

Paper Petition Details

Milan Centre Closure

On Behalf of the members of the South Asian Community using Milan Community Centre, Queens Road, Slough.

We write expressing our concerns at the uncertainty being raised in the community that the Milan Centre is closing end of this year, the community is scared that they will lose the only venue which caters for all their community needs and the support of dedicated staff. The Milan Community Centre is the only centre in Slough which provides a common platform to members of the South East Asian community with the service supported by Community services staff, the centre provides activities which support the health and wellbeing of the people attending and the community is fearful that their health will deteriorate rapidly if they were not able to attend the centre.

The community have built up excellent relations with the current staff team and due to changes skills will be lost. Change is being imposed on the community without any supporting evidence. There appears to be favouritism shown to other communities in Slough, why is that?

Can we have your support and assurance that the Milan community centre will stay where it is or South Asian Community will be provided with a community centre where a similar service is provided.

This petition was received on 5th August, 2015.

This petition was passed to the Community Development Manager on 5th August, 2015.

This petition was responded to by the Service Development Manager - Learning & Community Services – on 1st September, 2015

Final Results

Number of Signatures	156
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Council Response

Full Response;

I am writing to formally respond to the above paper petition submitted on Wednesday 5th August, 2015.

Thank you for submitting the petition about the proposed closure of the Milan Community Centre.

The Thomas Gray and Milan Centres, which are interlinked, do not provide services unique to the location; instead they provide services for people across the Borough. The Council is looking to release the site for better use in the local community.

Over the last three months research has been undertaken on use of the Milan Centre, including numbers using the Centre on an hourly and daily basis, where users travel from, how they travel to the Centre and how they use the Centre. Focus groups with

users have taken place to understand what is important for users about the Centre. Alongside this staff have mapped a range of activities that users could access and identified alternative sites that could be hired. Some users have already started to attend a weekly yoga session at Chalvey Community Centre.

Options were presented to the users on 25th August. We will be working with the users to find which of these best suits their needs and supports their health and wellbeing and look at how we can support individuals to make these options accessible.

The Council will continue to support one off events such as EID, Diwali celebrations at its community buildings.