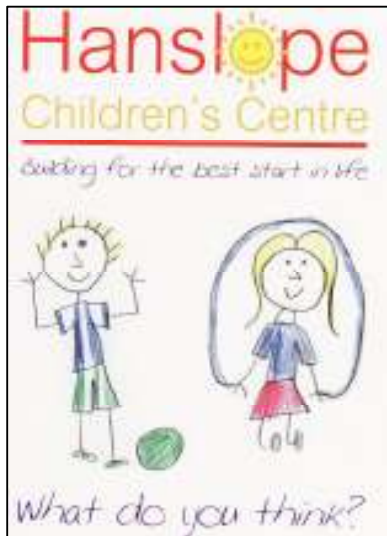


The aim of the Hanslope Children's Centre Group is to build an imaginative and purposeful Children's Centre within the footprint of Hanslope Primary School. This will



provide not only purpose built accommodation for the Hanslope Pre-School and After School Club but also a valuable resource for further community use.

In the summer of 2007 some of the children at school made a short DVD to reflect their ideas about what such a building could achieve. Their work has been very well received and has been used to good effect so far. Limited copies of the DVD are being distributed and if you would like to see one then please contact us (see below).

In September an information booklet was published which develops some of the children's ideas further. This will be distributed to every household in the village.



The group is now seeking registration as a Community Interest Company.

The group is developing work in four areas:

- Funding
- Community
- Stakeholders
- Building

with specific members sharing these responsibilities and enlisting others as necessary.

On the funding side we have been successful in attracting several modest grants to pump prime the project. We are now preparing the ground for a major capital bid which comes on line in 2009. Along the way the project is gathering a lot of positive interest as well as some support from the local authority.

On the building side we are of course still in the thinking stage, carefully trying to combine the needs of the pre-school with their partners at the after-school club. At this stage we are deliberately not ruling anything out. Members have made several visits to look at other centres – the new building at Hanslope Park has been particularly admired, but there are others still to be seen. This work continues and will take more shape when we are able to instruct architects.

In the Community we are keeping everyone informed

(through this Newsletter, the leaflet + DVD and the Clarion) and we are working now on our own interactive website. We are planning several meetings with all of our Stakeholders so that the project is understood and can be open to everyone's opinions. In the background there is the quiet (and sometimes not so quiet) lobbying of strategic partners and potential partners to ensure that we remain visible and on the agenda.

One idea which has recently been shared has come from the Library Service. The mobile library service to Hanslope has the highest demand from all the rural areas in MK. Although the library van will of course continue to come to the village, the Library Service would be interested in seeing if an extra facility could be contained within the Children's Centre – perhaps to receive returned books, deal with DVD/CD loans or to accommodate a computer facility.

At the moment you can contact the chairman by email as follows:

russell.fancourt@btinternet.com

Hanslope Children's Centre Group

Pre-School: Nicolette Green, Vacancy

Primary School: Russell Fancourt, Sue Quinn

After School Club: Linda Smith, Margaret Adams

School Governors: Beryl Protheroe, Martin Small

Co-options: Ian Howells, Anne Gambles, Katy Willis, Andy Grout