



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Aidan Dunn
Chief Executive
BCP Council

29 August 2026

Dear Aidan,

I am writing following a public meeting that I hosted last night about the future of Beaufort Community Centre, which was very well attended by local residents and community organisations.

There is a strong desire to see this much-loved facility fully reopened and ultimately brought into community hands. Feedback from my survey and the meeting highlighted three clear priorities:

- Activities and safe spaces for children and young people
- Social connection and support for older residents
- A welcoming café and community space for informal meetings and support

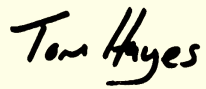
The meeting also raised a number of concerns about the short-term reopening plans. I would be grateful for urgent clarification on the following:

1. Reopening on 14 September: Is the centre on track to reopen as planned? Which rooms and activities will return, and how will this be communicated publicly?
2. Communication: How will former users and room hirers be kept informed? It appears that communication has so far only reached those being invited back.
3. Safety and environmental issues: What is the timetable for addressing these issues, and what are the anticipated costs and who will meet them?
4. Full reopening: What is the estimated cost of bringing the whole centre back into use, including making the entrances more welcoming and accessible?
5. Community involvement: What scope is there for volunteers to support improvements and upgrades alongside the specialist work required to address safety issues?
6. Community ownership: What is the roadmap for returning the centre to community control, and will the Council consider offering a lease of at least 30 years? Long-term security would provide any future community operator with the confidence to invest in the building.

There is significant enthusiasm within the community to support the centre's future, and I am working with community organisations interested in running services from the building.

I would appreciate a response to these questions as soon as possible, given the planned reopening date and the understandable desire among residents for clarity about the centre's future.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hayes". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Tom" and "Hayes" being capitalized and prominent.

Tom Hayes MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East