



*Site plan of proposed development*

### **Central Sussex College redesign set to take shape**

Central Sussex College has been given the green light to start work on the first phase of a £24million redevelopment of its Haywards Heath campus, designed by Lee Evans Partnership (LEP).

College Principal Dr Russell Strutt said: "The redevelopment of our Haywards Heath campus is part of an ongoing commitment to providing students in Mid Sussex with first class accommodation to allow them to gain first class results. The redesign was developed after close consultation with the staff and students and the architects' end result will provide the best facilities of their kind in the area – allowing us to further expand our curriculum. We look forward to seeing it take shape."

LEP have created an innovative theatre space, music suite and visual arts rooms to support the College's strong curriculum areas of performing arts, English, languages, media and fine arts at its sixth form campus in Haywards Heath. Later phases of the project will allow the College to expand into areas of vocational training already offered at its other campuses in central Sussex, such as catering and hairdressing.

The scheme has been developed in three phases so that the College can still carry

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### **Central Sussex College redesign set to take shape (continued 2)**

on business as usual and the location of the buildings has been partly determined by the need to build Phase One without disturbing the main college building. Lee Evans Partnership's design is based on two teaching 'barns' which run either side of a main concourse where student communal facilities, such as the Café, support services, Learning Resources and Library, are provided. The steel framed teaching accommodation has been designed to offer maximum flexibility and adapt to future delivery changes in the educational curriculum.

Contractors Longley Kier will commence work on Phase 1 of the three-year construction project in August 2006, one year since the College was first formed in August 2005, the result of a merger between Crawley College and Haywards Heath College.

Phase 1, which marks a £9.3million investment, will include The Hub, a new theatre space, designed to seat 260 which will sit alongside two rehearsal studios and two dance studios. The performing arts block will also feature a state-of-the-art music suite which architects designed with help from the Brighton Institute of Modern Music. The music suite will include a fully acoustic, sound-proofed drum room, guitar room, general practice room and vocal room. These facilities will be a key addition to the campus, allowing the College to offer the BTEC Level 3 in Music Practice in partnership with BIMM - a qualification that has never been offered to students in Mid Sussex – from 2007. This phase will also provide two digital language labs, classrooms, IT rooms and office space.

Phase 2, which if funding is agreed will start in November 2006, will provide superb new facilities for the College's media and art students. This £4million phase will offer new visual arts studios for art, design and photography work, plus a dark room and digital photography suite. Additional accommodation will provide new film and media labs, a training kitchen and yet more general use classrooms.

Finally, if approved for both planning and part-funding, a further phase will provide a hair salon and a glass atrium featuring a coffee shop, canteen and much needed social space for students plus further classrooms, labs, IT suites and new learning resource facilities. If agreed, construction will start in Spring 2008, and this final part of the redevelopment project is expected to cost around £10.8million.

It is hoped Phase 1 and 2 of the campus redevelopment will be completed in Autumn 2007.

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