

Your Questions Answered

What is happening?

Avenue Services and Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) have agreed to sell the old library building on Western Avenue in Blacon. CWaC currently owns the building and Avenue Services is the leaseholder.

The building has not been used as a library since September 2015 and is currently being partially used by Chester Used Furniture Enterprise (CUFE).

Why is it happening?

Significant investment is needed to repair and maintain the old library building and both CWaC and Avenue Services believe that selling the site and investing the proceeds to improve facilities at Blacon Adventure Playground will have the greatest benefit to the local community.

What are the plans for the site and what are the timescales?

The site is being advertised during October 2018 with retailers being formally invited to express an interest in purchasing the site. Informal expressions of interest have already been received from retailers.

Information about the proposal to sell the site will be shared with the public during October 2018.

If the proposal to sell the site is accepted, it is hoped the sale could be finalised by Easter 2019.

What will happen to Chester Used Furniture Enterprise?

Chester Used Furniture Enterprise (CUFE), has always been aware the old library could only be used as a temporary home and over the past two years the charity has received significant assistance from Avenue Services in the form of reduced rental charges, building maintenance work and start up grants.

While Avenue Services has served CUFE with notice to leave the building, the charity has been offered support to set itself up at a new base.

Contact

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Cheshire West
and Chester



Avenue
Services

What will happen to the current building itself if it's sold?

The site is zoned as a suburban shopping centre and a sale would see it redeveloped for retail use. The retailer that buys the site would be expected to invest in the building and would need to secure any planning permissions that are required.

What type of retailer will buy the site?

While this will obviously depend on the businesses that express an interest in the site, we are keen to listen to feedback from local people. Further information about how you can have your say can be found in the answer to the final question below.

What will the money from the sale be used for?

Any money from the sale would be ring-fenced to be spent in Blacon. The current proposal is that it would be used on an extension and improvements to the activity centre at Blacon Adventure Playground and we would also be interested in hearing the community's views on this.

What are the benefits to Blacon?

Redevelopment of the former library building would increase the retail offering for residents in Blacon and create employment opportunities for local people. The investment in the activity centre from the money generated by the sale will increase the range of facilities on offer there for the local community.

How do we have our say?

A drop-in event for residents to find out more and ask any questions will also be taking place at The Parade Enterprise Centre on 23 October 2018 from 2pm till 8pm.

There is no need to let us know you will be attending the event – it would be great to see as many members of the local community at the event as possible.

As part of the consultation, Avenue Services is also engaging with residents via social media, encouraging feedback on its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

In addition, residents can share their views and ideas by calling 0300 123 1741, or emailing avenue.services@sanctuary-housing.co.uk.

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