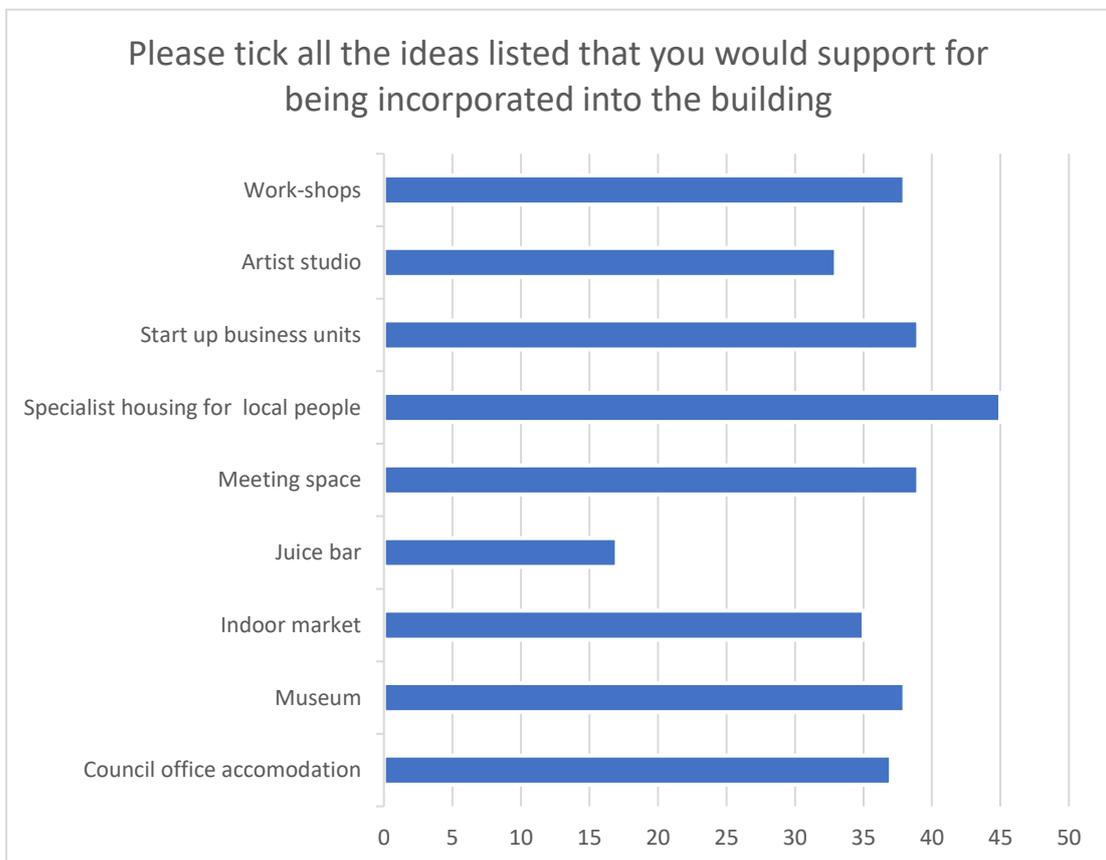
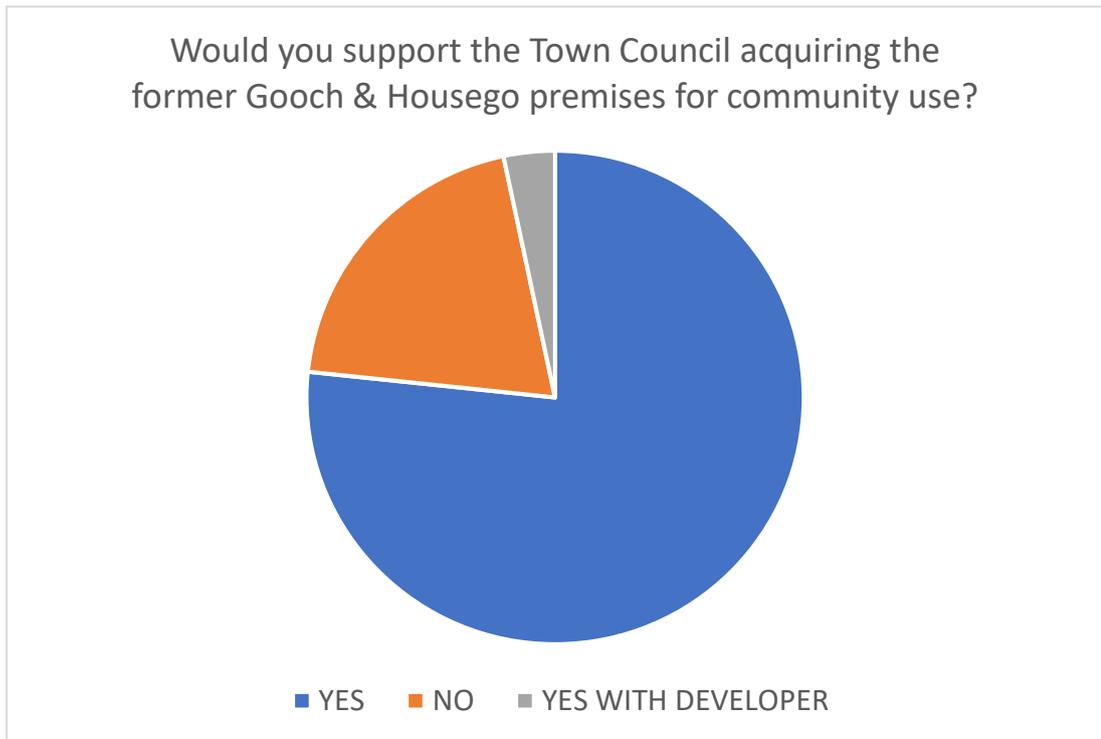


**Survey Results –
From Drop-in Session at Greenfylde School and forms / comments sent to the
Town Council**
(Approx 90 forms were completed)



The survey form invited respondents to “list any other ideas you may have”, the following were listed:

- Local Information centre – X 5
- Community hall / hub X 6
- Storage Units (xmas lights etc) X 3
- Man Shed X 4
- Ladies Club X 2
- Café with outdoor seating X 3
- Leisure Centre X 3
- Young people skills unit
- Support groups X 8
- Housing for young people X 3
- Creche
- Soft play area X 9
- Holistic centre
- Roof top swimming pool / hot tub X 2
- Shoe / clothes shop
- Drop in advice centre X 4
- Dance / yoga studio X 7
- Virtual reality café / shop
- Spa / jacuzzi / sauna / steam room
- Free to access therapies
- Library X 2
- CAB office X 3
- Y & AJ AVo uth club X 3
- Zero waste shop
- Bulk Barn
- Ceramic painting studio for kids
- Retail spaces
- Mother & toddler group X 4
- Faith space X 3
- Teracycle recycling partnership
- Community canteen X 4
- Computer space X 2
- Family games room X 3
- Recording studio
- Gin distillery
- After school club

| Un edited Comments from Survey Forms | |
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| 1 | Children's soft play area with café dance studio for young to old move library to Gooch with Council offices. Use library for childrens soft play |
| 2 | Local information centre |
| 3 | Think it would be an expensive white elephant unless can be totally self-funding do not support subsidising fantasy schemes to purchase or rent / lease likely to be prohibitive – let alone cost to refurbish a semi derelict building |
| 4 | Help to find the Meeting House (Ilminster arts Centre) It provides community facilities of all kinds and receives no support from the Town Council at present |
| 5 | I would like to see the local tourist information office located here in a more central location. A community hall such as the ones in Broadway or Donyatt with a small kitchen |
| 6 | Support subject to through inspection for hazardous materials storage space for Christmas lights (saving rent contribution) storage space for IMEx banners |
| 7 | <p>Please section 3 regarding the leisure and social potential of this building. There are better uses for this building than housing!! Such as some of the ideas here!</p> <p>the struggling High Street is a national concern and I do worry that Ilminster doesn't look forward enough.</p> <p>The general consensus seems to be that for town centres to survive into the future that they can no longer rely on traditional businesses / shops but need to become more a centre of leisure / social venue.</p> <p>Ilminster is lucky and has a wonderful array of independent shops but slowly more & more shops are becoming vacant or frequently changing hands and I do believe Ilminster needs to evolve more and more with the times in order to survive.</p> <p>Gooch & Housego could become a saving grace to Ilminster town centre if developed correctly. It could bring the leisure element literally right into the heart of town.</p> <p>One thing I think is vitally important and could benefit the town greatly by improving the atmosphere would be to have some kind of café / eating place on the ground level with outside seating.</p> <p>There is space and a cobbled area in front of the former Gooch & Housego building (which I know is used by taxis, but surely another space could be provided elsewhere) and it would bring the "town to life" to see people sitting and enjoying the town.</p> <p>outside eating areas really do create a "buzzier" feel as anyone passing The Dolphin pub on a sunny day will witness! Whereas further into town there are times when the town just feels flat and lifeless and there are few people wandering. Bring some "buzz" into the town centre!! (by the way it was lovely to witness a brass band playing in the market house a month or so ago and see all the people perched on the benches outside Co-op enjoying it – that's what Ilminster needs !!!!!)</p> |

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| 8 | <p>Only move Council Offices if it makes things more financially viable etc not to spend more money n this and get nothing These would need to show some profit on renting out as the whole development outlay needs income. They are needed maybe but serious thought needed as to the right place.</p> <p>1) XXXX's TA19 Stepping Stone Club (or Men's Hut!?) sounds just the sort of thinking we need</p> <p>2) Something for the older ladies too but not so big, somewhere to meet, sew, knit. Pass on some of their knowledge to younger people maybe. Sewing machines etc in another room. So many ladies and girls have no idea how to set about sewing or mending if 'Mum' hasn't shown them.</p> <p>3 <u>Not any form of housing. With all the building going on in Ilminster this should be covered elsewhere.</u> It avoids any issues on car parking (residents or visitors) <u>security</u> and being able to know people will not be coming and going at al times. Avoids unnecessary difficult issues over tenancies etc. It would detract from the general atmosphere of a "hub" for work and recreation.</p> <p>I totally agree with all the comments on the attached photocopy [as per 7 above] nothing to add really</p> <p>There was a choir singing in the Market House on Sunday – lovely</p> |
| 9 | <p>I think the Council should <u>not</u> be financially involved in the redevelopment of the building. I also believe Ilminster already has more than sufficient premises for "community use". The best solution in my opinion would be to identify a private developer who could create a high-quality business headquarters building that bring new employment into Ilminster.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Let a developer buy it – don't waste our money on it. Town needs small businesses! Maybe some sheltered housing as its in the centre</p> |
| 11 | <p>I Like the meeting house do we need another centre so close! Does our council have money to burn!</p> |
| 12 | <p>Indoor market if local suppliers Leisure Centre somewhere for people to learn new skills</p> |
| 13 | <p>"Juice bar" Has the council lost it?! They never work even in trendy areas in London</p> |
| 14 | <p>Try and attract one business – top end to make Ilminster the place for that particular business. And they would pay for the developing of the building. Why has it taken so long to get round to doing something with this important central site?</p> <p>I am more than a little dismayed as the thought of the council backing ' a chance to create a vibrant community facility' to quote the Chard and Ilminster News. The town already has one of these and it called The Arts Centre at The Meeting House</p> <p>We, and I speak as a Trustee wh o has been involved with the MH for 16 years have struggled to get the Arts Centre on a sound financial footing for years without any substantial help from the council. It has a wonderful exhibition space, a hall that hosts brilliant concerts – jazz, classical & popular plus a shop and café. Plus that most valuable commodity – a car park a & Café garden.</p> |

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| | <p>It is a vibrant community space already but desperately needs young blood! The sheer effort of keeping the place going with minimum paid staff and long hours put in by volunteers should not be underestimated.</p> <p>Why not encourage whoever I'm pushing for a new centre to come and inject new energy into a facility already up and running in the centre of the town?</p> <p>The cost of creating a new 'community space' will be enormous; not only the building but who is going to run it and does the town need it? As a taxpayer I would be furious if the council spent hard earned money on an unnecessary facility instead of the essential services our community so desperately needs and deserves.</p> <p>I would have thought small business units / studios to encourage young entrepreneurs and promote employment plus some housing would have fitted the building better.</p> |
| 15 | Repeat of comments in 14 |
| 16 | We do NOT need any more cafes in Ilminster |
| 17 | Facilities for young people (work and play) |
| 18 | <p>Workshops for teens</p> <p>Internet Café</p> <p>Sports Shop</p> <p>Something for young people (pool table, darts, games, meeting place for teens)</p> <p>Gift shop; shoe shop</p> |
| 19 | More ideas needed for the younger people – internet café; sports shop; shoe shop |
| 20 | Meeting space for support groups |
| 21 | <p>Climbing Center and Trampoline Center; soft play; escape room; swimming pool – hydrotherapy- offers rehabilitation; careers shop; carcase & with game place you can play games (games centre – hire games = play/ café) virtual reality; offices above to help finance / off-set cost e.g. council office; ice skating rink; cinema; science museum – hand on; exercise classes, Pilates etc</p> |
| 22 | Community drop-in for the town residents to socialise |
| 23 | Access for in rear for houses in North Street; workshops / lock up storage units |
| 24 | drop in centre for community- mental health – dementia – yoga studio – all ages |
| 25 | <p>Church office space as part of hub for such as food bank / food share / advice - ???/ mental health / parenting / elderly etc Memory café – high end boutiques; computer services (in addition to library) advice, help with on line forms etc</p> |
| 26 | <p>No to café's – too many in Ilminster already' pub; yes to repair café; woodworking/ iron rural skills etc to prevent them being lost skills; community shares – Ilminster people can buy shares to help fund it; a hub – citizens advice, foodbank / share; financial support; free solicitors ½ hr drop in etc</p> |
| 27 | More information needed |
| 28 | As a Quaker I am interested in the possibility of finding space we could occupy / share as appropriate |

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| 29 | A group of 2 bed houses for people with learning difficulties to buy using shared ownership, HOLD system or outright. I have been looking for a plot to buy but this would be part of a small development of affordable housing – very much needed. There are other parents very interested as we do need to think of the future of our young people |
| 30 | Drop-in centre to include food bank and food share (+tea/coffee); after school club?; Information centre (more central than the library & meeting house) |
| 31 | The most important thing is to get as many people as possible involved which means taking everyone's ideas on board at least during the initial stage. Most of all we need names |
| 32 | Gin distillery (Minster Gin) open days and tuition; indoor childs play centre |
| 33 | Dance studio; soft play |
| 34 | If feasible a "recording studio"; a space suitable for exercise e.g, yoga, Tai Chi, pilates, akido, judo |
| 35 | dance / yoga studio |
| 36 | soft indoor play |
| 37 | Man shed |
| 38 | Carer's drop in |
| 39 | Indoor play area kids; youth / children's centre (new one!) up to date; family support unit (young parents etc) |
| 40 | Soft play area; free arcade games / family activity place |
| 41 | Family games room |
| 42 | Private residential units to enable financial viability earlier rather than later; social clubs; computer spaces; community canteen – quality food/cheap; signposting to various services; youth meeting place; community hub |
| 43 | Dementia day car , childrens holiday club, social clubs, community events, would need to make a living happy to set up and run; needs to be developed with momentum with a private developer possibly; community canteen; environmental hub; youth meeting place |
| 44 | Would be good to have a rentable or bookable space for local community groups e.g. baby & toddler group; citizens advice, classes (e.g. yoga, pilates etc) and get-togethers for older people too also communal recycling centre for hard to recycle objects (e.g. crisp packets, bottle tops etc) in partnership with teracycle? |
| 45 | Citizens advice drop in centre; mother toddler group area |
| 46 | Convert it into starter homes for rent. An ideal place in eth town for dwellings esp flats. One bedroom flats are ideal . We need more information |
| 47 | Methodist church parent & toddler group; worship space; messy church |
| 48 | Repeat of 47 |
| 49 | Soft play area; carers drop in centre; small meeting space – for book clubs etc |
| 50 | Walk away from this project massive money pit |
| 51 | Retail spaces; café/bar; social spaces; housing |
| 52 | Space for activities for mother & toddlers, disabled, people with health issues & the elderly |

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| 53 | <p>Not the whole building nor being responsible for the whole project. Museum could be elsewhere in Ilminster; juice bar yet another coffee shop by any other name; start up business units, artists studios, workshops there are plenty of empty shops / spaces in Ilminster.</p> <p>i funding – the first questions to be answered where will the estimated £2-3 million come from</p> <p>ii surely the town needs other things more urgently – a swimming pool?</p> <p>lii does the Town Council have the experience to carry through a project of this size or is there a way they could work with the potential developer (who I understand was ready to buy at the June 13 auction) so they could get their council office & other space but have the project funded by the housing units?</p> |
| 54 | Zero waste shop; bulk barn; ceramic painting studio for kids |
| 55 | <p>This is a ridiculous proposal. The town already has ample meeting spaces, cafes, an arts centre, spaces for workshops (six at least , there may be more). The cost of buying, developing and maintaining the premises will be enormous. We have a library that needs support, unkempt green spaces, vandalised toilets, blocked drains (more than ten on New Road) a dog poo problem – surely we can apply some common sense and spend council money in a useful and positive way and not on some whimsy!</p> |
| 56 | <p>Unfortunately I only heard about your open meeting to discuss ideas for the Gooch & Housego Premises in Ilminster after the event, I hope that I am not writing too late in the day but I did feel that I would like to put in my idea / request.</p> <p>My son XXXXX is 40 years old and still lives at home with my husband and I. He has special needs problems and is unable to live on his own without input from others. Like many parents in a similar situation to ourselves we are retired, we are getting older and need to be looking at provisions after Mum and Dad are no longer around. This is very difficult. There are very few opportunities for people like XXXX to live semi independently within the local community so that they can feel confident and where people look out for them.</p> <p>Shared ownership would be ideal. XXXX and adults like him could have some financial stability and a say in how they wish to live. The town already has Sweet Surprise which is a wonderful place for developing adults with special needs. How wonderful if they could live in some independence in eth community which has already welcomed them so warmly.</p> <p>I am sure that you have had some good suggestions for the building from others. Can I ask hat if you already have definite plans for the Gooch & Housego premises that perhaps if something else should come up in the town that you could give my idea some thought.</p> |
| 57 | I don't think we can afford it |
| 58 | <p>Café with outside space / seating; tourist information; commercial units that can be used for shops / workshops etc not designed for specific uses; library;</p> <p>shared use of facilities e.g. museum / council chamber / meeting space / tourist info; youth meeting spaces.</p> <p>Could the development replace some of the other facilities in the town? – library / youth club</p> |

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| 59 | Attracting people to town – vibrant market Silver St shop owners included. Research similar towns pop-ups. Access for prams & disabled. Affordable accommodation . Emergency accommodation |
| 60 | Are people of Ilminster ready to spend millions on it |
| 61 | Tourist information – keep it central. Library – keep it central.A base for local groups to hold their stores – ILF, Christmas Light i.e. storage units |
| 62 | Town Hall; library |
| 63 | We know that there is a strong interest in housing for adults with learning difficulties in Ilminster. The town boasts excellent provision at “Sweet surprise” and our daughter and a number of her peers would love to live and work in their own community. This is an <u>ideal</u> opportunity.Our daughter and her friends want to live together, in their own home. We would urge the Town Council to consider opportunities to rent or buy (or a combination of both) . I would be happy to discuss this further |
| 64 | I'll send you the document! |
| 65 | Shops; shoes |
| 66 | Shops, shoe cloths |
| 67 | Workshops – clean ones not heavy industry Drop in advice centre for people to get information about debt help – beneits – rent support etc Rooms to hire for evening classes Area for dance classes / yoga etc Virtual reality café / shop Community spa – jacuzzi – sauna – steam room. Could be tied in with juice bar |
| 68 | For local small businesses. Grants to support small businesses to grow |
| 69 | Free to access therapies for those in need by volunteer therapists donating their time Confidential drop in for those who need support & a listening ear. Both with anonymous access CAB office |
| 70 | A foundation. A space where people can gather & receive help & support for i.e. depression drop-in. Could be a combination of all the above , separate spaces used by individuals or groups |
| 71 | Not supported unless for a mixture of new housing Mixed housing including specialist In Ilminster we have a lot of (even a surfeit) of food outlets so no jusice bar required. We have an Arts Centre which is an ideal meeting space and always needs financial support. We know or we are told we need more housing-affordable especially. May be this site could be used for a mixture of different housing – specialist, affordable, studio flats, a penthouse even! Sheltered luxury accommodation |
| 72 | Repeat of comments in 14 |
| 73 | Nothing that will cost the community money |
| 74 | Housing for young people |
| 75 | Nothing that will take away business from the current shops, cafes, arts centre etc |

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| 76 | <p>Here are my suggestions for the former Gooch & Housego premises. I think that it would be good to think of leisure facilities for all ages. It should be affordable and not exclusive.</p> <p>The facilities would be enjoyed by all ages of townsfolk and attract visitors and shoppers from far and wide.</p> <p>Ideas would be for a shoppers creche and a soft play centre with seating for parents & siblings A juice and healthy snack bar could be located close by.</p> <p>A quiet room for homework, letter writing and a comfortable area for reading, with newspapers and magazines provided.</p> <p>It could also include a Holistic Centre for various therapies e.g. chiropractor, physiotherapy, Bowen therapy etc</p> <p>It would eb good to have a gym and finally a roof top swimming pool under the starts, and possibly a hot tub.</p> <p>To achieve maximum uptake of facilities a park and ride scheme could operate.</p> <p>I think that my ideas would benefit so many people and the town</p> |
| 77 | <p>I know that a number of parents on behalf of people with a learning disability will be contacting ITC about the potential of the Gooch & Housego building as future housing. I also know that they have funds available through a shared ownership project to buy some of these properties. It seems that working together will release some equity from the development for use by ITC for whatever purposes they deem necessary and also provide much needed accommodation for those who do not require parking.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to provide a mixed development of owner occupied, housing association and shared ownership homes in a town centre location with strong environmental benefits. There would be no exacerbation of parking issues and no challenges to housing associations as they would not need to access HCA funds to assist with any development.</p> |
| 78 | <p>I am a parent with a special needs young adult who currently attends Sweet Surprise and struggling to find suitable accommodation for him in Ilminster.</p> <p>I would like to suggest you set up a special needs complex either to purchase , rent or share with other special needs young adults.</p> <p>Can I please register my interest</p> |
| 79 | <p>Unfortunately I am unable to get to Ilminster between pm & 8pm today therefore I am emailing my suggestion for the future plans of this building and as a parent of a young adult with special needs this is very close to my heart.</p> <p>My daughter would very much like to liv ein Ilminster and is struggling to find some where suitable to rent. Therefore I would like to put forward the suggestion that the building gets converted into flats / apartments to house semi independent adults looking for long-term rent or shared ownership.</p> <p>I also gather that parking is a problem so this suggestion negates any need for any spaces as none of them drive!</p> <p>Thank you in advance for your consideration</p> |
| 80 | <p>Hello, I would like to suggest that these premises are made into a special needs housing complex, for those that could afford it to purchase an</p> |

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| | <p>apartment / flat / house either outright or through a shared ownership scheme. For those who cannot afford to buy I would suggest rented / shared / warden assisted accommodation through a housing association or a care company.</p> <p>My daughter has special needs and we are at present looking to set up a shared house in Ilminster, this is proving not straightforward, but if this development were to go ahead, this would be of definite interest.</p> <p>Unfortunately I am unable to attend the consultation on 11 July but would like to register my interest.</p> |
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