

Village Hall Ambition



There are some exciting prospects being investigated for your Village Hall and if they come to fruition, they will benefit the entire Village community.

The present Hall has served the community for over 50 years since it was built by a population of about 300 village inhabitants! How they did it – I just don't know – but they are to be admired for their efforts and perseverance in what they achieved. The population of the village will shortly be ten times what it was in the 1950's and the Hall has served us well throughout this time; however, it is now beginning to show signs of having reached its full capacity and potential. The Hall is virtually fully let throughout the weekdays, both during the day and evenings, plus there are numerous weekend functions.

That's the brief history, now what of the future? As most of you will know, the, (current!), final major development earmarked for the Village is the 325 Hillreed dwellings to be built at the southern end of the Village; these will stretch between Sheppey Way and School Lane.

Already included in this development is a small Pavillion incorporating changing rooms and showers. It was decided to investigate the possibility of re locating the Village Hall within the current playing fields site and to include the Pavillion facilities within a single building. With this in mind a small sub committee was set up consisting of Village Hall and Parish Council reps, ably assisted by Borough Councillor, Ben Stokes. So that's the basic idea, the big question is; where's the money coming from to build it?

First of all, there is no pot of gold. The Hall is not subsidised in any way, neither does it receive any grants; its only income is from the fees obtained by the hiring of the Hall and these allow the Hall to be necessarily maintained and meet the day to day running costs. I would add that the Village Hall Committee Trustees are entirely voluntary and are drawn from Iwade residents who do not receive any salaries, expenses etc. Therefore, the only possible way to finance a new building is by selling the present Hall site and using these monies for the new build.

Having arrived at this base plan, an informal meeting was arranged with the developer, Hillreed and the plan discussed. The plan in principle is possible, in that the new building could be incorporated into Hillreed's overall design and it would be acceptable that the new building would be ready for occupation before the present Hall would have to be vacated.

Another big question then arises; what can we get for the monies from the sale? Answer; I'm afraid, is not much more than we have at present!

Disregarding this fact for a moment; just what facilities etc would we want in the new premises? And this is where YOU come in! To have your say please complete this questionnaire and let us know what you would like in your new Village Hall/Community Centre. This is probably our last opportunity to improve what is a central feature of village life and we can't afford to miss it.

Do please take the time to complete and return this questionnaire, if by chance it gets mislaid then go to www.iwadevillagehall.org.uk where you can download a copy. We'll keep you updated of developments.

Peter Lovelock
Village Hall Chairman
01795 427177

Iwade Village Hall Survey

Please complete all questions below.
This survey should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete.
Your views are very important to us.

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **Strongly Agree** **Agree** **Neither Agree nor Disagree** **Disagree** **Strongly Disagree**
- (please tick one answer for each question)*
- | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.1 | Iwade would benefit from a new village hall with better facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.2 | The current building has "reached its potential" and is outdated | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.3 | The main hall is too small | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.4 | There are not enough rooms to provide for more than one activity at a time | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.5 | The village hall should have a useable outdoor space | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.6 | The room sizes are inappropriate for a variety of activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1.7 | The village hall needs to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. What improvements should be incorporated into a new village hall building?

3. What other activities would you like to see at the village hall?

4. In principle, do you support a new village hall for Iwade?

- 4.1 Yes
- 4.2 No
- 4.3 Don't know

If no or don't know, please give reasons why

5. Do you support the relocation of a new village hall/community centre to the School Lane playing fields area?

- 5.1 Yes
- 5.2 No
- 5.3 Don't know

If no or don't know, please give reasons why

6. About you?

- 6.1 Which street do you live in? _____
- 6.2 What age category do you fall into? 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65+
- 6.3 Gender Male Female
- 6.4 How many people live in your household? 1-2 3-4 5+

Please return your completed survey to:

Iwade School, Budgens, the village Post Office or Village Hall Post Box by Friday 27th May 2011

The Village Hall Committee would like to thank you for your participation. For further information or help regarding this survey then please contact Vice-chairman Mark Pugh on 01795 429883.

For additional copies go to www.iwadevillagehall.org.uk