



Widecombe Community Hall CIO
charity number 1182621

Widecombe Community Hall CIO NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2019

www.widecombcommunityhall.org

**WE ARE HAVING AN OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER
IN WIDECOMBE CHURCH HOUSE, 10am to 2pm.
PLEASE COME AND TALK TO US... SEE THE HALL DESIGN
ASK QUESTIONS & FIND OUT MORE**

What's been happening?

The Widecombe Village Hall Steering Group are now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and have been working hard to make the project to build a new Community Hall in Widecombe a reality. We've been holding fundraising events and working on the design. The sale of Hayes Field to the charity has been agreed for a peppercorn sum. **We are nearly ready to apply for Planning Permission.**

What is it going to look like?

It's going to look great and be appropriate for the surrounding area. It will have a good sized main hall, separate smaller meeting room, kitchen with serving area, entrance lobby, plenty of storage for staging, seating and tables. For detailed drawings and layout plans please visit our website.

How much is it going to cost and who's going to pay for it?

The total project cost is around £600,000. The local community will need to raise £50,000 – thanks to your support we have already reached 46% of that target! The rest will come from a variety of grant funders including £100,000 from the Parish Council, if the community votes in favour to support this. **A vote in favour would demonstrate community support which will encourage other funders to support the project.**

Isn't that loan going to put our Parish Precept up by a lot?

We as a community will pay back the loan over a 50 year period. Per household the increase will be relatively small and details are provided in the Parish Council factsheet.

What if the community vote against the Parish Council loan?

A positive response to the vote helps us raise money from other funders. A negative response would make it hard to proceed with the project at all.

What about the site – won't you have to chop down trees, damage archaeology and disturb wildlife?

No, the mature trees will not be harmed and we have had professional surveys conducted and haven't found any archaeology. Wildlife such as bats will be protected and remain undisturbed with attention to low level lighting etc. Much of the ground will be left as it is and the garden area will be designed with sensitive planting. The hall building will also be screened from the road and new access will be created with a bridge over the stream.

Please turn over the page...

Why isn't the hall going to be in the Widecombe Fair Field?

The architects supporting us were given the task of assessing the best site and considered many factors, Hayes field was favoured. This site was also marginally preferred in our community survey. The DNPA (who also examined both sites) indicated that the hall could only be built at the bottom of the 'Fair' field which would have a greater impact on current and 'Fair' field use. A community hall would not necessarily fulfil the Fair Committee's charitable objects either.

Won't a new hall become a burden on Widecombe if it doesn't get used much?

We are confident that new hall will become a great asset to the local community. It is designed to be energy efficient making it cost effective to run and made from materials which will need little maintenance. The original proposal for a new hall was to provide a more modern facility for future generations. Our feasibility study identified a variety of users, including some new ones which will offer additional opportunities.

Do we really need another hall, what's wrong with Church House?

Church House is a beautiful historic building. This is its charm and is its downside as it is not possible to improve the building. Being on two levels makes it difficult to access the upstairs (including the toilets) for people with mobility issues and makes an awkward space for large events. It's cold and damp. The Church House Management Committee think Church House will still get used though, for example the Craft Markets will still take place.

I don't live in Widecombe village, why should I vote for a new hall there?

A modern energy efficient hall would be an asset not just for Widecombe but for the wider community too. It will hopefully attract use from outside areas too and bring more people to the area to participate in activities. It won't detract from other existing halls but hopefully add to the provision of community buildings in the area.

I'd like to support the project what can I do?

Vote to support an increase in the Parish Precept in order to secure funding. Come along to our next fundraising event! Find us on Facebook and follow what's happening. Visit our website. Make a donation. Spread your enthusiasm with your friends and neighbours! Join us and get involved.

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