

Building Investigatory Working Group

5th September 2025:

Councillors A. Horsnell and J. Hughes visited the Tidworth Civic Centre, a facility owned and operated by the local council. The purpose of the visit was to identify successful features that could inform Andover Town Council's potential acquisition of a building for multi-purpose use, including meetings, community groups, and leisure activities.

Following the visit, it was recommended that any future council-owned building should include:

- A **reception area** to ensure openness and accessibility for public enquiries.
- A **dedicated meeting/board room**.
- **Rooms available for hire** to support community engagement and generate revenue.

**The working group is aware of the extra funding that Tidworth will have received from Ministry of Defence with it being a Military base town, allowing them to have more funding opportunities.*



31st October 2025:

Cllrs A Horsnell and J Hughes convened to explore the feasibility of acquiring a building for Andover Town Council use

The discussion focused on two primary foundations:

- Identifying potential grant funding sources from central, borough, and county councils.
- Defining the intended purpose and use of a council-owned building

Securing grant funding could help mitigate any potential increase in the council tax precept, thereby reducing financial impact on residents.

The councillors also considered alternative approaches should there be limited support for purchasing a building. Key questions raised included:

- Does the council currently fund services provided by other groups at existing community halls in Andover (e.g., King Arthurs, Augusta Park, Picket Piece & Twenty, Burghclere Down)?
- Would it be more effective to centralise such services within a council-owned facility?

Actions to be taken are:

- **Cllr A. Horsnell:** To contact former organisers of the “Fusion” youth group at Enham Arch to understand why the initiative ceased.
- **Cllr J. Hughes:** To liaise with staff from Andover Town Council and Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) to compile a list of relevant grants applicable to building acquisition.