

Community Centre plan delivered for Post Office



HaverHub Project Co-ordinator Gitti Coats with Jerry Evans and Liz Weedon.

A HAVERFORDWEST building, vacant for more than 10 years, will be transformed into a community centre, after approval was granted by Pembrokeshire County Council.

Community organisation HaverHub has been running events out of the town's old post office on Quay Street since September last year, and has now been given permission to make permanent changes to the building.

The council's planning committee unanimously approved the plans on Tuesday, May 22.

"This building has been empty for years. It can only bring life back into Quay Street," said Cllr David Bryan.

Plans for the building include interior renovations to the main post office building to contain an events hall and office spaces.

The roofs and interiors of two former storage shed in the back yard will be renovated so they can be used as events and activities spaces.

There are also plans for planting trees and other groundworks in the yard, and plans to move a pair of bath stone gates to allow for better access.

Planning officers said it was an appropriate development for the town centre, but there were concerns about

By David Lynch

01437 761755

dly@westerntelegraph.co.uk

Twitter @davidintherain

taking potential retail space away from Quay Street.

Cllr Tim Evans offered a different view: "We are talking about losing retail space - I don't think that is a problem in that part of Quay Street.

"I think the retailers will be more than happy to see it used. The footfall in Quay Street will be increased by that."

Councillors agreed the development was providing a much-needed means of regeneration for the street.

Gitti Coats, project co-ordinator and founder of HaverHub, said all the group's volunteers were pleased with the decision, and thanked PCC for the support it provided.

"It really has been a good experience to work with our neighbours across the water and find ourselves on the same side - all basically working towards the same regeneration aspirations for this surprising and delightful county town," she said.

Building work had now begun on the site, with future events planned including an art exhibition and a song writing workshop.