



THE WALMER CASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE  
 39 Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, CT8  
 8JT

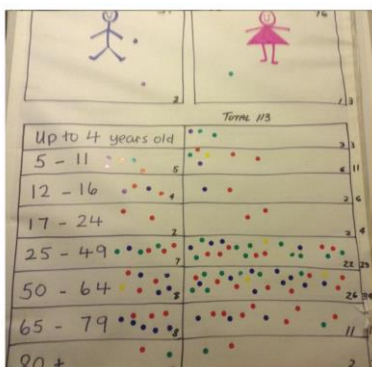
It was a Success, Success, Success.



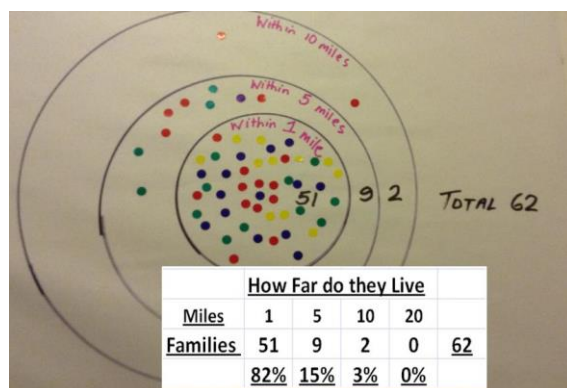
Sunday the 21 August 2016 became a day of celebration for our community; it was a step toward a brighter future. It was a day filled with progressive and diverse ideas, a day when many people from the Greek Community of Margate and the local Westgate Community came together to have their voices heard.

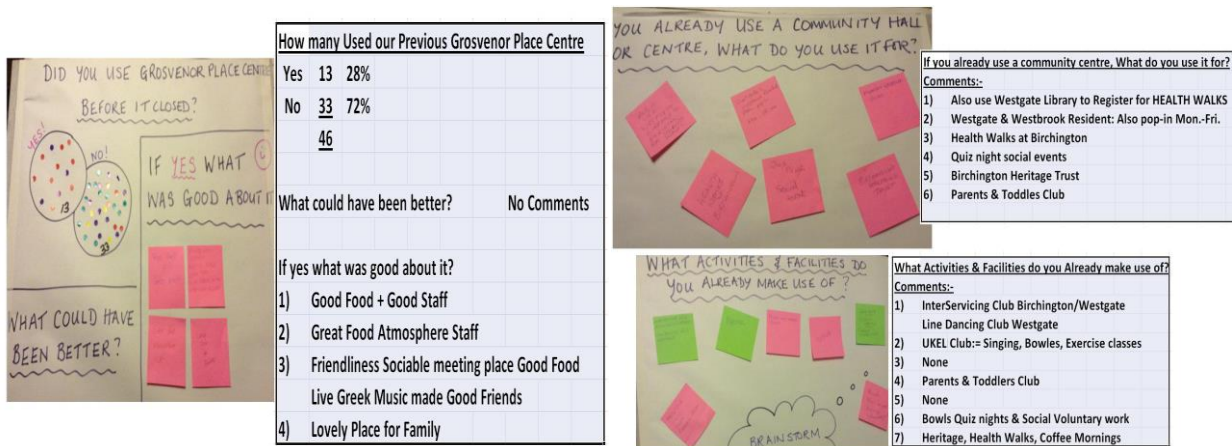
An incredible 1,600 leaflets were distributed locally and the free press was also utilised for advertising purposes. A BBQ was organised with the food supplied free of charge by the Greek community. The local Westgate Community turned up in their hundreds and helped make the function an outstanding success. Most of the people (more than 70%) were once patrons of the Walmer Castle and many expressed their thanks and gratitude that the venue was to be turned into a Community Centre and not lost to the Community forever.

Some statistics extracted from questionnaires that people filled on the day are listed below. The statistics are provided by Mr. A. Antoniou and show the diverse range of age groups that attended the Community centre as well as the distance people travelled to get to the centre. The findings also show that top of the wish list is for the centre to be used as a Bar/Restaurant/Coffee shop. Overall, the statistics thus far compiled indicate that there is a need for a family oriented venue for the area.



Attendees			
Age	Gents 2	Ladies 1	
>4	0	3	3%
5>11	5	6	11%
12>16	4	2	6%
17>24	2	2	4%
25>49	7	22	29%
50>64	8	26	34%
65>79	8	11	19%
>80	2	2	4%
	<b>37</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>113</b>
	33%	67%	





One of the attendees to the function was Kent County Councillor Mr Jeff Elenor, who enthusiastically took the concept of a community centre to heart and offered to provide enough funds from his allowance for the building of disable toilets and maybe, if his other commitments allow, for some additional funds for the refurbishment of the ordinary toilets. Carol Partington Councillor for Westgate-On-Sea also attended the BBQ and she expressed her enthusiasm and solidarity with what we are trying to achieve.

So many things today separate peoples and divide them. Last Sunday showed that through cooperation and understanding we can achieve a more united society. A society built on the foundations of charity and hope and the desire to create a better future for ourselves and our children.

'We the people!'. These words have meant so much. On Sunday we saw what can be achieved with the spirit of community. People genuinely participating, offering ideas for their future and trying to shape that future for the good of the community.



We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the members of the committee who organised and contributed to the success of this function, as well as members of the community who either gave up their time to do the cooking or serve, to distribute leaflets or offer food and cakes. Their hard work and effort is deeply appreciated. We must also thank all those who offered donations to cover the cost of the food and the hire of the Bouncy Castle that was provided. It all contributed to make this day an overwhelming success.



We would like to thank our local and county councillors who came and shared in the event as well as everyone who got involved on the day. The filling of the questionnaires was very important and we would like to thank all those who contributed. The questionnaires sought to discover what people want from this new community centre, and how we can create a more inclusive, diverse but integrated society for all. A community centre where those who feel isolated and withdrawn can make friends and socialise. And where those who just want some peace and quiet in a happy family oriented atmosphere can come and relax.

Much has been achieved but much more needs to be done. And we the people are diverse, innovative, inventive and inspiring. We together are the community and together we can build a better, more inclusive and united society.

Report by David Papa-Adam  
Editing Michael Papadopoulos