

21 January 2020



## **PHASE ONE OF WEST WAY REDEVELOPMENT TO OPEN**

Phase One of redevelopment in Botley is to launch with the opening of the new community hall (Seacourt Hall), Botley Baptist Church and soon after a new public library.

To celebrate the opening of the new community facilities Seacourt Hall Management Committee and North Hinksey Parish Council are holding an Open Day this Saturday 25 January 2020 from 10am to 4pm. The hall will be officially opened at 10am by Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council. This will be followed by a series of dance and music performances, alongside displays providing information on the new Seacourt Hall and other local activities, as well as information on hall bookings and tours of the new public library. Snacks, tea and cakes will be provided throughout the day.

The opening of the new Seacourt Hall provides residents with a modern, well equipped and accessible community facility available for use by all of those living in Botley and the surrounding area. The Trustees intend that this should be a centre for everyone, from the youngest to the oldest members of our community.

Layla Moran MP will join the event at 3pm for a tour and interviews. Botley Development Company will have a stall at the event to provide information to residents on the ongoing progress of redevelopment works at West Way.

The opening of the new community facilities takes place on National Village Halls Day, an annual national celebration of community spaces and the people whose time and dedication keep them going.

Seacourt Hall is available to the whole community for a range of activities including dance and exercise classes, meetings, birthday parties, use by local clubs, baby and toddler groups, craft classes, and a long-standing pensioners' lunch club. New classes starting soon include adult ballet, Spanish lessons, art classes, with more bookings coming in.

The new building will also host Botley Baptist Church, which will be holding its first service on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Speaking on behalf of Botley Development Company, Huw Griffiths said:

*“We are delighted that this community-led event is being held to mark the opening of the first part of the West Way redevelopment. From the plan’s conception we have striven to engage with and listen to the local community and to provide a development which reflects the needs of residents, and it is fitting that the first part of the scheme to be open are the new community facilities which will benefit all residents. We look forward to the rest of the development, which will include retail, student accommodation, restaurants and new homes opening in stages during 2020.”*

Lorna Berrett, Chair of the Seacourt Hall Management Committee said:

*“I am excited by the possibilities that this new space offers local residents after 18 months in a temporary location. The new facilities are the result of years of discussions between Botley Development Company, the Parish Council and the Seacourt Hall Management Committee, who always kept the needs of our growing community at the forefront. We have also worked closely with construction company SDC, who have kindly donated a screen to the hall to support Branches Youth group and to enhance the space for all hall users.”*

**-ENDS-**

**For further information, contact:**

1. David McFarlane at SP Broadway - 0203 405 1415 or 07917 770475
2. SP Broadway is helping Botley Development Company with community consultation and engagement.