

COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR WHITWICK!

Impressive two-storey building gets the go ahead

By **BEN HALL**

A COMMUNITY centre for Whitwick has been granted planning permission.

The application for Whitwick Community Centre, which will be sited at City of Dan, was passed unanimously by North West Leicestershire District Council's planning committee on Tuesday evening.

Peter Christian, Chairman of local charity and applicants Whitwick Community Coffee Shop, said: "It has always been our aspiration to help more people in the village, and this community centre will fulfil that objective.

"We are now looking to community builders for funding. They have a £27 million pot we can tap into and we have already been in talks with them."

In addition to the committee voting unanimously in favour of permitting the development, members were also quick to heap praise on the proposal and its design.

Councillor for Moira, John Bridges, said: "As a builder myself I would like to compliment them on this because it's a superb design that really fits with the natural area."

Meanwhile, Cllr for Ashby Castle, John Coxon, added: "I think



UNITY: Supporters of Whitwick Community Centre in front of site.

this is a super project. It's really good that the village is doing this and I would love something like this in Ashby."

One of the two storey centre's main appeals is its apparent self-sustainability.

The building will contain a cafe, two function halls, kitchen, charity shop and a meeting room. It will also house a wet play area, seven offices, two interview rooms and storage.

Materials for construction will be sourced locally where possible.

The plans, described by Mr Christian as a 'once in a generation opportunity', have been amended from a previous application, this time incorporating an increased 63 parking spaces to rectify concerns about highway safety.

Andrew Bridgen, MP for North West Leicestershire said: "This result demonstrates the strength of support, which is palpable."

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