



THAKEHAM

*Woodgate
Community Pavilion*

Statement of Community Support
August 2025





Overview

Woodgate is Thakeham's exemplar new community in Mid Sussex. Through close collaboration with our housing association partner, Abri, and Mid Sussex District Council, Woodgate has won multiple awards and set the benchmark for future placemaking.

Timeline

2017	Planning granted
Mid 2018	Start on site
Mid 2019	New road junctions completed
February 2020	First occupations
Summer 2021	Village Green opens
September 2021	Woodgate Primary School opens
June 2023	Community Café opens
November 2023	Construction finishes on the new St Catherine's Hospice
May 2024	Community Shop opens



Throughout the planning and development of the site, Thakeham has worked closely with stakeholders including Councillors, officers, Parish Councillors and the community to deliver a scheme of which everyone can be proud.

At the outset of the scheme, Thakeham built a 'Sales Pavilion' which received temporary planning permission on 27th May 2021. The building sits at the heart of the development, on the village green, so was ideally located for sales and customer care use. With the development coming to a natural conclusion, residents have enquired as to the long-term status of the pavilion and a desire to see it retained as a community facility for the benefit of the whole development. Slaugham Parish Council have expressed an interest in running the facility for the community on an ongoing basis.



Proposal

Thakeham has offered to fully fund the adaptation of the facility (including planning permissions) into a community pavilion, to allow the Parish Council to take this asset into community ownership and use.

It is the Parish Council's intention that:

“ The Pavilion will primarily function as a community facility, with a focus on adult-oriented activities. Proposed uses include council public meetings, workshops, small group meetings, co-working spaces, virtual offices, educational sessions, local hub options for teams, dedicated workspaces, cultural events, and well-being activities such as yoga or mindfulness classes. The goal is to create a flexible environment that complements existing community facilities, fostering opportunities for learning, creativity, and social engagement. ”

Slaugham Parish Council and Thakeham have collaboratively created a joint press statement confirming details around the proposal, and the full support of the Parish Council.



Support

“ As the Ward Councillor for Handcross and Pease Pottage and a member of Slaugham Parish Council, I wholeheartedly support this application. This gift from Thakeham to the Parish Council of the former sales pavilion will enable the Parish Council to establish a supportive and engaging presence within the Woodgate development. The Parish Council are looking forward to adding the building to their existing portfolio of community assets and have plan for its ongoing use at the heart of this new and vibrant community. ”

Cllr Eric Prescott, Mid Sussex District Councillor for Handcross and Pease Pottage, Member of Slaugham Parish Council



“Having proudly been the District Councillor for Pease Pottage for twenty years, one of my greatest achievements is this fantastic development. I am so grateful that Thakeham has kindly decided to donate this fantastic facility to the Slaugham Parish Council for the benefit of the local residents.”

Cllr Gary Marsh, Mid Sussex District Councillor for Ardingly, Balcombe and Turners Hill



“ I fully support Thakeham's application to Mid Sussex District Council to enable the transfer of the pavilion on the green at Woodgate to Slaugham Parish Council. ”

Cllr Bruce Forbes, West Sussex County Councillor for Worth Forest, Former Chairman of Mid Sussex District Council



“ Slaugham Parish Council fully supports the submission of a permanent planning application for the existing sales pavilion at Woodgate and wishes to formally record its endorsement of this proposal.

The Council recognises the strategic and long-term value of retaining the building as a permanent facility for the benefit of both the Parish Council and the wider community. As the population of the village continues to grow, the demand for accessible, flexible, and well-managed community space for various purposes becomes increasingly important. The pavilion offers an ideal location and layout to support a range of civic, and community uses, including meetings, hot desking, and workshops.

From a planning perspective, the change in use represents a sustainable and efficient approach to community infrastructure delivery. The building is already in situ, well-integrated within the development, and benefits from existing access, parking, and visibility within the heart of the development. No significant alterations are proposed to the external structure, and minimal physical intervention will be required to bring the space into community use, making it a low-impact but high-benefit proposal.

Slaugham Parish Council is committed to taking on the stewardship of the building, that it becomes a thriving hub for local engagement, support services, and social activity. The proposal aligns with the wider goals of the District Council’s planning and community strategies, particularly those aimed at building resilient, well-connected, and inclusive neighbourhoods.

We respectfully encourage the District Council to support this application and look forward to working in partnership to maximise the positive impact of this facility for current and future residents of Woodgate and the wider Community.”

Slaugham Parish Council



THAKEHAM

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