

# Ideas are wanted glass museum gro

By Richard Guttridge

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**A NEW glass museum set to open in Wordsley this summer is to be larger than originally planned.**

Bosses at the £5.5 million White House Cone Museum of Glass have decided to include an extra 600sq m of space as part of the venue rather than renting it out as had been planned.

They had a change of heart after deciding they wanted the spare room to be part of the new attraction and have now turned to the public for ideas on how to use it.

A range of options are being considered, including bringing in interactive facilities for families to use.

The famous Stourbridge Glass Collection is being moved to the new centre, which is nearing completion.

The display area at the new site is now three times larger than where the collection was previously stored at Broadfield House in Kingswinford, which has left curators with leftover space.

Graham Knowles, chairman of the British Glass Foundation, said the organisation was open to a range of options, including bringing in interactive facilities for families to use.

## Scope

But Mr Knowles admitted the lost cash from not renting the area out will have to be made up elsewhere.

He said: "In reviewing the importance of the exhibitions, and considering the consultation process with the community, the overwhelming preference is to take on more space for glass-related activities to widen the scope for visitors."

"We propose this takes place in the units that were originally going to be rented out to raise income towards running costs. So we must also ensure that we can raise that equivalent amount of income to ensure sustainability for the whole attraction."

"We would therefore like ideas about what the additional space could be used for, such as educational space or interactive facilities for children, and also how funds could be secured to cover the cost of making these spaces part of the new museum."

"It's quite a challenge but we are confident people of Stourbridge and the glass world beyond it can rise to it."

Work to build the new museum, which is replacing the now closed Broadfield House, on the former Stuart Crystal factory site in Camp Hill, opposite the cone, is reaching the final stages. It is expected to open to the public in June.

To launch the attraction there will be a selection of 'pop-up' exhibition.

Ideas can be emailed to [bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk](mailto:bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk)



An artist's impression of the new glass museum, which is set to be bigger than original

## Centre set for old Tarmac

A training centre for school-leavers in Wolverhampton will build its new premises on the site of the old Tarmac headquarters.

The Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre opened in September at a temporary home at the former Timken aerospace factory in Upper Villiers Street.

But bosses planned to relocate into a purpose-built site at the Tarmac headquarters and they can now push ahead with the move after the scheme was given the green-light.

An old garage at the site in Millfields Road, Ettingshall, will be refurbished and made into the training centre's main teaching area and will also include food halls and a kitchen. Meanwhile a new 'heavy vocational' building will be designed to facilitate training in vehicle maintenance, decorating and construction.

Report by Rob Cox

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Planning documents state: "The emphasis is to create a work-like environment that has an industrial aesthetic whilst still providing the required learning spaces to meet the curriculum."

"The vocational areas will have external spaces that directly link with indoor activities."

"There will be a car holding and manoeuvring area adjacent vehicle maintenance workshop, undercover bricklaying area to provide additional training spaces for construction workshop, as small holdings horticultural area to support animal care studies."

The Wolverhampton Vocational Training Centre is currently the only free school in

the country which provides training courses for people aged 16-18, with special needs.

At full capacity, the centre will provide space for 50 staff members of staff.

Designs show landscaped pitches, fitness areas, vegetable garden and park.

Included within the plans for the old Tarmac site is a new home for the British Glass Foundation, which have also been approved to open in August 2016. The centre will not be ready until October 2016 to have 840 pupils and staff by 2022/23. But pupils in 2016/17, will be 120 in Year 8.