

Fletton House Feasibility Study, Oundle

Client: Oundle Town Council (and Northampton County Council as building owners)

Contact: Councillors Chesser and Veit (Town Council) & Cllrs Rupert Reichhold & Robin Brown (NCC)

Telephone: 01832 274315 Cllr Reichhold Chair Steering Group

Services provided: consultation and design options for reuse of large county council asset, Fletton House, by community groups, working with Fiona Baird Associates

Date of service provision:

2006 -7

Contract value:

Approx £10,000 in total fees Welland SSP provided funding.

Description:

This two-storey Victorian brick built former hospital known as Fletton House is owned by Northamptonshire County Council and is located in Oundle not far from Oundle School. It is part of a campus of public use buildings, including a GP surgery and a library. Fiona Baird Associates and core connections were appointed to assist in preparing options and a business plan for using Fletton House. Several community groups had use of it. The consultant team prepared an independent Feasibility Study into the possibility of retaining Fletton House as a viable community resource centre, and worked in depth with each organisation to understand their functions then to prepare the potential match with the sizes and configurations of the building spaces.

Consultation

A public consultation event:

- Presented some current models for community resource centres
- Provided facilitated workshops including both generic and sector specific sessions.
- Provided an additional opportunity for individual organisations to fill in a questionnaire on either space/rental needs, or an expression of interest

The consultants presented draft ideas to the Steering Group, including the suggestion to obtain permission to rent the surplus spaces to small commercial businesses to improve the potential to become a viable going concern.

Rural North, Oundle & Thrapston Plan Jan 2008

recognises that conversion of the premises to mixed usage (including Class B1 employment) will ensure its retention for community users.

