

MURDISHAW LOCAL CENTRE

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

# Welcome



Welcome to our public exhibition on plans to create a community hub in Gorsewood, Murdishaw. The purpose of today's event is to present our vision for the local centre and seek your views.

Onward owns and manages a number of properties across Murdishaw. We are committed to ongoing investment in Murdishaw to regenerate the area and deliver major economic and social benefits to the community for years to come. Onward has been working closely with the Community Design Team, a group of local community residents, to understand their aspirations for the future of Murdishaw.

In partnership with the Community Design Team, we have developed plans for a new local centre. The local centre will be part of a thriving hub at the heart of the community, offering a space for local people to socialise and enjoy a range of activities.

Before we progress with the plans, we want to hear what you think about the plans. How would you use the local centre? What do you think your area needs? What services would you find useful?

**Please take a look at our proposals and see how you can share your feedback.**

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# The journey so far...

## A people powered partnership

To develop our proposals for the local centre, we chose to adopt a different approach to design and planning that placed local people at its core. We established a Community Design Team, a group of local residents from Murdishaw, to share ideas and help us to understand the needs of the local area.

### Our approach is based on:

#### **HUMAN CENTRED DESIGN.**

Creating spaces and places based on people's lived experiences, knowledge and aspirations.

#### **ASSET BASED DEVELOPMENT.**

Starting with identifying what people value and what they want to live their best life, rather than starting with what is wrong and needs fixing.

Working in partnership with the Community Design Team has enabled us to develop a vision that reflects local views and aligns with ambitions for Murdishaw. The following boards provide more information on how local feedback has shaped the proposals.



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# Reflecting local feedback.

Onward researched the area and sought feedback from local representatives to understand what people like about Murdishaw and what they would like to see in the community in the future.

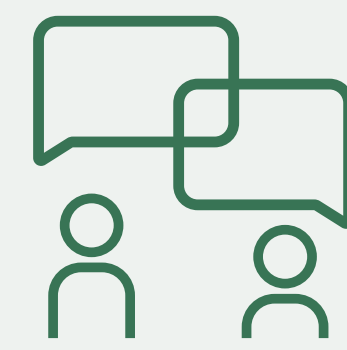
**The common themes from this research were that people were looking for:**



Somewhere to meet  
informally as a community



Somewhere  
to learn



Somewhere to  
share skills

It was also clear that people wanted a facility to do things at different times of the day, including in the evening and at weekends.

**Based on feedback from the Community Design Team, the following design principles were agreed:**

- Different spaces will be created that are well connected to one another
- We will work with the Community Centre to plan activities that span across both spaces
- Low-cost elements like shipping containers and lockable market stalls should be used in the Market Square
- The old Boxing Gym should be opened up as one of the entrances to the site
- This will be a phased development

The space has been carefully designed to reflect local people's experiences, knowledge, and aspirations – making sure that your voices are at the heart of this project. More detail on the vision is provided on the next board.



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# The vision.



Our ambition is to create a thriving community space where residents can meet and find common things to do together. The proposals present an opportunity to deliver an attractive local centre in the heart of Murdishaw, creating a positive place that supports a range of leisure and recreation activities along with major improvements to green spaces.

The vision is to create not just a standalone local centre but a vibrant campus culture that connects with the existing community centre, with planned activities across both spaces.

**In summary, the proposals will:**

1. Open up the former boxing gym as a café, which will act as the main anchor in the centre of the site
2. Create a new Market Square with hard standing, stalls and shipping containers that could support pop-up shops, makers markets and food events
3. Deliver improvements to the green spaces around the centre, creating new areas for recreational use
4. Develop a new learning hub, supporting training and skills opportunities to empower local people
5. Connect with other environmental improvements that are taking place in Murdishaw



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# Have your say.

Thank you for taking the time to visit our public exhibition, we hope you have found this information helpful.

**We believe these proposals could deliver a number of benefits to your local area including:**

- Quality space to meet informally as a community
- Somewhere to learn and share new skills together
- Major environmental improvements that will create an attractive setting for the new local centre

We would welcome your views on these proposals and encourage you to get involved and take this opportunity to let us know what you think about the plans. Our public consultation will run from **15th December 2021 for 6 weeks to 26th January 2022.**

## **How to have your say.**

You can review the proposals and fill out a feedback form via our website - **[www.onward.co.uk/murdishaw-consultation](http://www.onward.co.uk/murdishaw-consultation)**. Get in contact with us to ask any questions about this project by emailing **[murdishaw@onward.co.uk](mailto:murdishaw@onward.co.uk)**. Alternatively, if you have any difficulties accessing this information, please contact us or call one of our neighbourhood specialists.

**Jane Smith**      07881 857 965

**Vickie Hodgson**   07733 002 414

Please provide your feedback no later than **Wednesday 26th January 2022**. After this exhibition, we will be collating all the feedback received to inform our future plans for Murdishaw so please take this opportunity to have your say.

## **About Onward**

Onward Homes is one of the largest registered providers of social housing in the North West, owning and managing 35,000 properties across the Region. Find out more about Onward here: **[www.onward.co.uk](http://www.onward.co.uk)**