



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
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Drama Consultation Session

Held on Monday 14th November 2016 in the Small Hall Village Hall

Present: Alan Morris (Chairman Community Hub Committee), Emma Goldring (Clerk), Cllr Sally Pigot, Cllr Sheila Weedall and 21 village hall users

These notes represent the comments made by both the user groups and the members of the committee

It was acknowledged that mistakes were made with the first round of public consultations by putting out plans that were to intended show what may be possible rather than a finished product. Need to understand what the needs of the users are as we thought we knew but obviously do not.

Little theatre group do 2 shows per year. Hire twice per week for rehearsals and the whole week leading up to the shows. Also 2 Sundays prior to the show to set the scenery on the stage. Share the shed with the Arts Society. Most of the contents are on the stage at the moment. If the large hall is occupied cannot use the sink in the junk room as its disgusting. Kitchen used to serve teas, coffees and wine. Small hall used for changing rooms that leads straight onto the stage. Need male, female and kids changing rooms. This is critical and we all fall foul of the regulations. Improvements needed to back stage areas to address the child protection issues.

Wight Island Players- the shed has been rebuilt at great expense. Lighting gallery is vital. One panto per year. Booked once per week in Sept, Oct, Nov, twice per week in Dec and a lot in January for performance. Small hall used for changing rooms female and kids with men using the junk room. Props put out a week or so before the show. 10 boards to come in that are being painted at the moment. A lot of costumes 5-6 rails. Flats are 10x4ft need a straight run through to bring them inside. Storage inside would require separate lock ups for each society.

Village Band use the hall once per year for a charity concert. Large hall used for performance and small hall to store instruments and cases. Set out tables for people to sit around approx. 70 in attendance. Raise £400-500. Practise in the library small room in the evenings when it is shut. Cannot cope with a reduced size of large hall as every inch of space is used. Hall and kitchen are crucial. Moving the kitchen to its current position in 2005 was the best improvement and this need to stay put. If space is lost bookings would be lost and so would income.

Bookings for Village Hall taken 2 years ahead showing the demand and high use. Booked for 50% of the time looking at 2016 bookings. If the hall was marketed more it could possibly attract more bookings.

Could you take over the bank and move the Parish Office and toilets there? Could still put library heritage and storage in a rear extension and leave the rest?

Fundraising events for School Pastors would need the hall and kitchen to remain the same size.

Junk room not been kept together or the toilets.

If another level is built it would take the lighting away.

Have you considered Steyne Park? Would jump at the chance of a stage at the Community Centre because of the parking available.

People come from the Coast Hotel to visit the village hall.

Need to appreciate how much the village hall is used and valued. Will change the ambiance if another level is stuck on top.

The works in 2005 cost around £200,000 which was funded by a loan from the Parish Council, grant funding from Defra, and fundraising from local people that took 2 years to achieve. £25K is in the Parish Council reserves fund for the Village Hall roof.

Seeking guidance on the buildings costs need to understand them.

Need to take all of the players with you. Need to get everyone on board. Truth needs to go out as rumours are circulating.

Planning permission concerns from the neighbours at Elizabeth Court.

Advised another shed would be refused by IWC? Informal? Not by PC.

Community Centre can they be brought into this and move stuff up there?

Band would not go to the community centre as they want to be central. Have 2 village centres.

Main hall has 85% occupancy in the mornings from Mon-Sat. Used very heavily in the evenings. People tend not to go out in the evenings. If there were more societies would have more bookings. Currently have 800 bookings per year of which 300 are in the small hall. Designed hall 15 years ago as what was given over was run down. Major injection of funds to meet the desires of people.

Complaints about the junk room at the back. Hirers create the mess which is disgusting. Have some money from the old appeal fund and have been planning to do works for 2 years. May need lottery funding. Got lottery funding for the boiler. Understand if PC sell 5-7 High St the public toilets will go and don't see a problem accommodating these somewhere viable on the site in common ground.

Stage cannot be reduced in size. Cannot raise the height of the stage.

The VH management committee needs to users to come on the committee.

Emma Goldring
15th November 2016