

## **BROADFIELD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Centre was opened on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1980 and was originally 3 separate buildings, the Church and Church Hall, The Youth Centre and The Social Club, in the late 1980's/early 1990's the 3 buildings were joined to form the Community Centre as it stands now.

Broadfield Youth & Community Centre is a bright and modern building which is well used and has been well maintained. The Centre itself is run as a charity and as such relies on funding to continue its service to the residents of Broadfield and indeed Crawley.

As a voluntary and community organisation the Centre aims to provide an affordable and accessible facility for local groups and the wider community. In order to do this we operate from a low cost basis and rely on grant aid and fundraising to staff and maintain the building.

The Centre employs 3 part time members of staff, a Centre Manager, a Centre Development Officer and a Cleaner/caretaker. General maintenance around the building is carried out by our cleaner/caretaker but major works have to be contracted out and extra funding raised to complete these works. Funding has been raised in the past to replace the Main Hall roof, replace heating/boiler pump, flooring in Social and Youth Halls, provide automatic doors to aid disabled access and install CCTV around the building. Broadfield Community Centre is the most successful Community Centre in Crawley.

A General Council, made up of representatives from the Community, the Churches and the local authorities was formed to ensure that the centre is well maintained and managed and that it is a focal point for a wide range of community activity. The Trustees of the Centre, who are made up of representatives from the three Churches that use the Centre; Christ the Lord C of E, Christ the Lord RC and the Broadfield Christian Fellowship, oversee the General Council.

### **THE BUILDING**

The Centre comprises of various rooms for hire:

- the Main Hall (popular for activities such as dance, karate and parties)
- the Youth Hall (particularly suitable for youth activities and children's parties)
- the Social Hall (excellent for all social functions and large meetings)
- the Small Hall (used for small parties and for classroom based activities)
- a small Meeting Room (used for interviews and teaching)

There are kitchens, storage space and toilets adjacent to the halls. The main foyer and reception area of the Centre are designed to encourage people to come into the building and feel able to get an understanding of what the centre has to offer without feeling uncomfortable or intimidated.

There is a purpose-built 'kickabout area' to the rear of the building which is widely used for football and basketball practice.

A children's 'play area' located at the side of the Church was kindly sponsored by Surestart but maintained by Crawley Borough Council.

### **REGULAR ACTIVITIES**

The main purpose of the Community Centre is to improve the quality of community and family life in Broadfield and the surrounding areas by creating and maintaining a centre that provides social, health, recreational, cultural and education opportunities to all sections of the community irrespective of gender, ethnic origin, religious belief or creed. We aim to continue to develop the Centre so that it is able to respond in a flexible way to meet new demands and requirements so that it continues to be a valuable community resource.

#### **Currently the following groups meet weekly or daily at the Centre:**

Arabic and Urdu Classes  
Belly Dancing  
Brownies  
Church Groups  
Circus Wurx  
Coffee Shop Drop-In  
Crawley Bangladeshi Welfare Assoc  
Dance classes  
Drama classes  
English as a second language classes  
Ethnic Minority Clubs  
Genius Within Maths  
Healing Rooms  
Homestart  
Homeless Meal  
Irish Dancing  
Fitness and Self Defence classes  
Line Dancing  
Maths classes  
2 Preschools  
Parent and Toddler Groups  
Swallows over 60's Group  
The Young Socialists  
Ugandan Classes

The Centre has suffered from vandalism over the years but this subsided greatly in 2005 when CCTV was put in. Since then very little has occurred until recently when the lead from around the windows on the Church and Community Centre was stolen.

### **Challenges**

We now have a major problem with our Youth Hall roof, over the last few years leaks have appeared which have been looked at and repaired by roofers, however each year the leak has returned much worse, also the roof was damaged in the recent spate of vandalism/theft of lead. We have had roofers out again and this time have been told that the roof needs replacing, this is at an approximate cost of £14,000, so far we have raised £9,000 towards the cost of this.

The Youth Hall is home to a preschool during the week, dance classes, education groups, circus works and Escape Youth Club during evenings and weekends. We need to repair the roof as soon as possible as if the leak gets much worse then the hall will have to be closed and these groups will be unable to take place.

**The Community Centre balances its books on day to day running, but does not have the capacity to accumulate funds to meet these kind of emergencies. In this case the roof of the hall in question is in such a state that if remedial work is not carried out soon a large number of the activities in the centre will have to be cancelled.**