



Public Consultation New Mills Volunteer Centre's Building

Deadline midday Tuesday 13 January 2026.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the history of the building and New Mills Town Council's (NMTC) ownership of it?

In 2002 the Volunteer Centre wanted to purchase the current building but at the time due to our status we could not obtain a mortgage. The Town Council agreed to take out a 25 year loan on our behalf provided that we entered into a 25 year lease agreement to pay all of the loan in full including interest. The Town Council also promised us that at the end of the 25 years they would do everything possible to make sure that the Freehold of the building would be transferred to the Volunteer Centre so we would own it outright, or we could continue to occupy it on long-term agreement for a peppercorn rent.

We then completed a full refurbishment making the building accessible and fit for purpose and paid for this ourselves through fundraising, public donations and grant funding.

Why is this being proposed now?

The current lease agreement comes to an end in 2027 and the trustees and staff of the Volunteer Centre need to know what the future plan is with the building so we can factor that into financial planning and the future of our services.

Why are NMVC asking for option 1?

We feel this is the fairer option and also the more secure option for the charity. NMVC have paid the total cost of the loan in full and have paid for all of the refurbishment work and ongoing repairs and maintenance. The amount spent by NMVC is approximately £450,000. This money has been raised by your donations, cake sales, sponsored walks, raffles, money left to us, etc etc as well as grants from local businesses and the National Lottery. NMTC have not contributed anything to the cost of the loan or any improvement, maintenance or repair costs.

Why shouldn't the building stay under NMTC ownership?

We think that it is fairer to transfer the freehold of the building to the Volunteer Centre. All of the costs and liability for the building will fall to the charity then the benefit should also sit with the charity. NMVC is a charity with a solid financial position. Owning the freehold allows us to do additional work to the building such as extend the kitchen area or if we expand and outgrow the building allows us to have capital to purchase another building that better meet the needs of the community.

Why are NMVC proposing transfer rather than a long lease?

The Town Council have no need for the building and have not explained why they want to keep it. They may want to keep it on their 'asset register' so that they can use it to borrow money against or transfer the benefit of any lease to another landlord. The Town Council have other buildings and lots of land on their asset register including High Lea Hall, all of the parks and allotments, and the Town Hall. The Volunteer Centre has no other assets at all.

Will NMVC services continue?

With either option the services provided by the Volunteer Centre will not be in anyway affected with either option, but our ability to bring in donations, grants and other funding will be better if we own the building. We will continue to run our services if the need for those services remain and we have funding to do so..

Will the centre remain a community space?

NMVC is a charity whose charitable purpose is to support the community by connecting volunteers to the needs of local people. The building will always be used as a space to support the community and for other voluntary groups to hire.

How will this affect NMVC's work?

The current work that NMVC does will not be affected by either option, however option 2 may restrict the charity in the future if we chose to expand the services we provide and the number of people we can cater for at one time.

What happens to the building if NMVC cease to exist?

If for some reason the charity ceases to exist, because we are a charity, all of our assets including the building would transfer to another local charity with similar charitable aims. This would apply to any subsequent buildings we own and any money in our bank accounts.

NMTC is an elected body but I think the trustees of NMDVC are not elected. If that's the case it would be better for the freehold to remain with NMTC?

The Town Council is elected by the community,(although half of the current council have been appointed and not elected) it is however political and therefore policies and values that could affect the volunteer centre can change on a regular basis. The Trustees of the volunteer centre are also elected to their positions by our members annually at our AGM. Our trustees are however not swayed by political opinions but by our charitable purposes. The Trustees do not get any benefits, financial or otherwise, from being a Trustee.

Who decides what happens now?

The Town Council will review the outcome too the consultation and make a decision at the Town Council Meeting on Monday 9 February 2026. Remember all of these meetings are public and you are welcome to attend and participate.

Who can we contact for further information?

You can email the Volunteer Centre's Manager Mark, mark@nmvc.org if you have any further questions regarding the volunteer centre and why we would prefer this option or New Mills Town Council info@newmillstowncouncil.gov.uk if it is regarding the consultation process or how the decision will be reached.