

From: Agnes McIlvenny <agnesmdance@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 11:14 AM

To: Viv Aloy <viv.aloy@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: Court Bushes

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Hi Viv

I'm 99% sure the answer is going to be no but like the pre-school have exclusive rental of their part of the building I'm guessing there isn't a similar option for the Function Room / Club Suite... as we're growing it'd be great to have a proper base to call our own but totally realise it's a community hub that needs to be available for the public so probably not an option but if you don't ask you'll never know so thought I'd see!

My only other thing would be if it was able to work out we'd be keen to pop proper dance floor down (obviously I'd pay for this etc!!).

I'd also be happy to discuss continuing to accommodate existing hirers particularly the weekday, day time ones where we have less classes happening.

Obviously I know this is probably quite unlikely but it would be amazing and such a help for us to have a proper hub to run from and of course great for the kids in the local community.

Thank you.

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From: matt@kiddiecaperschildcare.co.uk <matt@kiddiecaperschildcare.co.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 11:01 AM

To: Sarah Groom <sarah.groom@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk>; Stephen Witchell <stephen.witchell@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk>

Subject: Court Bushes

Caution: This email originated from outside of Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Sarah, Stephen

Please could you review my request below and submit it to the Parish Council.

Last year I asked if we could possibly extend the nursery into static buildings in the car park. Having investigated this route, I feel obtaining planning permission would be very difficult, so I don't think it's a viable option. However, the need for childcare is ever increasing so I hope there may be another possibility.

The West Sussex sufficiency data, that shows the demand for Early Years spaces, predicts that Mid Sussex needs an additional 802 childcare places. More local to Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common, our nurseries in Hurst and Hassocks both have long waiting lists and I believe that all other local providers are already full or close to it.

This is the situation which already exists before the expansion of childcare over the next 2 years. Between April 2024 and September 2025, on a staggered roll out, all children of working parents aged from 9 months to school age will be entitled to 30 hours of funded care. This is additional demand to what already exists. The provision for under 2's in the local area is almost non-existent outside of what we already offer. A lot of childcare providers limit the number of funded spaces they provide as they are less profitable, we have never done this and don't ever intend to. We were founded on the principles of offering flexible and affordable childcare.

I would like to explore taking over the site at Court Bushes in its entirety. I appreciate this is a community asset and so therefore would need to be managed sensitively. I do firmly believe we offer a service that enhances the local community and safeguards the wellbeing of several vulnerable local children. I also believe there are other facilities in the parish which can meet the needs of existing users of Court Bushes. Taking over the entire building would allow us to expand what we offer from 35 children to approximately 120.

I believe we've been a good tenant at Court Bushes since 2019. We're owned and run by my wife and I as well as our close friends Naomi and Gareth, we live in Mid Sussex so care about our local area. We're well placed to deliver a great proposition within the building, we opened 3 nurseries last year and already have plans for 3 more this year. I think the speed in which we re-fitted and re-opened after the recent fire also shows how well we work both as a company but also collaboratively with you.

We would be prepared to take over as much of the operation of the building and grounds as is appropriate/agreeable. We can agree those details as/if we move forward. We have similar sized buildings on long term leases elsewhere. This may be beneficial to the Parish Council as I'm sure a lot of time and cost goes in to maintaining Court Bushes to such a good standard.

I'm hoping we can come to an agreement to suit all parties and develop Court Bushes into a thriving childcare facility.

Kind regards

Matt Cornford
Managing Director