
Entertainment equivalent to Cranleigh Arts	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall could provide an entertainment offer comparable to Cranleigh Arts Centre. This supports the view that Borough Hall has potential to operate as a central cultural and community venue for Godalming, offering a varied programme of film, live performance, music, comedy, talks, workshops, exhibitions, and other accessible activities. As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect this type of model to be considered in a way that is proportionate to Godalming's needs and Borough Hall's capacity, alongside practical issues and long-term financial sustainability.
The Borough Hall already has a wide range of uses. Promoting its availability and facilities might bring forward new hirers with new ideas. When I made enquiries about hiring the hall I was put off by the high charges which might be correct for commercial hire but not for local or charity use. Perhaps a survey of the hire costs of halls within say 20 miles might be a start.	GTC notes the respondent's view that Borough Hall already supports a wide range of uses, and that improved promotion of its availability and facilities could help attract new hirers and activities. The Council also recognises the concern raised about hire charges, particularly where local groups, charities, or community users may find costs prohibitive. As part of any Community Asset Transfer assessment, the Council would expect the future hire model to consider affordability, accessibility, and appropriate differentiation between commercial, private, charitable, and community use. The suggestion of benchmarking hire charges against comparable halls within the surrounding area is welcomed. This could help inform a fair and transparent pricing structure that supports community access while also contributing to the Hall's running costs and long-term financial sustainability.
Musical concerts.	GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Borough Hall should be used for musical concerts. This supports the Hall's established role as a cultural and performance venue within the town. Any future Community Asset Transfer assessment should consider how Borough Hall can continue to accommodate musical performances in a way that is accessible, affordable, well-managed, and financially sustainable for the benefit of Godalming residents, performers, and local organisations.
Expand current activities - perhaps a regular music venue.	GTC recognises that a consistent, well-promoted schedule of music events could help broaden the Hall's appeal, increase year-round use, and strengthen its contribution to community life. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all and the wider role of town-centre venues in supporting organised activity in the heart of Godalming.
It would be fantastic if the Borough Hall could have a more permanent use as an 'Everyman' style cinema, or gig venue.	GTC recognises the potential community benefit of a regular, well-programmed cinema and live music offer, which could broaden the Hall's appeal, increase year-round use, and strengthen the town's cultural provision. This aligns with GTC's corporate priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and to keep the town's events offer under review. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want these ideas to be tested through a robust options appraisal and business case.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
Performance/ theatre space	The Council recognises the importance of maintaining accessible local venues for cultural and community activity, which aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts for all .
Community space to be preserved fr rang of uses and hire as present. There is an opportunity to rationalise the Borough Hall, Waverley Borough Council Building and Library sites. Keep the Borough Hall main room as is, with a new more modern theatre/ performance space auditorium and library in a redeveloped council building. There could also be places to meet with the police, West Surrey Council officers, library and a "banking area" manned by the main banks on rotation providing a counter service a police to meet bank staff in person	GTC recognises the potential benefits of this kind of rationalisation, including improved accessibility, modern facilities, better co-location of services, and a stronger town-centre civic and cultural hub. However, proposals of this scale would be complex and would depend on many variables. If options are developed further, GTC would expect a robust options appraisal/business case and appropriate consultation.
Arts, participation and performance, more cinema, better utilisation and central point for the town.	GTC recognises the value of accessible cultural provision and events in supporting community life and participation, which aligns with the Town Council's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and to keep the town's events offer under review . GTC also notes that town-centre buildings and spaces can provide a focal point for organised activities and community life. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want these aspirations to be tested through a robust options appraisal and business case.
Music events, community cinema, concerts, dancing, keep fit, yoga, repair cafe, public talks, etc.	GTC recognises the value of a lively, flexible town-centre venue that can support cultural activity alongside health and wellbeing and practical community initiatives. This aligns with GTC's corporate priorities to encourage and promote access to leisure facilities and the arts for all , and its wider objectives around sustainability, including encouraging repair and re-use activity in the community . If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want a mixed programme such as this to be supported by a robust and deliverable plan so the Hall remains well-used and viable year-round for community benefit.
a lot, but it already does, film club, dance classes et cetera, maybe a lot more live music, something similar to Aldershots West End, or the Farnham Maltings	GTC recognises the importance of accessible arts, culture and events in supporting community life, and this aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and to keep the town's events offer under review . GTC also recognises the role that town-centre venues play as a focal point for organised community activity. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any expansion of live music and performance use to be supported by a robust, deliverable plan and business case so that community benefit is protected and the venue remains sustainable long-term.
Nothing specific to add to what has been suggested already. But the wider the range of potential uses to which it could be put, the wider the communal support you are likely to have for your welcome and sensible initiative.	The Council agrees that flexibility is important. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want the venue to remain capable of supporting a broad mix of activity, so that it remains well-used, inclusive and relevant to different age groups and interests.
Providing a local venue for theatre, music, film and other arts functions as well as other community services	GTC recognises the value of a flexible, town-centre building that can host a broad programme of cultural and community use, helping ensure residents can access performances, screenings, classes and community activity locally. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all.
Certainly more use for theatre and performance generally, but it could also be used for much more...a simple cafe, some sort of support/advice centre, craft or other stalls...but with more advertising. It is an ideal community 'hub'.	GTC recognises the value of a flexible town-centre venue that can support a wide range of cultural and community activity. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts for all and to keep the town's events and cultural offer under review . GTC also notes the point about improving advertising/marketing. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would expect a clear communications and marketing approach reflecting the Council's wider commitment to strengthen communications and engagement with residents.
As above, but please keep the Cellar Camino Cafe open. It is a wonderful resource for everyone but in particular the marginalised	GTC recognises the importance of inclusive community spaces and this aligns with GTC's commitment to support and promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion . GTC also recognises that café/refreshment provision can complement community and cultural use by making the building more welcoming and accessible for a wider range of residents and visitors. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would expect the business case to consider any current occupancy/tenancy arrangements.
A community theatre	GTC recognises the value of an accessible local performance venue that can support amateur and community productions, school/community showcases, and wider participation in the arts, which aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all.
entertainment hub; indoor markets; children events	GTC recognises the value of a flexible town-centre venue that can host a mix of cultural activity and community events, and this aligns with GTC's priorities to support access to the arts and events and to support children and young people through local provision . GTC also notes the wider role that town-centre venues and spaces play as focal points for organised community activity.
I would like to see it used as a community theatre/cinema at a reasonable hire fee. In recent years suitable venues for community theatre groups have been decreasing and I'm sure there would be quite a lot of interest.	The Council recognises the value of affordable and accessible cultural provision in the town which aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts for all and to support a strong local events and cultural offer . If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any theatre/cinema model to be supported by a robust business case.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
The Borough Hall should have a rolling schedule of events that draw an income, some of the fairs that are put on are tired and dull and certainly don't interest me. More paid for shows, exercise classes exp in the evening and weekend, bring the cinema back for example	GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall would benefit from a refreshed, rolling programme of events that both increases participation and helps generate a sustainable income stream. GTC recognises the importance of keeping the town's events and cultural offer under review and supporting access to arts, leisure and events for all. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would expect any expanded programme to be underpinned by a robust operating plan and business case.
Definitely for local events/entertainment	GTC recognises the importance of accessible arts, culture and community events for residents, which aligns with GTC's priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and to keep the town's events offer under review . GTC also recognises the role of town-centre venues in providing a focal point for organised community activity . If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC's priority would be a sustainable long-term model that safeguards community benefit and supports a strong, well-promoted programme of events.
Live streaming of shows and films - currently go to Elstead Village Hall for a monthly film night, which is good but limited	The Council recognises that a regular programme of screenings (including streamed/live cultural content where feasible) could broaden the Borough Hall's offer and make arts and culture more accessible locally. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts for all and to keep the town's events and cultural offer under review. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want this option to be tested through an options appraisal and business case.
It should continue as a meeting place and provide space for theatre, entertainment, classes such as dancing et cetera. More or less what it does now.	GTC recognises the value of maintaining a well-used, accessible town-centre building that can support a broad mix of community and cultural activity. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all , and with the wider role of town-centre venues and spaces as focal points for organised community activity. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any continuation or enhancement of this mixed-use role to be supported by a robust and deliverable plan.
Exhibitions, community events, arts, performance space. Continue current uses. Theatre, cinema etc.	The Council recognises the value of a flexible, accessible town-centre venue that can accommodate both cultural and community activity. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all and supports the wider role of town-centre spaces as focal points for organised community life. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any continuation or enhancement of this mixed-use role to be supported by a robust and deliverable plan.
Rentable offices. Keep the theatre as is for shows and events	GTC recognises that a mixed-use approach could help balance community benefit with potential income generation, provided this does not compromise the Hall's primary cultural and civic function. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any such option to be tested through a robust options appraisal and business case.
I think the borough hall is already used for good community purposes - so 'more of the same'	GTC recognises the value of maintaining a well-used, accessible town-centre building that can support a broad mix of community and cultural activity. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all , and with the wider role of town-centre venues and spaces as focal points for organised community activity. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any continuation or enhancement of this mixed-use role to be supported by a robust and deliverable plan.
Anything of a tranquil nature which draws the community in.	GTC recognises the value of tranquil, inclusive uses that can broaden the Hall's appeal and complement its cultural and community role. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want the venue's programme to remain flexible and balanced, so that quieter community-focused activity can sit alongside other cultural and performance uses.
Would love a local ceilidh group	GTC recognises that social dance and music-based activity can be a valuable way of bringing people together, broadening the Hall's appeal, and supporting regular community use. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want the venue to be capable of supporting a range of participatory cultural activity, including dance, music and social events, where this is practical and sustainable.
A community space open to all	GTC agrees that inclusivity, accessibility and broad community benefit should be central to any future role for the Borough Hall. This aligns with GTC's commitment to support and promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and to encourage access to cultural and community activity for all residents.
Food bank or baby bank, community groups, toddler groups or other support groups.	GTC recognises the value of an accessible town-centre building that can host not only cultural events, but also services and groups that provide direct support to residents and families. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any such uses to be considered as part of a balanced and sustainable programme. The priority would be to ensure that the Hall remains a flexible community asset that is welcoming, inclusive and well used.
Continue to use it for cinema and theatre productions but hold these more regularly. Also for private event hire. Market it as a destination in Godalming in its own right, if that is possible! Relocate the existing Town Council's "shop" or tourist information centre to it so that visitors are drawn to it.	GTC notes these comments which align with GTC's wider priorities to encourage access to the arts and events, review the town's events offer, and improve communication with residents about Council activity and local opportunities . GTC also notes the suggestion of relocating the Town Council's existing "shop"/tourist information function to the Borough Hall. While this is a separate operational question that would need to be considered on its own merits, it could be explored as part of any wider options appraisal if there is a clear benefit in increasing footfall and strengthening the Hall's role as a community and visitor focal point.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
Its been utilised well presently as far as I'm aware	GTC notes this comment.
Updating and expanding its current use as a arts/music/community venue	GTC recognises the value of building on an established use rather than starting from scratch. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all and to support wider participation in cultural activity in Godalming . It also reflects the wider role that town-centre buildings and spaces play as focal points for organised community activity and civic life.
I'd like to see more films, performances and music. Craft fairs and community events	GTC recognises the value of a varied, well-programmed venue that can appeal to different audiences and support both cultural activity and wider community use. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all and to keep the town's events offer under review. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would want any expanded programme of screenings, performances, music, fairs and community events to be supported by a robust and deliverable plan covering programming, marketing, booking and operational arrangements, accessibility, and long-term financial sustainability, so that the Hall remains well used and viable year-round.
We have enjoyed many performance at the Borough Hall over the 36 years we have lived in the community. The annual Gilbert & Sullivan operas and occasional top quality films are among the times we have enjoyed using the Hall.	GTC notes this comment.
Ceilidh Council / charity fundraiser eg quiz / meal	GTC recognises the value of participatory social events that bring people together, support community life, and can also help generate funds for local causes. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want the venue to be capable of supporting a wide range of community-led and fundraising activity, where practical and sustainable, alongside its wider cultural and community use.
As no asa a performance space and facility for the local populous.	GTC recognises the value of maintaining an accessible, town-centre venue that supports cultural activity and wider community use.
The idea of a 'performance hub' clearly depends on affordability	GTC agrees that this is a key consideration. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), any "performance hub" model would need to be supported by a robust business case. The priority would be to ensure that any proposal is financially sustainable, proportionate and transparent, so that community benefit is protected without creating an undue burden on local taxpayers.
Carry on with musical events, community issues, and projects like the repairing of second hand household equipment on occasional Saturdays	GTC recognises the value of a flexible venue that can accommodate cultural activity alongside community-led practical initiatives. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all, and with the Council's wider sustainability objectives around encouraging repair, reuse and refashioning within the community. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any such mixed programme to be supported by a clear and deliverable plan, so that the Hall remains well used and viable while continuing to deliver broad community benefit.
Theatre groups, comedy nights, films, private hire	GTC recognises the value of a flexible, town-centre venue that can host a broad range of cultural and community activity while also generating income through appropriate private hire. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would want any such mixed-use approach to be supported by a clear and sustainable plan.
I think it should be a multi purpose system as it is currently for community events, concerts, films etc.	GTC recognises the value of maintaining a flexible, accessible town-centre building that can support a broad range of cultural and community use.
Public hub for the town, enabling events such as arts, theatre, pop up. A facility for the whole community.	GTC recognises the value of a flexible, welcoming town-centre venue that can act as a focal point for community life and be accessible to a broad range of residents and groups. This aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts and events for all, and to support inclusive community participation.
Shows, talks, meeting, rehearsal space, cinema, rock choir shows,	GTC recognises the value of a flexible, town-centre venue that can accommodate both performance activity and wider community use. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any such mixed programme to be supported by a clear and sustainable plan.
Clubs..toddler groups, clubs for the elderly, clubs for teenagers in the evening. Activities that bring the community together. Theatre, cinema, jumble sales, Christmas events, art shows, antique sales etc	The Council recognises the value of a flexible, inclusive town-centre venue that can accommodate both cultural events and practical community use. This aligns with GTC's wider priorities to support children and young people, encourage access to the arts and events, and promote inclusive community participation . Any future youth-related use would also need to be considered alongside existing GTC youth provision, so that it complements rather than duplicates current services. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed (including any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want any such mixed-use model to be supported by a clear and sustainable plan covering: programming for different age groups, safeguarding and supervision requirements, accessibility, booking and marketing, and long-term financial viability—so that the Hall remains a welcoming facility for the whole community.
A flexible central space can't be lost to short term needs just because a business case doesn't immediately present itself. Once gone it's never coming back. The potential uses, commercial, and possible revenue generating, and any other cultural uses will present themselves in due course.	GTC recognises this concern. Valued community buildings can deliver benefits that are not always captured fully by a narrow short-term financial assessment and the ability to respond to future community needs as they evolve. This is consistent with the wider objective of retaining and enhancing community infrastructure in Godalming and Farncombe and with national policy to guard against the unnecessary loss of valued community facilities and services. At the same time, any proposal for the Borough Hall would still need a robust and proportionate appraisal.
A music and arts venue.	GTC recognises the importance of accessible cultural provision in the town and this aligns with GTC's adopted priorities to encourage and promote access to the arts for all and to support wider participation in arts activity in Godalming. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would want any "music and arts venue" model to be supported by a robust and deliverable plan covering programming, accessibility, technical requirements, safeguarding and licensing where applicable, and long-term financial sustainability, so that community benefit is protected and the venue remains viable.

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
<p>It's actually quite worrying that a Town Council doesn't KNOW what the Borough Hall can do and should be used for, and is having to get "ideas" from residents.</p>	<p>The Council wishes to reassure respondents that inviting public suggestions is a deliberate and important part of this consultation process. A Community Asset Transfer (or any alternative future arrangement) must be informed by evidence of local need and demand, and it is good practice to test options with residents, current users and stakeholders before developing (or confirming) a preferred model. This sits alongside the Council's wider commitment to improve and formalise engagement with residents on the provision and funding of initiatives .</p> <p>Any future proposals for the Borough Hall would still require a robust options appraisal and business case (including feasibility, costs, liabilities, accessibility, and financial sustainability) and would be brought forward through the appropriate governance and decision-making processes.</p>
<p>With an upgrade it would continue to be the perfect setting for theatrical shows, musical events and cinema, and a facility for private hire for functions, clubs and playgroups. Parking and pubs/restaurants all close by make it a great venue.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that, with appropriate investment and upgrade, the Borough Hall could continue to provide an excellent, flexible setting for theatrical shows, musical events and film/cinema screenings, alongside continued private and community hire (e.g., functions, clubs and playgroups). GTC also notes the value of the Hall's central location, with nearby parking and a strong surrounding offer of pubs and restaurants. This type of town-centre venue can help sustain a lively programme of activity and support wider footfall and spend in the town centre associated with events and community activity .</p> <p>If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would want any "upgrade and expanded programme" ambition to be underpinned by a robust, deliverable plan covering: building condition and compliance; accessibility; technical capability (sound/lighting/projection); licensing and safeguarding; an affordable hire/fees framework; and long-term financial sustainability, so that the venue remains well-used and viable for the community.</p>
<p>Apart from it existing varied use. If structural improvements are incorporated they could include conference/lecture/rehearsal room (s) and perhaps larger displays which museum could not accommodate</p>	<p>GTC welcomes the constructive suggestions for how the space could be enhanced through future structural and layout improvements. In particular, the Council notes the potential for the Hall (or ancillary spaces, where feasible) to provide conference and lecture facilities, rehearsal and workshop rooms, and improved capacity for larger exhibitions/displays that may not be easily accommodated elsewhere. The suggestion of enabling occasional overflow or complementary exhibition space linked to Godalming Museum's offer is also noted as a potential community benefit.</p> <p>Any consideration of expanding the Hall's functions would need to be based on evidence of demand and a robust appraisal of feasibility, including: building constraints and heritage considerations (where applicable), accessibility and safeguarding requirements, fire safety and capacity, running costs, and funding options. If future management arrangements are progressed, GTC would expect a clear options appraisal and business case to identify the most deliverable mix of uses and the investment required to support them sustainably.</p>
<p>Venue for art exhibitions? Develop into something more akin to Cranleigh Arts Centre which is amazingly successful with many volunteers supporting.. eg National Theatre Live shows. Concerts? Theatre performances?</p>	<p>GTC welcomes the respondent's suggestions for strengthening the Borough Hall's role as a multi-purpose arts and culture venue. In particular, GTC notes the potential for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - art exhibitions (including temporary and community-led displays); - a programme of live/cinema screenings (e.g., National Theatre Live, where technically feasible); - concerts and music events; and - theatre and performance (professional and community productions). <p>GTC notes the reference to the Cranleigh Arts Centre model and the point that successful venues often benefit from a strong base of volunteer support, partnerships, and a clear programme identity.</p> <p>If the Borough Hall is to develop in this direction, GTC would want proposals to be underpinned by a robust and deliverable plan covering: building suitability and any required upgrades (including technical capacity and accessibility), governance and staffing/volunteering arrangements, programming and marketing, safeguarding and licensing requirements, and long-term financial sustainability, so that community benefit is protected and costs/risks are properly managed.</p>
<p>I have recently performed my first show at the Borough Hall for an amateur theatre company and it is clearly a much loved venue for the local community as we came close to selling out, every performance. It would be a shame if the Hall weren't available for such cultural events in the future.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's recent experience of performing at the Borough Hall and the clear evidence of local demand for amateur theatre, with performances reported as close to sold out. GTC recognises that this reflects the Borough Hall's role as a much-loved and well-used community venue, supporting local cultural activity and participation.</p> <p>GTC also notes the respondent's concern that it would be a loss to the town if the Hall were not available for cultural events in the future. In considering the Hall's long-term future, GTCs priority would be to secure a sustainable arrangement that protects community access and enables performances and events to continue, supported by appropriate investment, clear governance, and a viable operating plan.</p>

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
<p>The Borough hall could expand its uses possibly to include the following 1. Operatic, theatrical, concert performances 2. Cultural workshops for local schools and colleges 3. Workshops, seminars and lectures similar to those which occur in Guildford at the Guildhall. 4. Weddings, parties and other celebration events 5. Community meetings for the local communities</p>	<p>GTC welcomes the constructive suggestions for widening and strengthening the Borough Hall's role as a flexible, multi-use venue for Godalming and the surrounding area. GTC notes the potential for an expanded programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performances – operatic, theatrical and concert events (professional and community-led). - Education and participation – cultural workshops and outreach opportunities for local schools and colleges. - Talks and learning – workshops, seminars and lectures, including an events programme that complements what is available in nearby towns. - Celebrations and private hire – weddings, parties and other celebration events where appropriate. - Civic and community use – community meetings and local group activity. <p>GTC recognises that a well-programmed venue can support town-centre vitality and wider community benefit by bringing people into the heart of the town for events and activities .</p> <p>If the Borough Hall is to expand its offer (whether through a Community Asset Transfer to GTC or another arrangement), GTC would want proposals to be underpinned by a robust business case and options appraisal covering: building suitability and any required upgrades (e.g., accessibility, acoustics, AV/lighting, Wi-Fi, catering/backstage facilities), licensing and safeguarding requirements, operating capacity (staffing/volunteers), marketing, and long-term financial sustainability, so that community access is protected and risks/costs are properly managed.</p>
<p>It should remain as a valuable cultural and performance space for Godalming and the surrounding areas. The nearest similar spaces are quite a way from Godalming e.g Guildford and Haslemere</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall should be retained as a valuable cultural and performance space serving Godalming and the surrounding area, and recognises the importance of having an accessible local venue for arts, entertainment and community events. GTC notes the concern that comparable facilities are not close by, with residents often needing to travel to places such as Guildford or Haslemere for similar provision.</p> <p>In considering the Borough Hall's future, GTC's priority would be to secure a sustainable long-term arrangement that safeguards community benefit and continued cultural use. This would need to be supported by an evidence-based business case, clarity on building condition and liabilities, and a viable operating and investment plan to ensure the venue remains available and fit for purpose.</p>
<p>Should continue as a theatre and community building. Godalming Operatic Society have performed there since 1925. They are now one of the leading Gilbert & Sullivan performance groups in the country and bring hundreds of people to the town each February. Godalming needs a big community building. Its a big town and it needs a dedicated space for large meetings, cultural events and performances. It also drives footfall to the town.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's strong view that the Borough Hall should continue as a theatre and community building, and the importance of retaining a large, dedicated space for public meetings, cultural events and performances in a town of Godalming's size.</p> <p>GTC particularly notes the reference to Godalming Operatic Society's long-standing use of the Hall and the contribution that annual productions make to the town by attracting audiences and supporting local activity and spend. GTC recognises that town-centre events and activities can help strengthen community life and vitality by bringing people into the centre.</p> <p>In considering the Borough Hall's future, GTC's priority would be to secure a sustainable long-term arrangement that protects ongoing community access and performance use, supported by an appropriate investment and operating plan, so the venue remains fit for purpose for residents, local organisations and visitors.</p>
<p>The present use of the hall for different 'activities' is good however i think it could be wider publicised and marketed</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall's current range of activities is positive, but that it would benefit from wider publicity and stronger marketing to maximise community participation and support the venue's long-term sustainability.</p> <p>If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would see improving communications and promotion as an early priority. The aim would be to increase awareness, attendance and bookings while keeping access straightforward for local groups and residents.</p>
<p>Anything that makes it a live space. Anything.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's clear preference for the Borough Hall to remain a lively, active space with a busy programme and strong community presence.</p>
<p>Arts and events venue</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall should be used as an arts and events venue. The Council recognises the importance of maintaining an accessible town-centre space that can host a varied programme of cultural and community activity for residents and visitors.</p>
<p>Entertainment community venue</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall should continue as an entertainment and community venue. The Council recognises the importance of a flexible, town-centre space that can host a wide range of events and activities for residents, local groups and visitors.</p>
<p>I agree with the performance venue idea. Also a quality cinema plus love bands</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for the Borough Hall continuing as a performance venue, and the additional suggestion of providing a quality cinema offer (for example film screenings and special events) alongside live music/live bands. GTC recognises that a varied programme of performances, screenings and live music could strengthen the Hall's role as a lively town-centre venue and help broaden its appeal across different audiences and age groups.</p>
<p>Ideas mentioned are good, including cultural centre</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Arts and Community Hub</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall could operate as an Arts and Community Hub. The Council recognises the value of a flexible, welcoming town-centre venue that can support a wide range of cultural, creative and community activity, such as performances, exhibitions, workshops, talks, community meetings, and space for local groups.</p>
<p>Cranleigh Arts Centre may be a good model. A facility for the arts, entertainment, shows, concerts, exhibitions and public hire for events such as wedding receptions.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that Cranleigh Arts Centre could be a helpful model for the Borough Hall's future, and welcomes the proposed mix of uses. GTC recognises the potential for the Borough Hall to operate as a flexible arts, entertainment and community venue, accommodating shows, concerts and performances, exhibitions, and public hire for private functions such as wedding receptions and celebrations.</p> <p>If the Borough Hall is to develop in this direction (including through any potential Community Asset Transfer), GTC would want proposals to be supported by a robust, deliverable plan covering: building suitability and any required upgrades (including accessibility and technical capability), licensing and safeguarding requirements, governance and operating capacity (staffing/volunteers), marketing and bookings, and long-term financial sustainability, so that community benefit is protected and the venue remains well-used and viable year-round.</p>

Do you have any ideas for the future of the Borough Hall and what it could be used for?

Public Comment	GTC Response
As above, I think it could be used as an arts space for concerts, exhibitions and shows, both from professional and community organisations, much as it is at present.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall should continue to operate as an arts and performance space, hosting concerts, exhibitions and shows delivered by both professional and community organisations, building on the strengths of its current programme.</p> <p>GTC recognises the value of maintaining a flexible, town-centre venue that supports local cultural life and offers opportunities for a wide range of groups and audiences. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC's priority would be to secure a sustainable long-term model that protects community benefit, supports a varied programme, and ensures the Hall remains fit for purpose through appropriate investment, clear governance, and effective promotion.</p>
Youth club for 12-16 year olds Regular cinema More music events Older people afternoon tea and or dance Exercise classes	<p>GTC welcomes these practical suggestions for broadening the Borough Hall's role as a multi-use community venue, including provision for young people, regular film screenings, more live music, daytime social activities for older residents, and health and wellbeing sessions such as exercise classes.</p> <p>In particular, GTC notes the suggestion of a youth club for 12-16 year olds. GTC already supports youth-focused community provision through the Godalming Youth Service, operating from Broadwater Youth Centre. Any future youth offer at the Borough Hall would need to be designed to complement and strengthen existing provision, filling gaps in days/times, activities and town-centre accessibility, rather than duplicating what is already available.</p> <p>GTC also notes the potential for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a regular cinema programme (subject to technical and licensing requirements); - more live music events (with appropriate sound management and safeguarding); - older people's social sessions (e.g., afternoon teas and/or tea dances); and - exercise and wellbeing classes that are accessible and affordable. <p>If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would expect an options appraisal and business case to test demand, delivery capacity, costs (including any building upgrades), and how these uses could be scheduled to maximise community benefit and year-round occupancy.</p>
See above plus maybe a decent Youth Club?	<p>GTC notes the suggestion of a youth club . GTC already supports youth-focused community provision through the Godalming Youth Service, operating from Broadwater Youth Centre. Any future youth offer at the Borough Hall would need to be designed to complement and strengthen existing provision, filling gaps in days/times, activities and town-centre accessibility, rather than duplicating what is already available.</p>
Entertainment / arts space. Available for hire at reasonable cost, perhaps reductions for *local* charities	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that the Borough Hall should operate as an entertainment/arts space, and that it should remain available for hire at a reasonable cost so that community use is maintained and encouraged.</p> <p>The Council also notes the suggestion of reduced hire rates for local charities. If future arrangements for the Borough Hall are progressed, GTC would support a clear and transparent fees and concessions framework that balances affordability for local groups with the need for the venue to be financially sustainable. Any concessionary arrangements would need to be applied consistently, with clear eligibility criteria and proper governance.</p>
Get rid of current town council building opposite pepperpot, make borough hall town council again, use funds from sale of building opposite pepperpot to fund renovation.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that the Town Council should relocate its offices into the Borough Hall/Municipal Buildings and fund any required renovation through the disposal of the current Town Council office accommodation at 107-109 High Street.</p> <p>The Council recognises the underlying principle of making best use of town-centre civic buildings and, where appropriate, reinvesting any capital receipt to support long-term community benefit. However, the Council's current operational requirements mean that the Municipal Buildings within the Borough Hall are not considered large enough or sufficiently accessible to accommodate the Council's team and services appropriately. Any proposal to move the Council's operational base would therefore require careful assessment of space, accessibility, public-facing service needs, security, and day-to-day functionality.</p> <p>If any relocation and/or property disposal were to be considered in future, this would need to be taken forward through a formal options appraisal and robust business case, including due diligence on: feasibility and cost of works; the impact on the Borough Hall's primary community/cultural use; planning/listed building considerations (where applicable); and transparent decision-making on the use of any capital receipt, ensuring value for money and long-term sustainability.</p>

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
<p>It's important to maintain green spaces in their current location for the use of the local community.</p>	<p>GTC notes the importance residents place on retaining accessible green spaces for community use. Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is a valued local amenity, and any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise its continued use as open recreational space for the benefit of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>Godalming needs to retain recreational areas</p>	<p>GTC notes the importance residents place on retaining accessible recreational areas for community use. Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is a valued local amenity, and any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise its continued use as open recreational space for the benefit of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>I STRONGLY SUPPORT THIS TRANSFER. The recreation ground is a vital green space for this community, rich in physical activity space and equipment, and fostering community which is lost in today's society. It is frequently used and should be a priority to be retained, the transfer to the town council will ensure this.</p>	<p>GTC notes the strong support expressed for the potential transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground and recognises its importance as a well-used local green space that supports physical activity, play and community connection.</p> <p>Any consideration of transfer should therefore prioritise the retention and protection of the Recreation Ground for public recreational use, while assessing the practical responsibilities involved, including maintenance, equipment, safety, funding and long-term stewardship by the Town Council.</p>
<p>Holloway Hill rec is an important and integral part of Godalming and should be protected</p>	<p>GTC notes the view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is an important and integral part of Godalming. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should place the long-term protection of the Recreation Ground at the centre of the assessment.</p>
<p>It is a valuable local resource that needs managing locally</p>	<p>The Council recognises the value of the site as a local green space and community amenity, and supports exploring the feasibility, costs and responsibilities of taking it on where this would help safeguard its continued public recreational use for Godalming residents.</p>
<p>Godalming is fortunate to have a well off community. It also has a many families. I am sure there are would be donors who would support community projects - eg enhancement of playground facilities - that may be very difficult for a cash starved council to fund properly. People are more likely to fund assets or initiatives they can see on their doorstep and as a wealthy area we should have more scope to do this.</p>	<p>GTC notes the view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is a valuable local resource and that local management could help ensure it continues to meet the needs of Godalming residents.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess whether Town Council stewardship would provide effective, responsive and sustainable management of the site, including maintenance, safety, accessibility, costs and long-term protection for public recreational use.</p>
<p>Godalming is fortunate to have a well off community. It also has a many families. I am sure there are would be donors who would support community projects - eg enhancement of playground facilities - that may be very difficult for a cash starved council to fund properly. People are more likely to fund assets or initiatives they can see on their doorstep and as a wealthy area we should have more scope to do this.</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that local fundraising, donations and community support could play a role in enhancing Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, particularly for visible local improvements such as playground facilities.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore include an assessment of potential funding sources beyond the Council's core budget, including grants, donations, sponsorship and community-led fundraising. This would need to be balanced with a clear and sustainable plan for ongoing maintenance, safety, accessibility and long-term protection of the Recreation Ground for public use.</p>
<p>I think it is really important that we have a performance space and hall available for hire for Goslings nursery and Repair Café and various groups who use it. There are relatively spaces in Godalming which are available of this capacity and with the facilities. It is really important to have this space as part of our social and cultural life in the town. What can we do for our local young people? With cuts in youth work there is a distinct shortage of social opportunities for teenagers in our town.</p>	<p>GTC notes the importance placed on retaining accessible community spaces for local groups, including early years, repair, cultural, social and youth activities. The response highlights the wider value of community facilities in supporting Godalming's social and cultural life, particularly where there are limited venues of suitable size and capacity.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore assess how the asset could continue to support existing users, provide affordable hire opportunities, and help meet identified gaps in local provision, including safe and inclusive social opportunities for young people. The Council recognises that long-term community benefit, accessibility, affordability and sustainable management should be central to any future decision.</p>
<p>This is a valuable local resource used by, many children and adults for sport and recreation</p>	<p>GTC notes the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a valuable local resource used by both children and adults for sport, play and informal recreation.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection of the site for public recreational use, while assessing the responsibilities associated with local management, including maintenance, safety, accessibility, equipment provision and long-term funding.</p>
<p>I am unclear why a transfer is necessary, when the town council seemingly already owns the Recreation Ground. The latter was purchased in 1921 by the town council from the Godalming Recreation Club Company, which had owned it since 1896. Since June 2015, the 5.87 ha (14.5-acre) ground has been protected by the charity Fields in Trust under their Queen Elizabeth II Fields scheme.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's query regarding the ownership and protected status of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground. While the Recreation Ground may historically have been acquired by the former Godalming authority in 1921, the Council understands that responsibility for the asset is likely to have passed to Waverley Borough Council following local government reorganisation in 1974.</p> <p>This response highlights the importance of confirming the legal and practical position before any community asset transfer is considered. Any assessment should include a review of title, historic transfer arrangements, Fields in Trust protections, existing management responsibilities, and any restrictions affecting future use.</p> <p>The Council recognises that clarity on ownership and stewardship will be essential to ensuring Holloway Hill Recreation Ground remains protected and available for public recreation for the benefit of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>I don't live on that side of town so am unfamiliar with this space but support the general principle of transferring town assets if the costs are not prohibitive.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for the general principle of transferring local assets to Town Council responsibility where this is practical and financially sustainable.</p> <p>In relation to Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, any consideration of a community asset transfer should include a clear assessment of costs, liabilities, maintenance requirements, funding options and long-term community benefit. The Council recognises that local stewardship may offer benefits, but only where the transfer can be shown to be affordable, sustainable and in the interests of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>It all depends on budget, but the more control local authorities have over local amenities the better.</p>	<p>GTC notes the view that greater local control over local amenities can be beneficial, provided that any transfer is financially sustainable. Any consideration of taking responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground should therefore include a robust assessment of budget implications, including maintenance, staffing, insurance, equipment, compliance, future investment and potential funding sources. The Council recognises that local stewardship could support responsive management of the site, but any decision must be affordable, transparent and in the long-term interests of Godalming residents.</p>

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
Definitely. It's a great park with many facilities and uses.	GTC notes the clear support expressed for taking responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground and recognises its value as a well-used local park with a range of facilities and uses. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should seek to protect and enhance the Recreation Ground's role as an accessible, multi-use green space for Godalming residents, while assessing the practical implications of local management, including maintenance, safety, funding and long-term stewardship.
Sports, sports, sports please. Cricket, tennis, football, scouts, amazing playground. This green space is so important for local residents, especially juniors and younger children.	GTC notes the strong emphasis placed on retaining Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as an active sporting and recreational space for the community, including cricket, tennis, football, Scouts activities and children's play. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection and enhancement of the Recreation Ground as a multi-use green space, with particular regard to the needs of juniors, younger children and local families. The Council recognises the importance of maintaining facilities that support sport, play, physical activity and community participation, while ensuring that any future management arrangements are affordable, safe and sustainable.
Important to retain another green space in the town, + a useful location for social activities in the building housing the cafe.	GTC notes the importance placed on retaining Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a valued green space within the town, alongside its role as a location for wider community and social activity. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore assess both the protection of the Recreation Ground as accessible public open space and the potential for associated facilities, including the café building, to support community use. The Council recognises that future management arrangements should safeguard the site's recreational value while considering opportunities to enhance social, community and wellbeing benefits for Godalming residents.
Has always made more sense for this local area to be under GTC.	GTC notes the view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground would be more appropriately managed at local level by Godalming Town Council. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess whether Town Council responsibility would provide clearer, more responsive and locally accountable stewardship of the site. This should include consideration of maintenance, costs, legal responsibilities, community access and the long-term protection of the Recreation Ground as a valued public green space for Godalming residents.
It's a valuable resource as it is- and open space not overly organised. it needs protecting but not developing.	GTC notes the view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is valued not only for its facilities, but also for its open and informal character. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise the protection of the Recreation Ground as accessible public open space, avoiding unnecessary development or over-programming. The Council recognises that future stewardship should preserve the site's existing recreational and amenity value while ensuring appropriate maintenance, safety, accessibility and long-term protection for Godalming residents.
I don't fully understand the implications - but it would be a real shame for these wonderful spaces to be neglected.	GTC notes the respondent's concern that important local spaces such as Holloway Hill Recreation Ground should not be allowed to decline through lack of investment or stewardship. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore clearly explain the implications for the Council and residents, including costs, responsibilities, maintenance standards, funding options and long-term protection of the site. The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground remains well maintained, accessible and valued as a public green space for the benefit of Godalming residents.
Key recreational asset for residents supporting tennis, cricket and football and a thriving community bar in the Howling Owl. Would benefit from local control and upkeep.	GTC notes the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a key recreational asset for Godalming residents, supporting a range of activities including tennis, cricket and football, alongside valued community facilities such as the Howling Owl. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess whether local control would support responsive management, appropriate upkeep and long-term protection of the site. The Council recognises the Recreation Ground's role in promoting sport, recreation and community connection, and that any future arrangements should safeguard its accessibility, facilities and public benefit for residents.
The recreation ground should be run and supported by Godalming Residents.	GTC notes the view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground should be run and supported locally by Godalming residents. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess how local stewardship, community involvement and resident input could be built into future management arrangements. The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that the Recreation Ground remains accessible, well maintained and responsive to local needs, while any model for support or management must also be financially sustainable, properly governed and in the long-term interests of Godalming residents.
Another important local asset. It is an important sporting venue in the town plus being a leisure area for local residents. Has a long history of contributing to the town's sporting landscape and major celebrations. The only flat leisure area available to the public on The Hill. Much needed for young families and people of all ages to enjoy the environment.	GTC notes this comment. GTC notes the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as both a sporting venue and a valued leisure space for residents of all ages. Its long-standing role in supporting local sport, community activity and town celebrations underlines its significance to Godalming. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the protection of the Recreation Ground as an accessible, multi-use public open space, particularly given its value to young families and its importance as a flat recreational area on The Hill. The Council recognises that future stewardship should safeguard its sporting, leisure and community functions while ensuring appropriate maintenance, funding and long-term public access.
A very important sporting asset	GTC notes this comment.

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
See comments above I fully support and would advocate transfer to the town council	<p>GTC notes the respondent's clear support for the potential transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess how local stewardship could protect and enhance the Recreation Ground for residents, while ensuring that future arrangements are financially sustainable, properly governed, and able to maintain public access, recreational use and long-term community benefit.</p>
Very valuable green space for the community. Tennis courts which are generally available also make such a difference.	<p>GTC notes the value placed on Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as an important green space for the community, including the contribution made by accessible facilities such as the tennis courts.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection of the Recreation Ground as public open space and ensure that facilities remain available, well maintained and accessible to residents. The Council recognises that future stewardship should support both informal recreation and organised activity, while ensuring that ongoing costs, maintenance and long-term public benefit are properly assessed.</p>
We need to keep our parks, they are well used and keep children occupied	<p>GTC notes the importance placed on retaining well-used parks and open spaces for the benefit of local families and children.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as an accessible public recreational space, supporting play, informal activity and community wellbeing. The Council recognises that future stewardship should ensure the site remains safe, welcoming, well maintained and available for children, families and residents of all ages.</p>
I walk around Holloway Hill Recreation Ground daily and see it as important for both the physical and mental wellbeing of individuals but also the life of the local community. Its closure would be a great loss.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's comments on the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground for daily use, physical activity, mental wellbeing and community life.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection of the Recreation Ground as an accessible public open space. The Council recognises that its loss or reduction in availability would have a significant impact on local residents, and that future stewardship should safeguard public access, wellbeing benefits, maintenance standards and long-term community use.</p>
Responsibility and accountability is kept locally.	<p>GTC notes the importance placed on keeping responsibility and accountability for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground at a local level.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess whether Town Council stewardship would provide clear, responsive and locally accountable management of the site. The Council recognises that any future arrangements should maintain public access, protect the Recreation Ground's community value, and ensure that decisions about its upkeep, use and investment are transparent and in the interests of Godalming residents.</p>
Absolutely! This is a key facility for local families where school children meet to play with their friends. This should be protected.	<p>GTC notes the strong support expressed for protecting Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a key facility for local families and children.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection of the Recreation Ground as a safe, accessible and welcoming public space for play, recreation and social connection. The Council recognises its importance as a place where school children, families and residents can meet and spend time together, and that future stewardship should safeguard this community value while ensuring appropriate maintenance, funding and accountability.</p>
This is a wonderful resource for the residents of Busbridge and the wider community. I fear that, if transferred to the unitary, it would become susceptible to housing development, leading to the loss of this lovely open space and its much used sporting facilities.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's strong support for protecting Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a valued open space for residents of Busbridge and the wider Godalming community.</p> <p>The concerns raised about the potential loss of open space and sporting facilities underline the importance of ensuring that any future ownership or management arrangements provide robust long-term protection for the Recreation Ground. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise continued public access, retention of sporting and recreational use, and safeguards against inappropriate development.</p> <p>The Council recognises Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as an important local amenity and that future stewardship should be transparent, locally accountable and focused on preserving its community value for current and future residents.</p>
It is a very important community venue for the Busbridge area, actually the ONLY venue. It is important to maintain it to a high standard.	<p>GTC notes the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a valued community venue for the Busbridge area, particularly where local facilities are limited.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection, accessibility and high-quality maintenance of the Recreation Ground and its associated facilities. The Council recognises its role as a local meeting point and community asset, and that future stewardship should ensure it remains well managed, properly funded and available for the benefit of Busbridge residents and the wider Godalming community.</p>
Holloway Hill is immensely important to the people of Godalming and particularly living at the top of the hill. It can be seen by large number of people who use it daily for health and recreation.	<p>GTC notes the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to Godalming residents, particularly those living at the top of the hill, and recognises its regular use for health, wellbeing and recreation.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the continued protection of the Recreation Ground as an accessible and well-maintained public open space. The Council recognises its visible and valued role in the local community, and that future stewardship should safeguard daily recreational use, public access and long-term community benefit for residents.</p>
This Recreation Ground is very well used, especially since the Howling Owl has opened in the Pavilion. We need to be able to be sure it will be Maintained in the future	<p>GTC notes that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is very well used and that facilities such as the Pavilion and Howling Owl contribute to its role as a valued community space.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the long-term maintenance, management and protection of the Recreation Ground and its associated facilities. The Council recognises the importance of giving residents confidence that the site will remain accessible, well maintained and available for community, leisure and recreational use into the future.</p>

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
It is an invaluable community resource	GTC notes this comment.
For its future protection Local landmarks deserve local community involvement	<p>GTC notes the view that local landmarks and valued community assets such as Holloway Hill Recreation Ground should have strong local involvement in decisions about their future.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the long-term protection of the Recreation Ground and ensure that future management arrangements are locally accountable and shaped by community input. The Council recognises the importance of safeguarding the site as an accessible public green space and recreational asset for Godalming residents, with transparent decision-making around its maintenance, use and future investment.</p>
It is a Field in Trust but needs local 'eyes' to make sure it is maintained for the wide variety of uses it enjoys at present	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground benefits from existing protection, but that local oversight remains important to ensure it is properly maintained and continues to support the wide range of uses currently enjoyed by the community.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore assess how local stewardship could strengthen day-to-day accountability, maintenance and responsiveness to users' needs. The Council recognises the importance of safeguarding the Recreation Ground as an accessible public open space for sport, play, leisure and community activity, while ensuring that any future arrangements respect existing protections and provide long-term benefit for Godalming residents.</p>
To do what? To keep as is yes, To transfer into flats definitely not. We need to think about the traffic into the town and the facilities we have.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for retaining Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as it is, and the clear concern that any transfer should not lead to inappropriate development or loss of open space.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore be based on protecting the Recreation Ground for continued public recreational and community use. The Council recognises the need to consider wider impacts, including access, traffic, existing facilities and local infrastructure, and that any future arrangements should safeguard the site's green space character, community value and long-term benefit for Godalming residents.</p>
Wonderful facility that needs ongoing support and maintenance	<p>GTC notes the value placed on Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a wonderful local facility that requires ongoing support and maintenance.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess the long-term responsibilities associated with the site, including routine maintenance, future investment, safety, accessibility and funding. The Council recognises that continued support will be essential to ensuring the Recreation Ground remains well maintained, welcoming and available for public recreation and community use for the benefit of Godalming residents.</p>
I assume that this transfer would be a no or nominal cost.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's assumption that any transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground would be at no or nominal cost.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should confirm the proposed transfer terms and assess the full financial implications, including any acquisition cost, legal fees, maintenance liabilities, insurance, staffing, compliance, future investment and ongoing revenue costs. The Council recognises that the headline transfer cost is only one part of the assessment, and that any decision must be transparent, financially sustainable and in the long-term interests of Godalming residents.</p>
This valuable and much-used community facility must be preserved, maintained and not sold off for development.	GTC recognises the importance of parks and recreation grounds in supporting health, wellbeing, recreation and community cohesion, and agrees that safeguarding public access and ongoing community use should be central to any future consideration of the site.
Many local people enjoy this facility. There are also group events, e.g. football and cricket matches, physical exercise groups, etc. It is also a great place to meet socially in the cafe (but should be better advertised).	GTC recognises the importance of parks and recreation grounds in supporting health, wellbeing, physical activity and social connection. If GTC were asked to consider taking on responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, the Council would want to ensure that any future management arrangements protect and support a range of uses (informal recreation, organised sport/exercise, and social/community activity.) Any such proposal would need to be supported by a robust options appraisal and business case.
This is a fantastic community asset that provides so much for the local community such as, local fitness Bootcamp's, football, cricket, play area and a buzzing local cafe we need to make sure this remains a community asset.	GTC recognises that this mix of formal and informal recreation, family use, and social/community activity is what gives the site its particular value to local residents. If GTC were asked to consider taking on responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, a key priority would be to protect its role as a community asset and ensure that these existing benefits are maintained and, where possible, strengthened. Any such proposal would need to be supported by a robust options appraisal and business case.
It should have a covenant not to be used for housing added.	GTC recognises the importance of giving residents confidence that valued open space will remain protected for recreation and community benefit.
The rec. is a wonderful green space with a good adventure/play area. It is much appreciated by many and should be maintained and supported as an area where anyone can get some fresh air and exercise (and light snacks!)	GTC recognises the importance of maintaining and supporting spaces such as this as places where people of all ages can enjoy fresh air, exercise, play and informal social use. If GTC were asked to consider taking on responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, a key priority would be to protect its role as an accessible community recreation space. Any such proposal would need to be supported by a robust options appraisal and due diligence, and how current facilities and community use would be sustained over the long term.
Again, a great resource for local people and with the Busbridge Tennis Association and the Godalming Cricket Club and the Pavilion. It must be kept as a public space to be used by all.	GTC recognises the value of the site as a shared community asset, supporting both organised sport and wider informal public use. If GTC were asked to consider taking on responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, a key priority would be to protect its role as an accessible public recreation space, while also taking full account of the existing clubs, facilities and operational arrangements already in place on site.
	Any such proposal would need to be supported by a robust options appraisal and due diligence, so that long-term community benefit and public access are properly safeguarded.
I strongly believe that any green/recreational areas need to be "safeguarded" by the town council.	GTC recognises the importance of protecting open spaces for recreation, wellbeing, biodiversity and community benefit, and this is reflected in GTC's adopted priorities to protect open/green spaces for the community and to assess opportunities to manage additional local assets where this would benefit residents. In principle, GTC is open to exploring greater local stewardship where it can improve accountability and help secure the long-term protection of valued spaces. However, any proposal for GTC to take on responsibility for a specific green/recreational area, including Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, would need to be supported by a robust options appraisal and business case.

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
<p>To be kept for the sporting events and developed. The Howling Owl to be encouraged. Investments to be made to improve the Ground maintenance. Dogs to be discouraged and fouling to be tackled.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground being retained and improved as a venue for sport, recreation and community use, including support for facilities such as the Howling Owl.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess how the Recreation Ground could be maintained and enhanced for existing and future users, including investment in grounds maintenance, sporting provision and associated facilities. The Council also recognises the importance of managing potential conflicts between users, including responsible dog ownership and tackling dog fouling, so that the site remains safe, clean and welcoming for all residents.</p>
<p>What would be the impact of this? I am a 10 year + resident of High Ridge and we have no other recreational facilities up the hill, we didn't have a cafe until after covid and then had the Howling Owl and Yew tree cafe.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's question about the potential impact of any transfer and the importance of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to residents living on the hill, where alternative recreational facilities are limited.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should clearly assess and explain the practical implications for residents, including future access, maintenance, facilities, costs and community use. The Council recognises the value of the Recreation Ground and associated facilities, including the café offer, as important local amenities, and that any future stewardship should protect and enhance their role for High Ridge, Busbridge and the wider Godalming community.</p>
<p>Absolutely critical that this heavily used and important green space is under town control! A huge YES!</p>	<p>GTC notes the very strong support expressed for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground being brought under local Town Council control.</p> <p>The response highlights the importance residents place on the Recreation Ground as a heavily used and valued green space. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise its long-term protection, continued public access, effective maintenance and local accountability.</p> <p>The Council recognises that future stewardship should safeguard Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as an important recreational and community asset for Godalming residents, while ensuring that any transfer is financially sustainable and properly managed.</p>
<p>This is an absolute must. This multipurpose recreation ground is a huge asset to the people of Godalming. The local opportunities for exercise and outdoor play are essential if we are going to keep our population healthy. If a town council does not take over running this area, it will have very little investment and will end up being tatty and unusable. The transfer of the Holloway Hill recreation ground should be an absolute priority. Transferring all the recreation areas to local control as listed below should be a must as well.</p>	<p>GTC notes the strong support expressed for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground being transferred to local control and recognises the importance residents place on it as a multi-purpose recreational asset.</p> <p>The response highlights the Recreation Ground's value in supporting exercise, outdoor play, health and wellbeing for people of all ages. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise its long-term protection, continued public access, appropriate investment and effective local management.</p> <p>The Council recognises concerns that, without clear stewardship and investment, the site could deteriorate over time. Future assessment should therefore include maintenance standards, funding requirements, improvement opportunities and the wider case for local accountability across key recreational spaces in Godalming.</p>
<p>Although I no longer live on the Busbridge side of town I often visit the recreation ground with my grandchildren. It's a great facility that is used and appreciated by many residents</p>	<p>GTC notes that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is valued not only by nearby residents, but also by the wider Godalming community, including families who travel to use the site.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should recognise the Recreation Ground's wider community benefit as a well-used and appreciated facility for residents of all ages. The Council recognises the importance of protecting public access, maintaining facilities to a good standard, and ensuring future stewardship supports continued recreational use for families, children and the wider community.</p>
<p>It's a valuable community space with the tennis courts, football and cricket pitches, the playground and paths for walking plus the facilities for youth activities such as the cubs and brownies. The addition of the Howling Owl has also enhanced the community aspects.</p>	<p>GTC notes the value placed on Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a multi-use community space supporting a wide range of activities, including tennis, football, cricket, children's play, walking and youth group activities such as Cubs and Brownies.</p> <p>The response also highlights the contribution of facilities such as the Howling Owl in strengthening the site's community role. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise the continued protection, maintenance and enhancement of the Recreation Ground as an accessible space for sport, recreation, youth activity and social connection.</p> <p>The Council recognises that future stewardship should safeguard the site's broad community benefit while ensuring that facilities remain well managed, affordable, inclusive and available for residents of all ages.</p>
<p>Don't want to lose this wonderful outdoor space Would like the Scout Hut to remain and for the recreation ground not to be overly dominated by cricket.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC notes the respondent's support for retaining the Scout Hut and ensuring that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground continues to serve a broad range of community uses.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should recognise the importance of balancing organised sport with other recreational, youth and community activities. The Council recognises that future stewardship should protect the Recreation Ground as a multi-use space, ensuring that facilities such as the Scout Hut remain part of the wider community offer and that no single use disproportionately limits access or enjoyment by other residents.</p>

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
<p>Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is a thriving local facility. The cricket and football clubs that use it regularly and the playground, tennis and bowls clubs are all vital community assets. It needs to be maintained and I fear the larger unitary authority will be too thinly spread to be able to do this as well as the town council could.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a thriving local facility, supporting cricket, football, play, tennis, bowls and wider community use.</p> <p>The response highlights the importance of maintaining the Recreation Ground to a good standard and the concern that a larger authority may be less able to provide the local focus required. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore assess whether Town Council stewardship would provide more responsive, locally accountable management, while ensuring the necessary funding, maintenance arrangements and long-term protection are in place.</p> <p>The Council recognises Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as a valuable multi-use community asset, and that future arrangements should safeguard its sporting, recreational and social value for Godalming residents.</p>
<p>Yes please. Protect this space. It's got an historical connection too. Julius Caesar</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Although very senior citizens, we can still manage to walk to Holloway Hill recreation ground. Therefore we think it absolutely vital and imparative that this precious facility is preserved locally and who better to be in charge than Godalming Town Council? We thoroughly endorse this proposal.</p>	<p>GTC notes the strong support expressed for the proposed transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to Godalming Town Council, particularly from residents who value being able to access the site on foot.</p> <p>The response highlights the importance of the Recreation Ground as a precious local facility for residents of all ages, including older residents. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise its continued protection, accessibility, local management and long-term maintenance.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of preserving Holloway Hill Recreation Ground as an accessible public open space under locally accountable stewardship, where this can be shown to be affordable, sustainable and in the best interests of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>I don't use the space, but I believe local amenities are better served if managed locally</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Of course, the less West Surrey have control the less we are likely that it will be maintained. Unitary authorities are really not interested in local issues</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's concern that local facilities such as Holloway Hill Recreation Ground may not receive the same level of attention under wider authority arrangements.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should assess whether GTC stewardship would provide more responsive, locally accountable management and maintenance of the Recreation Ground. The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that this valued green space remains well maintained, accessible and protected for community use, with clear responsibilities, funding arrangements and accountability for its future care.</p>
<p>I have never used this asset, so am unaware what the implications of transfer would be. There is nothing in the literature to indicate hoe users might be affected.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Not sure what this means , have not seen any detailed information on this</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>I'd rather not see it sold off for housing. Open places and sports pitches are important</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's concern that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground should not be sold off or lost to housing development.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should prioritise the long-term protection of the site as public open space, including its sports pitches and wider recreational use. The Council recognises that open spaces are important to the health, wellbeing and community life of Godalming residents, and that future stewardship should safeguard Holloway Hill Recreation Ground from inappropriate development while ensuring it remains accessible, well maintained and available for sport and recreation.</p>
<p>Subject to suitable budget provisions and sufficient resources and expertise to successfully manage.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support is conditional on there being suitable budget provision, resources and expertise to manage Holloway Hill Recreation Ground effectively.</p> <p>Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore include a robust assessment of the financial, staffing, technical and governance requirements involved. This should cover maintenance, legal responsibilities, insurance, health and safety, compliance, future investment and ongoing operational capacity.</p> <p>The Council recognises that local stewardship could offer benefits, but any transfer should only proceed where it can be shown to be affordable, properly resourced, competently managed and in the long-term interests of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>I often go here and it's a lovely spot and very well used. There are beautiful trees there tennis courts cricket clubs etc. A lovely cafe. It 100% needs to be transferred to the local authority or it will just end up covered in houses.</p>	<p>GTC notes the strong support expressed for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground being retained under local control, and recognises its value as a well-used and much-loved open space with trees, sports facilities, clubs and community amenities such as the café.</p> <p>The response also highlights concern that the site could be lost to inappropriate development if not properly protected. Any consideration of a community asset transfer should therefore prioritise the Recreation Ground's continued use as public open space, support its sporting and community functions, and ensure its long-term maintenance, accessibility and protection for the benefit of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>Never been there but assume locals need it.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>

Do you support Godalming Town Council investigating a possible transfer of Holloway Hill Recreation Ground to the Town Council?

Public Comment	GTC Response
As more people are moving to live in Godalming and the surrounding villages then there is a need for Godalming Town Council to provide good recreational facilities for all its residents	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that, as the town and surrounding villages continue to grow, there is a corresponding need to ensure that recreational facilities remain high quality, well maintained and accessible for all residents. GTC recognises the important role that parks and recreation grounds play in supporting health and wellbeing, social cohesion and community pride, and the wider value that well-managed green spaces can bring to local communities .</p> <p>Any proposal for GTC to take on the Holloway Hill Recreation Ground would need to be subject to a robust options appraisal and business case, including due diligence on: the condition of the site and any required investment; ongoing maintenance standards and costs; health and safety and insurance implications; any constraints on use; and the current legal and operational arrangements already in place on the site, including any leasehold interests, licences, tenancies or third-party occupation/management agreements. These existing arrangements would need to be fully understood (including their duration, rights and obligations, and any implications for service delivery and future improvements) before any transfer could be responsibly considered.</p>
Other Town Councils have done this and made a great success of it. More volunteers come forward and more local donors when they know it is being managed locally.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that, in other towns, parish/town councils have successfully taken on recreation grounds and that local stewardship can help attract volunteers and local fundraising, because residents can see decisions being made locally and transparently. GTC recognises that there can be real benefits where management is closer to the community, including stronger engagement, opportunities for "friends of" style support, and a clearer platform for grant applications and local donations. GTC is open to exploring opportunities to take on assets where this would deliver clear community benefit and improve local accountability.</p> <p>Any proposal for GTC to assume responsibility for the Holloway Hill Recreation Ground would need to be tested through a robust options appraisal and business case. If a feasible and sustainable model can be identified, GTC would welcome conversations with residents and community groups about how volunteer involvement and local support could complement (not replace) proper funded maintenance and long-term stewardship.</p>
Concern that moving it may involved changing it away from being a local park	GTC notes the respondent's concern that any change in responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground could lead to it being altered in a way that moves away from its role as a local park. GTC recognises that well-managed parks and recreation grounds are important community assets, supporting health, wellbeing and community cohesion . If GTC were to explore taking on responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, the starting principle would be to retain and protect its function as a public recreational green space for local residents.
An excellent park for the local community providing a multitude of of sports, recreation and activities throughout the year	GTC notes this comment.
<u>Essential amenity</u>	GTC notes this comment.
Decisions to be made by the Town Council but funded by annual grant from the West Surrey CC so that upkeep is paid for by Council Tax. This comment also applies to the four facilities listed below.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that decisions about Holloway Hill Recreation Ground (and the other facilities referenced) should be taken locally by GTC, but that day-to-day upkeep should be funded through an ongoing annual grant from the unitary authority, so that costs remain met through council tax without placing additional pressure on the Town Council's precept.</p> <p>GTC recognises the logic of aligning local accountability with secure funding, particularly where assets are being devolved from a higher tier. However, any arrangement of this type would need to be evidenced and agreed in writing as part of any transfer/management proposal, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether funding would be guaranteed, and for how long; - whether it would be index-linked to inflation and responsive to changing costs; - what it covers (routine maintenance vs. major repairs/capital renewals); - payment terms, reporting requirements, and any break/termination clauses; and - clarity on liabilities, standards, and who carries risk if funding reduces or ends. <p>In practice, all such expenditure is ultimately funded by taxpayers; the key issue is ensuring fair, transparent and sustainable funding that matches the responsibilities being transferred.</p>
Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is a very important local space and needs to be safeguarded.	GTC notes the respondent's view that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground is a very important local space and must be safeguarded. GTC recognises that well-managed parks and recreation grounds support community health and wellbeing, reduce isolation and strengthen social cohesion, and are therefore highly valued local assets . GTC agrees that protecting public access and the site's role as a local recreational green space should be a key consideration in any future discussions about governance or management arrangements.
I don't know about the Holloway Hill recreation ground and what facilities it offers.	GTC notes this comment.
<u>Support the TC's position on this..</u>	GTC notes this comment.
Needs to be protected against possible sale for housing development.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's concern that Holloway Hill Recreation Ground should be protected against any potential disposal for housing development.</p> <p>GTC recognises that parks and recreation grounds are important community assets, supporting health and wellbeing, social cohesion and community pride, and that residents value certainty that such spaces will remain available for public recreation. Safeguarding public access and the site's primary function as a local recreational green space would therefore be the key priority in any future discussions about ownership, management or long-term use.</p> <p>If GTC were to consider taking on responsibility for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground, it would only do so following a robust options appraisal and business case. This would include due diligence on the site's legal status and constraints, any existing third-party rights/arrangements (e.g., leases or licences), and the practical and financial implications of long-term stewardship, so the space is sustainably managed and properly protected.</p>

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
<p>The park situated at Aaron's hill should also be included as it provides green space for local residents as well as valuable outdoor play areas for children. The Philips Memorial I am assuming already has protected status?</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that the park at Aaron's Hill should also be considered as part of any future asset transfer discussions. The Council recognises the importance of local green spaces and children's play areas in supporting residents' wellbeing, recreation and community life.</p> <p>If this site is to be explored further, the Council would need to establish its ownership, current management responsibilities, maintenance liabilities, usage, condition, and any legal or planning protections that may apply. Any potential transfer would also need to be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, accessibility, long-term affordability, and the Council's capacity to manage and maintain the asset sustainably.</p> <p>The Council also notes the query regarding the Philips Memorial. Its current protection or designation status should be verified as part of any wider review of assets, including checking relevant heritage, planning, land ownership and local listing records before any conclusions are drawn.</p>
<p>Binscombe Meadows, as it is an important natural landscape that supports biodiversity and provides a recreational area for walkers/dog walkers</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that Binscombe Meadows should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises that Binscombe Meadows is valued as an important natural landscape, supporting biodiversity and providing informal recreational space for walkers, dog walkers and the wider community. If this site is explored further, the Council would need to establish its ownership, current management arrangements, ecological value, maintenance requirements, public access position and any relevant environmental, planning or legal protections.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, biodiversity protection, accessibility, long-term maintenance costs, and the Council's capacity to manage the land sustainably.</p>
<p>Binscombe woods open area - opposite Costcutter</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that the Binscombe Woods open area, opposite Costcutter, should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of local open spaces in supporting residents' wellbeing, access to nature and informal recreation. If this site is explored further, the Council would need to confirm the precise land parcel, ownership, current management responsibilities, maintenance liabilities, public access arrangements, ecological value, and any planning, environmental or legal protections that may apply.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, accessibility, biodiversity, long-term maintenance costs, and the Council's capacity to manage the land sustainably. Local residents and relevant stakeholders should be consulted before any decision is taken.</p>
<p>Car parks, enabling the TC to change parking rules, eg giving a free 30 minutes-1 hour initial period to boost the High Street (Petworth does this). Broadwater Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that local car parks should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions, particularly where local management could support the town centre and High Street economy.</p> <p>The Council recognises the potential benefits of more locally responsive parking arrangements, including the possibility of short initial free parking periods, where feasible. However, any consideration of car park transfer would need to assess ownership, existing management arrangements, income implications, enforcement responsibilities, maintenance liabilities, traffic impacts, and the financial effect on both the Town Council and residents. Any change to parking policy would also need to be considered alongside wider transport, accessibility and town centre objectives.</p> <p>The Council also notes the suggestion that Broadwater Leisure Centre should be considered. Given the scale and specialist nature of leisure centre operation, any potential transfer would require a detailed feasibility study, including running costs, staffing, building condition, contractual arrangements, community benefit, investment requirements and long-term financial sustainability.</p> <p>Both suggestions should be assessed against clear criteria, including public benefit, affordability, operational risk, and the Council's capacity to manage the assets effectively.</p>
<p>The Old broadwater golf site</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that the Old Broadwater Golf Course site should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises that former open space and leisure sites can have significant community, recreational, ecological and strategic value. If this site is explored further, the Council would need to establish the precise land parcel, ownership, current status, planning position, access arrangements, ecological value, maintenance liabilities, and any legal or environmental protections that may apply.</p> <p>Any potential transfer would need to be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, biodiversity, accessibility, long-term management costs, development constraints, and the Council's capacity to manage the land sustainably. The Council would also expect local residents, relevant stakeholders and the planning authority to be engaged before any decision is taken.</p>
<p>The Bury's. Charterhouse Green.</p>	<p>Both of these sites are already included in asset transfer bids.</p>

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
<p>I think it is really important that we have a performance space and hall available for hire for Goslings nursery and Repair Café and various groups who use it. There are relatively spaces in Godalming which are available of this capacity and with the facilities. It is really important to have this space as part of our social and cultural life in the town. What can we do for our local young people? With cuts in youth work there is a distinct shortage of social opportunities for teenagers in our town.</p>	<p>GTC notes the strong support for retaining Borough Hall as an accessible performance space and hall for hire by local organisations, including Goslings Nursery, Repair Café and other community groups.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of the Borough Hall as part of the town's social, cultural and community life, particularly given the limited availability of venues of comparable size and facilities in Godalming. Any assessment of a potential asset transfer should therefore consider how the Hall can continue to support existing users while also widening access for local groups, arts, performance, film, dance, classes and community events.</p> <p>The Council also notes the comments regarding young people and the shortage of social opportunities for teenagers, particularly in the context of reduced youth provision. Future options for Borough Hall should consider whether the building could support youth-focused activities, safe social spaces, partnership working with schools, youth organisations and voluntary groups, and wider programming that benefits residents of all ages.</p> <p>Any proposal should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, affordability, accessibility, running costs, safeguarding requirements, and the Council's capacity to manage and programme the facility sustainably.</p>
<p>Phillips Memorial Park seems especially important given that's where most of the town festivals are held.</p>	<p>GTC notes the comment that Phillips Memorial Park is of particular importance to the town, especially as a venue for many local festivals and community events.</p> <p>The Council recognises the park's central role in supporting Godalming's civic, cultural and community life. If Phillips Memorial Park is considered as part of any future asset transfer discussions, the Council would need to confirm its ownership, current management arrangements, legal or heritage protections, maintenance liabilities, event infrastructure, public access requirements and long-term funding needs.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, accessibility, protection of the park's character, ability to support town events, affordability, and the Council's capacity to manage the asset sustainably. The Council would also expect local residents, event organisers and relevant stakeholders to be engaged before any decision is taken.</p>
<p>Unfortunately I don't know who / what else WBC owns. I appreciate the efforts to protect Godalming's assets and hope they're successful.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Any green areas of Farncombe that are not privately managed</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that green areas in Farncombe which are not privately managed should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises the value of local green spaces in supporting residents' wellbeing, informal recreation, biodiversity and community identity. If such sites are explored further, the Council would need to identify the specific land parcels, confirm ownership and current management responsibilities, and assess maintenance liabilities, public access arrangements, ecological value, existing use and any legal, planning or environmental protections.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, accessibility, biodiversity, long-term maintenance costs, affordability, and the Council's capacity to manage the land sustainably. Local residents and relevant stakeholders should be consulted before any decision is taken.</p>
<p>Anything else it considers it could it could manage and that's important for the community.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Not at the moment. Is the Library under any threat? If so then that is a candidate.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC is not aware that the Library is under threat, which is a statutory service provided by Surrey County Council. It is expected that this service will transfer to, an continue to be operated by the West Surrey Unitary Authority.</p>
<p>What else is there? Not sure who owns what. Vital to protect our parks and recreation spaces from being built on.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>These places are much needed , and it would be marvellous if you are able to look after them</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>I consider the above are used by many in godalming but others are not so I am unsure if all ratepayers should pay for a local facility</p>	<p>GTC notes the concern that some assets may be used more by particular local communities or groups than by all residents across Godalming, and that this should be carefully considered when assessing whether Town Council resources should be used to support them.</p> <p>The Council recognises that any community asset transfer must demonstrate clear public benefit and value for local ratepayers. This does not necessarily mean that every asset must be used equally by every resident, but it should provide a genuine community benefit, be accessible where possible, and support the wider wellbeing, cultural, recreational or environmental needs of the town.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should therefore be assessed against clear criteria, including levels of use, breadth of community benefit, accessibility, affordability, maintenance and running costs, potential income, alternative provision, and the long-term financial impact on the Town Council and its residents.</p> <p>The Council would also expect decisions to be transparent, evidence-based and subject to appropriate local engagement before any commitment is made.</p>

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
<p>The Phillips Memorial Park is particularly important to the town. It is integral to the town and is best controlled locally, i.e. Town Council. Similarly, Broadwater Park is an important local asset, best run by the Town Council.</p>	<p>GTC notes the comments highlighting the importance of Phillips Memorial Park and Broadwater Park as valued local assets.</p> <p>The Council recognises that both parks play an important role in supporting community life, public recreation, events, wellbeing and access to open space. The view that such assets may be best managed locally is noted, particularly where local control could help ensure that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of Godalming residents.</p>
<p>What is going to happen to the Pepperpot Surely that belongs to Godalming and the Town Council should maintain it.</p>	<p>The Pepperpot is already owned by GTC.</p>
<p>Car parks in Godalming</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that car parks in Godalming should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises that car parking is an important issue for residents, visitors, local businesses and the vitality of the town centre. Local management of car parks could potentially provide opportunities to align parking arrangements more closely with Godalming's needs, including access to the High Street, community facilities, events and local services.</p> <p>However, any potential transfer of car parks would require detailed assessment of ownership, current management arrangements, income, enforcement responsibilities, maintenance liabilities, traffic impacts, accessibility, safety, and the financial implications for both the Town Council and local ratepayers.</p>
<p>All Scout and Guide used halls Other community groups like WI use these</p>	<p>Godalming Town Council notes the suggestion that halls used by Scout, Guide, WI and other community groups should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises the important role that such halls play in supporting local voluntary organisations, youth groups, social activities and community cohesion. These spaces can provide affordable and accessible venues for regular meetings, skills development, intergenerational activity and wider community use.</p> <p>If any specific halls are to be explored further, the Council would need to confirm ownership, existing lease or management arrangements, building condition, current users, safeguarding requirements, maintenance liabilities, running costs and the level of wider community access. It would also be important to avoid disrupting well-established community organisations or placing new burdens on volunteer-led groups.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, affordability, accessibility, long-term sustainability, youth provision, and the Council's capacity to support or manage the asset appropriately.</p>
<p>I dont know what the benefits of doing this is... All should be investigated but without any mention of the process and whether the Town Council has to BUY the facility or received it at nominal cost it is impossible to respond sensibly. Please provide residents with information of costs and process. As I don't live near either of the two recreation grounds mentioned and don't know how much they are used I cannot comment. Broadwater Park must be at high risk of sale by West Surrey as it is an obvious housing estate in waiting and therefore should be protected. I would hope the Binscombe Lane open space, opposite Binscombe Crescent can be transferred for future protection.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC notes the respondent's view that a broad range of potential assets should be investigated, but also recognises the concern that residents need clearer information about the asset transfer process, likely costs, and whether assets would be transferred at market value, nominal value, or under another arrangement.</p> <p>The Council agrees that any meaningful assessment must be supported by transparent information and the long-term financial impact on the Town Council and local ratepayers. Where assets are being considered, the Council should publish clear information on process, timelines, costs and funding assumptions as soon as these are known.</p> <p>The Council also notes that some residents may not feel able to comment on particular recreation grounds or open spaces where they are less familiar with usage levels. Any future assessment should therefore be evidence-based and include usage data, site condition, community value, accessibility and local consultation.</p> <p>The comments regarding Broadwater Park and Binscombe Lane open space are noted. The Council recognises the importance of protecting valued green spaces from inappropriate loss or development where they provide community, recreational, environmental or biodiversity benefits. If these sites are explored further, the Council would need to confirm ownership, planning status, current management arrangements, public access, legal or environmental protections, and long-term maintenance responsibilities.</p>
<p>Canon Bowring's Recreation Ground - a haven for people in Farncombe</p>	<p>This asset has already been requested for transfer from Waverley Borough Council.</p>
<p>I support the Town Council to explore all Waverley Borough Council owned facilities</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Waverley Council Building site</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that the Waverley Council office building site should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises that significant public-sector land and buildings within Godalming may have strategic importance for the town's future. If this site were to be explored further, the Council would need to establish ownership, current and future operational requirements, site constraints, planning status, building condition, potential uses, valuation, transfer terms and any financial, legal or maintenance liabilities.</p> <p>Given the scale and nature of the site, any potential transfer would require a detailed feasibility and options appraisal, including community benefit, affordability, accessibility, redevelopment or refurbishment costs, income potential, governance arrangements and the Council's capacity to manage the asset sustainably.</p> <p>The Council would also expect any discussions about the future of the site to be transparent and informed by engagement with residents, businesses, community groups and relevant stakeholders, so that any future use supports the long-term interests of Godalming.</p>

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
<p>All of them in this area should be run by godalming.</p> <p>I have ticked the Phillips memorial park as it needs to be kept clean, safe and well supported by Godalming as it is one of our citizens we are remembering . I am not very familiar with the other places, but in an ideal world the Town Council would be responsible for them all.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC notes the respondent's support for Phillips Memorial Park being considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions, and the importance placed on keeping it clean, safe, well maintained and properly supported.</p> <p>The Council recognises the civic and commemorative significance of Phillips Memorial Park, as well as its wider role as a valued public open space for residents, visitors and town events. Any consideration of its future management should therefore take account of its heritage value, community use, maintenance requirements, public safety, accessibility and long-term protection.</p> <p>The Council also notes the broader view that, in an ideal situation, the Town Council could have responsibility for a wider range of local assets. While local management can offer benefits in terms of responsiveness and accountability, any potential transfer would need to be assessed carefully against clear criteria, including community benefit, affordability, legal responsibilities, maintenance liabilities, staffing, specialist expertise and the impact on local ratepayers.</p>
<p>Install a Bike area and reinstate the golf driving range at Broadwater Park. Improve the ground maintenance around the Lake.</p>	<p>Godalming Town Council notes the suggestions to improve Broadwater Park, including installing a dedicated bike area, reinstating the former golf driving range, and improving grounds maintenance around the lake.</p> <p>The Council recognises Broadwater Park as an important local recreation and leisure space with potential to support a wider range of outdoor activities for residents. If Broadwater Park is considered as part of future asset transfer discussions, these suggestions should be reviewed as part of a wider assessment of community need, site suitability, safety, environmental impact, maintenance requirements, cost, and long-term management responsibilities.</p>
<p>Llamas lands</p>	<p>Godalming Town Council notes the suggestion that Lammas Lands should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of Lammas Lands as a valued open space. If this site is explored further, the Council would need to confirm the precise land parcels involved, ownership, current management responsibilities, public access arrangements, ecological value, any legal, environmental or heritage protections, and long-term maintenance liabilities.</p>
<p>Unsure, but I support as much transfer as possible and definitely Holloway Hill recreation ground and any other area instrumental to the character of the town.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's broad support for community asset transfer where this would protect assets that are important to the character, identity and wellbeing of the town.</p> <p>The Council also notes the specific support for Holloway Hill Recreation Ground being considered as a priority. The recreation ground is recognised as an important local open space, providing recreational, sporting and community value, and any future assessment should consider its role in supporting residents' access to green space and preserving the character of the area.</p> <p>The Council agrees that other assets which are instrumental to Godalming's character could also be identified and assessed through a clear and transparent process. Any potential transfer would need to be considered against criteria including community benefit, accessibility, long-term protection, maintenance liabilities, affordability, legal responsibilities, and the Council's capacity to manage the asset sustainably.</p>
<p>Lammas land</p>	<p>Godalming Town Council notes the suggestion that Lammas Lands should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of Lammas Lands as a valued open space. If this site is explored further, the Council would need to confirm the precise land parcels involved, ownership, current management responsibilities, public access arrangements, ecological value, any legal, environmental or heritage protections, and long-term maintenance liabilities.</p>
<p>Please see my comment on subsidiarity, and if it ain't broke don't fix it as a general rule. Many promises will be given, they are cheap to give. Many decisions should be taken locally as per devolution.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>The former golf course site and lake at Broadwater Park (if not included above already). Also 69 High Street if finances allowed. It has sat empty for far too long but looks like it is finally moving ahead, in which case it would be far better owned and directed by the town council than the unitary behemoth.</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that the former golf course site and lake at Broadwater Park should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions, if not already included within the wider review of Broadwater Park. The Council recognises that these areas may have significant recreational, environmental and community value, and that any future assessment should consider public access, biodiversity, water management, maintenance responsibilities, safety, current usage, site constraints and opportunities for appropriate community use.</p> <p>The Council also notes the suggestion that 69 High Street should be considered, subject to financial viability and the current position regarding its future use. The Council recognises that prominent town centre buildings can have strategic importance for Godalming's vitality, heritage, local economy and community identity.</p>
<p>Canon Bowring? Combe Rd?</p>	<p>Both of these sites are already included in asset transfer bids, either via a formal asset transfer request, or an expression of interest.</p>

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
<p>It is vitally important that each and every one of the Waverley Borough Council owned facilities in Godalming ought to be transferred to Godalming Town Council as a matter of extreme urgency. These little refuge areas must not be allowed to fall into the hands of speculative developers. Despite being a hard-up pensioner, we would support any small monthly increase to our Council Tax bill for these express purposes. Time is of the essence. What about the local town school playing fields? Are they protected by another long-term future plan?</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's strong support for the transfer of Waverley Borough Council-owned assets in Godalming to the Town Council, particularly where this would help protect valued local spaces from inappropriate disposal or development.</p> <p>The Council recognises the concern that small open spaces, community facilities and other local assets can make an important contribution to the character, amenity and wellbeing of the town. The urgency expressed is noted, as is the respondent's willingness to support a modest increase in Council Tax where this is clearly linked to protecting local assets for community benefit.</p> <p>However, any transfer would need to be considered carefully and transparently. The Council would need to establish which assets are available for transfer, the proposed terms, whether any purchase cost is involved, and the long-term financial implications for residents. Each asset should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, risk of loss, accessibility, maintenance liabilities, legal protections, running costs, and the Council's capacity to manage it sustainably.</p>
<p>Get as much as you can to protect our community! All available parts of the Lammas Lands. And 'Binscombe Meadow' and Glebe Wood'.</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p> <p>GTC notes the suggestion that all available parts of the Lammas Lands, together with Binscombe Meadow and Glebe Wood, should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises that these areas may have significant value as local green spaces, supporting biodiversity, access to nature, informal recreation, walking, wellbeing and the wider character of Godalming. Their potential importance to residents and to the town's natural environment should therefore be taken into account in any assessment.</p> <p>If these sites are explored further, the Council would need to confirm the precise land parcels involved, ownership, current management arrangements, public access rights, ecological value, maintenance liabilities, flood risk or land management constraints, and any legal, environmental or planning protections that may apply.</p> <p>Any potential transfer should be assessed against clear criteria, including community benefit, biodiversity protection, accessibility, long-term maintenance costs, affordability, and the Council's capacity to manage the land sustainably. Local residents, users and relevant environmental stakeholders should be engaged before any decision is taken.</p>
<p>Need to know who owns what Surrey county council, Waverley council, Church council , Godalming town council</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Any other scout & guide buildings or community centres, etc</p>	
<p>All of them, let's keep Godalming Godalming</p>	<p>GTC notes this comment.</p>
<p>Who owns the Pepperpot? Are the Lammas Lands and The Burys fully protected? The bandstand in the Memorial Park? The Boy Scouts Hut on Charterhouse Road? Maybe divert spend from proposed 20MPH speed bumps in Farncombe which is a waste of money. no one can drive fast around there!</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's questions about the ownership and long-term protection of a number of valued local assets, including the Pepperpot, Lammas Lands, The Burys, the Memorial Park bandstand, and the Scouts' hut on Charterhouse Road.</p> <p>For clarity, the Pepperpot is already owned by GTC. In addition, GTC already has agreement from Waverley Borough Council to take on the freehold of The Burys Field.</p> <p>More broadly, GTC agrees it is important that residents have confidence that key open spaces and amenities are appropriately protected for community benefit. Where assets are not in GTC ownership, this can include considering what protections are in place (for example, ownership, leases, restrictions/covenants, and any statutory or trust-based constraints) and what practical steps could strengthen long-term stewardship.</p> <p>GTC's current work programme includes assessing opportunities for managing land currently held by Waverley Borough Council and developing a fuller picture of locally important public land assets . GTC has also previously expressed an interest in exploring the transfer of other community assets where this would benefit the local area . Feedback such as this will help inform priorities for what should be reviewed next.</p> <p>The respondent's comment regarding spending priorities for highways measures is noted; however, this is separate from the community asset transfer survey and would need to be considered through the relevant highways and transport decision-making routes.</p>
<p>Yes to all, but not to the detriment of higher-priority goals. It is better to have a robust solution to some issues than attempt a fragile and unsustainable solution to all</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's support, in principle, for GTC considering additional community assets, while emphasising that this should not be to the detriment of higher-priority goals and that it is better to deliver a robust, sustainable solution for some assets than to take on too much and risk an unsustainable outcome.</p> <p>GTC agrees with this principle. Any future consideration of additional asset transfers would need to be prioritised and phased, based on clear community benefit and deliverability, and supported by a robust business case. This would include due diligence on: condition and investment needs; ongoing maintenance and operational costs; liabilities and risks; existing legal arrangements on site (including any leasehold/licence interests); and sustainable funding options, so that any assets taken on can be managed to an appropriate standard over the long term.</p> <p>This approach aligns with the Council's existing work to assess opportunities for local management of assets held by Waverley Borough Council, while ensuring decisions remain evidence-based and financially responsible.</p>

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
<p>Bandstand and bowling green area</p>	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that the Godalming Bandstand and the bowling green area should be considered as part of any wider review of community assets, and recognises that these facilities can contribute significantly to community life, supporting outdoor events, wellbeing, and opportunities for residents of different ages to take part in recreational and cultural activity.</p> <p>GTC's current priorities include assessing opportunities for managing assets presently held by Waverley Borough Council where this would benefit the community, and developing a clearer local authority-owned asset picture for the parish . Feedback such as this helps inform which assets residents would like GTC to explore.</p> <p>Any proposal to take on responsibility for the bandstand and/or bowling green area would need to be subject to a robust options appraisal and business case, including due diligence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the condition of the assets and likely investment needs (including accessibility and safety); - ongoing maintenance and operating costs, liabilities and insurance; - any existing legal and operational arrangements (e.g., leases/licences/club arrangements and event permissions); - how community access would be protected; and - sustainable funding arrangements (including any transitional support).
<p>I don't know about the others although it would be good going forward to consider walkways beside the river as is being done In Guildford</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's suggestion that, looking ahead, it would be beneficial to consider improving and/or extending walkways alongside the river, similar to initiatives seen elsewhere. GTC recognises the potential community benefits of riverside walking routes, including improved accessibility, health and wellbeing, safer and more attractive walking connections, and added amenity for residents and visitors.</p> <p>Any proposal of this nature would need careful exploration with the relevant landowners and partner authorities, as riverside routes can involve a range of constraints and responsibilities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - land ownership and rights of way (including any third-party rights, leases or licences); - flood risk and drainage considerations; - ecological and biodiversity impacts and any protected habitats/species; - design, accessibility, lighting and safety requirements; and - ongoing maintenance liabilities and sustainable funding.
<p>Municipal flowerbeds throughout Godalming which have not been maintained for years and are just full of unsightly weeds</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's concern that some municipal flowerbeds across Godalming have not been maintained for a prolonged period and are now perceived as unsightly. GTC recognises the importance of well-kept planting in supporting civic pride and wellbeing, and notes that GTC already delivers planting initiatives through its Floral Godalming approach, which the Council is seeking to expand and adapt, including a shift away from high-maintenance annual planting towards lower-cost, lower-maintenance planting that supports biodiversity and water conservation . GTC has also previously recognised that floral displays can help soften the built environment and contribute to civic pride .</p> <p>Where flowerbeds are not currently within GTC's ownership or maintenance responsibility, GTC would first need to confirm the relevant landowner/maintaining authority and any existing maintenance arrangements. Subject to that, and to affordability and prioritisation, GTC might be willing to explore options for bringing neglected beds back into a suitable maintenance regime, potentially through revised planting specifications (e.g., perennial/wildflower schemes) and/or inclusion within the Council's wider green spaces work programme .</p>
<p>Some Parish Councils have taken on management of their playgrounds with great success. Wonersh Parish council is a local example. They set up a charity which fund raises for new equipment while the parish council managed the ongoing maintenance and weekly safety checks.</p>	<p>GTC notes the respondent's point that some parish/town councils have successfully taken on the management of playgrounds, and the local example given of Wonersh Parish Council using a model where the council manages ongoing maintenance and routine safety checks, alongside a separate fundraising charity for improvements and new equipment.</p> <p>GTC recognises that local management can bring benefits, including clearer accountability, quicker responses to minor repairs, and stronger community involvement and fundraising. GTC's current priorities include protecting and improving local green/community spaces and assessing opportunities to manage assets held by the Waverley Borough Council where this would benefit residents, and GTC has previously taken on community assets where this delivers better local outcomes.</p> <p>Any proposal for GTC to take on additional playgrounds would need a robust options appraisal and business case, including due diligence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - asset condition and compliance (including inspection regimes and remedial backlogs); - ongoing revenue costs (maintenance, weekly/regular checks, insurance) and capital renewal needs; - legal arrangements (ownership/lease/licence), any third-party rights, and responsibilities; and - whether a "friends of" group or charity model is feasible and appropriately governed, so fundraising complements (but does not replace) sustainable baseline maintenance.

Are there any other Waverley Borough Council-owned facilities you feel Godalming Town Council should consider?

Public comment	GTC Response
All the Godalming green spaces, woods etc.	<p>GTC notes the suggestion that all green spaces, woodlands and similar natural areas within Godalming should be considered as part of any future community asset transfer discussions.</p> <p>The Council recognises the collective value of these spaces in supporting biodiversity, access to nature, informal recreation, walking, wellbeing, climate resilience and the overall character of the town. Protecting and managing green spaces locally may offer opportunities to ensure that decisions reflect the needs of Godalming residents and the long-term interests of the community.</p> <p>Any potential transfer would need to begin with a clear audit of relevant sites, including ownership, current management arrangements, public access, ecological value, legal or environmental protections, maintenance liabilities and long-term funding requirements.</p>
I'm not sure of the current status of the Pepperpot but that's clearly one, as is the Godalming Museum.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's comments regarding the Pepperpot and Godalming Museum as important local assets.</p>
<p>(for Broadwater Park, as per the article on your website, it may best to limit the scope of the investigation to parts of the site which are "easier" to handle; organisations such as Guildford Rugby Club may be better placed to take-on their section of the site) (I apologise that I don't know which local areas WBC owns so this list may not be relevant) * Binscombe Fields * Longbourne Green, Binscombe * Wood next to Northbourne * The Glade, Farncombe * Churchyard at St John's Church, Farncombe (WBC maintain fence, cut grass and collect bins & garden waste)</p>	<p>For clarity, the Pepperpot is already owned by GTC and is recognised as a key landmark within the town centre. In addition, GTC has previously taken over ownership of the Godalming Museum building and, in partnership with the Godalming Museum Trust, supports the museum service for the benefit of the town.</p> <p>GTC notes the respondent's helpful and thoughtful suggestions, including the point that where a large and complex site is involved (such as Broadwater Park), it may be sensible to scope any investigation in phases and focus initially on areas that are more straightforward to manage, while recognising that established organisations/club users may be best placed to take responsibility for their own areas where appropriate. Any such approach would need to take account of existing leases, licences and operational arrangements on site, and how responsibilities and liabilities are currently structured.</p> <p>GTC also notes the respondent's proposed list of sites (including Binscombe Fields, Longbourne Green (Binscombe), the wood next to Northbourne, The Glade (Farncombe), and the St John's Church churchyard area) alongside the caveat that they are not certain which areas are owned/managed by Waverley Borough Council. This is a useful prompt: before any asset transfer discussions can be progressed, it is essential to confirm ownership, boundaries and maintenance responsibility, including any third-party rights or agreements already in place.</p> <p>GTC's current corporate priorities include the creation a working group to explore potential sites/asset transfer opportunities. Resident feedback such as this will help inform which locations should be checked, mapped, and considered as potential priorities, subject to feasibility, cost, risk, and deliverability.</p>
Any green or other current community space that is a potential building/development plot ought to be protected!	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that any green space or community space which could be perceived as a potential development plot should be protected for long-term community benefit.</p> <p>GTC recognises the strength of local feeling about safeguarding valued open spaces and the importance of maintaining public access, amenity value, biodiversity and wellbeing benefits. In considering any future community asset transfers or management arrangements, GTC would expect proposals to include clear, enforceable protections that secure the land's continued community use (for example through appropriate ownership/lease terms, restrictions on disposal or change of use, and transparent decision-making with consultation).</p> <p>Any decision for GTC to take on additional land would be subject to a robust options appraisal and business case, including due diligence on ownership, constraints, liabilities, current agreements/third-party rights, and sustainable funding, so that the space can be protected and properly maintained over the long term.</p>
Almost certainly. GTC should assess which can either provide community benefit or an income stream at reasonable cost, subject to level headed assessment of the costs/benefits.	<p>GTC notes the respondent's view that GTC should consider additional assets, but only where this is based on a level-headed assessment of costs, risks and benefits, and where the asset can deliver either clear community benefit and/or a sustainable income stream at reasonable cost.</p> <p>The Council agrees with this principle. Any potential community asset transfer (or other devolution/management arrangement) would need to be prioritised and evidence-led, supported by a robust options appraisal and business case, including due diligence on: asset condition and any backlog maintenance; ongoing operating and compliance costs; liabilities and risk; existing legal arrangements (leases/licences/third-party rights); and realistic income and funding assumptions. This aligns with the Council's current corporate direction to assess opportunities for managing assets held by Waverley Borough Council and to strengthen the recording and management of Town Council assets .</p> <p>Where an asset could generate income, the Council would also consider how that income can be balanced with affordability and access for local residents and community groups, so that community benefit remains central.</p>
As a resident of Witley and Milford parish we still enjoy Broadwater Park. I would favour a merger of the parish and town council to give a local council with greater financial resources and resilience	<p>GTC notes the respondent's comment as a resident of Witley and Milford Parish, and the point that Broadwater Park is enjoyed by people from neighbouring parishes as well as Godalming.</p> <p>GTC also notes the suggestion of a merger between parish/town councils to create a single local council with greater resources and resilience. However, this type of change falls outside the scope of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process, which is focused on potential transfer/management of specific assets.</p> <p>Any proposal to merge, alter parish boundaries, or reorganise local councils would need to be considered through a Community Governance Review (CGR) process led by the principal authority, including statutory consultation and an evidence-based assessment of community identity, governance and service implications.</p>