

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

A NEW HOME FOR RUSTINGTON MUSEUM, RUSTINGTON VILLAGE INFORMATION CENTRE AND THE GARDEN ROOM/COMMUNITY GARDEN

In August, the Parish Council announced that, courtesy of a most generous offer from Store Property Investments Limited, Rustington Museum, The Garden Room and the Village Information Centre will be moving from their current locations at Church Farm Cottage, 76-78 The Street and the Churchill Car Park respectively, to the ex WRVS Building in the Car Park behind the Waitrose Store in Broadmark Lane, as soon as major renovation works have been carried out. Store Property Investments Limited are the owners of the building and have made this offer of a Lease to the Parish Council, as they are anxious to see this building used as a community facility for Rustington residents and visitors to the Village. It is not yet known when the actual move will take place, but it is anticipated that the facility will be fully operational early in 2018.

The Council's existing members of personnel employed at both facilities will all be working in the new building, which is to be named "The Samuel Wickens Centre".

This new Community Centre will not only accommodate the Museum and the Village Information Centre, but will also provide an additional private hiring facility and garden for local Groups, Clubs and Organisations and, it is hoped, two drop-in Tea and Coffee dedicated mornings or afternoons, managed by volunteers, for the benefit of the local community.

As far as the Museum is concerned, the Council is working closely with the Rustington Heritage Association, to ensure that this community facility, will not only continue to portray and protect the Village's heritage, but will also be able to be enhanced further with additional displays, to ensure that Visitors will be able to enjoy the 'Museum Experience'.

The Parish Council intends to sell the Museum/The Garden Room and all associated land, following the move to the new facility. The proceeds, following repayment of all loans associated with the Museum and The Garden Room will then be retained for use in a capital project at some stage in the future. As well as providing a capital receipt, the Council is confident that this Project will result in much needed revenue cost efficiencies being achieved in trying financial times, and for the foreseeable future.

The Council is well aware that the Museum, The Garden Room and Community Garden have provided excellent and unique facilities within the Village, where people have been able to gather and socialise, but considers that the move to these new premises will enable this valuable function to continue and expand. The Museum and Information Centre, once officially open, will operate between the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Saturday. The community hireable facility will be available on a sessional basis, the same as the Council's other facilities at The Woodlands Centre, Youth Centre and The Garden Room, the latter which will be replaced by the dedicated room in the new Centre.

The Parish Council is most grateful to Store Property Investments Limited for offering it this most exciting opportunity which, it is certain will be most successful and will not only raise the profile most positively of the services

that will be housed within the Centre, but will also ensure that the facility is socially inclusive for all to enjoy.

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*For further information, please contact Carole Ward, Clerk of the Council,
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