

Widecombe & District Sports Group

Dear Yvette

Thank you for taking the time to attend the recently held AGM of the WDSG to outline the proposal for a new village hall for Widecombe. Given the proximity of the proposed village hall site to the tennis court we would like to offer the following observations.

Generally members are supportive of the proposal for a new village hall as long as there is wider community support and a proven need.

An area of concern is the future proofing of the hall in terms of its running costs and management as we all know how hard it is to get and then keep people involved on committees. The possible employment of a part time co-ordinator may alleviate some of the day to day running and provide employment for a local person.

WDSG would welcome the possibility of amalgamating new changing facilities and toilets into the village hall design. The addition of accessible toilets and the inclusion of a shower could help in terms of future proofing the possible uses of the both the hall and the tennis court area. Our own facilities are serviceable but do not really meet the modern standards expected by users, are not accessible and do not provide showers. We have considered revamping our facilities but have put this on hold while the hall proposal is under discussion.

WDSG would welcome the possibility of further activities being offered through the village hall or by use of the tennis courts. However if approached we have concerns over our ability to arrange and administer these given the small number of committee members we currently have. More discussion would be required to see how we can best help each other should the proposal go ahead.

WDSG would welcome the possibility of increasing its membership both from the local community and surrounding area. The village hall proposal has the potential to raise the profile of our facility.

The proposals for parking and using the area adjacent to the tennis court would be acceptable although it may be necessary to reserve a parking area or spaces for users of the tennis court to protect users during times of high demand or large events at the hall. It should also be noted that some of the parking area becomes quite soft during wet periods so some surfacing work may be required.

WDSG would support a pedestrian access to the hall but is less supportive of a vehicular access. If this was absolutely necessary then the costs of relocating the tug of war area (including lighting) would need to be considered. Although not currently in use it is a facility we wish the village to keep in order to future proof our facility for future generations.

WADSG

It should be noted that the tennis court will need to be resurfaced in the next couple of years.

WDSG in principal supports the village hall proposal but inevitably can see some benefits and some negatives. We are open to further discussions should the proposal go ahead.

2nd July 2018