We’re out of space

RESIDENTS’ PLEA FOR NEW COMMUNITY HUBS

Residents want the council to investigate how it may relocate services from the Thomas St Centre, which is home to Prospect’s library, digital hub, art gallery, and toy library. Residents also want a larger community hub for existing programs, which they say are at capacity. The City North Messenger reported this month the council would likely need to find a new home for its services at the Thomas St Centre when its lease expired in 2019. The council rents the site from the Department of Education on peppercorn lease and was told it may not be renewed.

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Resident Find a new base

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According to a council report, Nailsworth Primary School was at capacity and needed the Thomas St Centre, which was part of the school in the 1960s, for extra classrooms. Prospect Local History Group convenor David Kilner, whose group uses the library, said the council had proposed to invest in a large "interpretative centre" rather than simply relocate existing services in 2019.

"I absolutely love that there is more old building but I think the problem is it's not big enough for the job that it wants to do," Mr Kilner said.

"What I would like to see is new space for the library, gallery, community groups and a history museum."

Prospect Residents Association president Elianna Cripin, who runs meetings in group members' homes agreed.

"There's not a lot of community centres and I actually relate more to North Adelaide and Norwood because of that," Ms Cripin said.

"I like the idea of a live and interactive centre with a cafe as it would be very inviting."

Grace Fitzpatrick, of Nailsworth, uses the toy library and library with her daughter Catherine, 6.

"Before the digital hub there was a meeting space for people which was great but now there's not enough room," Ms Fitzpatrick said.

"It would be amazing to have a new community venue in this area which has more space so that kind of social interaction really helps and it's critical for all the young families."

Friends of the Prospect Library chairwoman Prue Blinbli, who uses the digital hub, said the Thomas St Centre, at the corner of Main North Rd and Thomas St, was a great resource but was "bursting at the seams".

War councilor Allen Harris said the council was sending a letter to the Education Department to get a definitive answer on whether they would have to move out of the centre.

He said the council would wait for a response before making plans.

SOUTH Australia's warm spring, summer and autumn has kept European wasps buzzing, as numbers rise to plague properties in parts of Adelaide.

Pest control companies say it is the worst wasp problem in recent years.

The University of Adelaide and Australian Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity's Professor Andy Austin said warm climate and increased food sources in Adelaide was to blame.

"We didn't have a really cold winter last year, which is when the hibernating wasp queens tend to die off," he said.

European wasps - or Vespa germanica - feed on meat, fruit and rubbish.

They are attracted to sugary drinks and people drinking out of soft drink cans are being warned to use a straw or pour the drink into a glass. Prof Austin said late summer and early autumn were the danger seasons for wasp attacks, but the numbers would reduce in winter.

The number of European wasp call-outs at Waikerie Council has more than tripled in 2014/15 compared to the previous year.

There were eight sightings of wasps in 2013/14 compared to 29 this financial year. In 2012/13 there were 33 call-outs. There has been 109 call-outs this financial year across Port Adelaide-Enfield this year, compared to 62 in 2013/14. There were 230 call-outs in 2012/13.

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