

**ANSON TRUST  
COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT**



**Questions & Answers**

**What are the Trust's aims and vision?**

Over the past few years the Trust has been seeking to establish itself on a sounder footing and to improve significantly its contribution to the leisure facilities and social life of Marcham. The first task was to update and modernise the operation and management of the Trust. This was a slow process requiring protracted and detailed discussions and dealings with the Charity Commissioners. The outcome was a revised scheme and the creation of the company which now manages the Trust and has widened the governance of the Trust by introducing additional representation (Directors).

That has been accomplished and the Trust has now set itself on the path of recreating the original Trust in a twenty first century context. When it was established the Trust provided a new community centre, sports facilities, an endowment to provide income to support operations and some property which could be rented by villagers. The Trust's present scheme is to establish a new community centre, designed for the current and future needs of Marcham, first class sports and recreational facilities, a small number of houses owned by the Trust, which can be rented out to villagers, all underpinned by an endowment substantial enough to support all operations.

The means of achieving that vision is by creating the facilities on land north of Hyde Copse and funding that by development of the Anson Field and disposal of the Institute site.

**What will happen to the Institute?**

In line with the Trust's vision the Institute will eventually be disposed of in order to provide part of the funds for the realisation of the vision. What happens to the site will be dependent upon the wishes of the purchaser and the requirements of the Vale of White Horse District Council, if the purchaser wishes to develop the site.

**When will we know what's happening on the Anson field?**

The Trust has already outlined its general intention with respect to development of the Anson Field and has received a number of comments, which it will consider carefully. Once detailed plans have been drawn up these will be shared with interested parties including the Parish Council and villagers. The detailed plans will form the basis of a submission to the Vale of White Horse District Council for planning consent. The detailed plans will have to take

account of a number of requirements and constraints. The comments that have been received, the requirements of the Charity Commissioners, any planning requirements of the Vale of White Horse District Council, and the need for the Trust to achieve a sufficient level of endowment will all influence and be reflected in the plans.

**What is happening with regard to the case being brought by the Ex Servicemen's Club?**

The case concerns the Ex Servicemen's Club's rights with respect to the car park of the Institute. Following the Trust's announcement of its plans, a settlement has been proposed by the solicitors representing the Ex Servicemen's Club and that proposal has been accepted by the Trust. A document incorporating the settlement is being drafted by the solicitors representing the Ex Servicemen's Club. Once this has been produced and signed by both parties, the dispute will be at an end and the court case obviated.

**What is happening to Marcham School?**

Any development will be subject to the wishes and will of Oxfordshire County Council and Marcham School. However, there is a possibility that a new school, to replace the existing one, could be constructed close by the proposed new community building with the potential for some joint use of facilities (as is the case presently with the tennis courts at the school). However, the Trust will have no part to play or influence in any decision.

**Why have the Trust chosen this plan rather than some alternative?**

As is well known the Trust has contemplated a number of alternative possibilities but ultimately the Trust decided to adopt the bold vision described above which could reinvigorate the Trust's contribution to the life of Marcham and provide a sound basis for the future. The Directors were unanimous in deciding upon this course.

Below is a summary of the alternatives that were available to the Trust.

**1) Do nothing**

Some people have suggested that the existing facilities are in fact adequate and there is no need to take any action to improve them.

**Why it wouldn't work.**

Without the realisation of some assets the Trust has no funds available to it, in fact it has borrowed from its endowment. The existing facilities would simply have to close and be sold.

**2) Sell the Institute car park for development and renovate the Institute**

**Why it wouldn't work.**

This was a course which the Trust had looked to pursue a few years ago. However, given the protracted delays faced by the Trust, as a result of the threatened court case, and given the rapidly deteriorating financial position of the Trust, the sums simply didn't add up. The renovation of the Institute, which is not a building suitable for modern needs, would have left insufficient funds available to replace the buildings on the Anson Field, which must be replaced in the near future

**3) Sell the Institute and redevelop on the Anson Field**

This was also a course that was seriously considered by the Trust.

**Why it wouldn't work**

When the Institute was put up for sale, it became clear that it could not achieve its full market potential under prevailing circumstances and the sum which would be released would be insufficient to provide adequate facilities and provide an endowment substantial enough to fund the Trust into the future.

**4) Lottery funding**

The Trust looked at the possibility of obtaining lottery funding to help improve the recreational and sport facilities in Marcham.

**Why it wouldn't work**

We sought professional advice about how to go about this and it was concluded that: The process of applying for lottery funding is significantly expensive whilst the likelihood of winning lottery funding based on postcode and area evaluation was minimal.

In the end the Trust concluded that there was a one in a lifetime opportunity to provide the village with radically improved facilities underpinned by a substantial endowment which will enable the Trust to fulfil its historic role in the village.

**Why can the Trust not hand over control of the Institute and the Anson Field to the Parish Council and let them run it?**

It is extremely unlikely that the Charity Commissioners would allow the Trust to cede ownership of either property to the Parish Council. It would be possible for the Trust to grant a lease or a licence to the Parish Council for one or both but the Charity Commissioners would require such lease or licence to be on commercial terms.

[www.ansontrust.co.uk](http://www.ansontrust.co.uk)

To find our more information, please call Samantha Donaldson on 020 7357 6606, or email [samantha@localdialogue.com](mailto:samantha@localdialogue.com).

**THE DIRECTORS OF THE ARTHUR ANSON MEMORIAL TRUST LIMITED.**

If you represent a local group, let us know your point of view