



HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS



To all residents and Village Hall users,
We are writing to invite you to respond to a survey about the provision of a New Village Hall. This project is about the heart of our community. It would be wonderful if you could spare a few minutes to help us understand your views and wishes.

HDCC is proposing to build a new Village Hall and Sports Pavilion at the Playing Field. The new building will include a much larger main hall, more adequate storage spaces, a meeting room and modern kitchen and toilet facilities. The Pavilion will include male and female changing facilities, showers, storage, club room and bar. There will be parking for 43 cars, including 5 spaces for disabled users, 10 bicycle parking spaces and 20% of the car parking spaces will be fitted with electric charging points.

WHAT IS HDCC?

HDCC is a committee made up of trustees and volunteers responsible for delivering a new Village Hall and Sports Pavilion at the Playing Field. The Committee was set up by the Parish Council in 2010.

BACKGROUND

The existing Village Hall is currently situated at the bottom of Hut Lane, close to the centre of the village. The original building was a wooden hut erected in 1921. In 1965 this was replaced by the current brick-built structure. Over the past ten years much has been done to improve the internal fabric of the building but, the roof will need to be replaced soon and more significant levels of investment will be required.

In 2008 Hadlow Down Parish Council began the process of investigation

for the provision of a replacement Community Centre. In 2010 a working group was formed to consider a more detailed appraisal of the scheme. The HDCC Committee was formed and one of its first actions was to carry out a parish-wide survey that sought the views of parishioners. In particular, whether or not we should continue to use the existing village hall or consider the provision of a new hall (community centre) on the Playing Field site.

A new community centre was originally mandated by parishioners in the survey held in 2010. Trustees feel that this mandate needs to be updated to accurately reflect the views of residents in 2023, before serious fund-raising and building work commences.

In the past, it was suggested that the original building could be extended and

indeed it was subject to a successful Permitted Development application. Under WD/2014/0347/LDP permission was given to extend the building by a further 55m². However, this was never implemented, primarily because it provided limited improvement but had a serious effect upon the amount of parking and turning area available.

Over the next six years the HDCC trustees and volunteers raised nearly £80k to secure the services of an architect to design the new building and secure planning permission.

HDCC was granted planning permission to build a combined Village Hall and Sports Pavilion at the Playing Field under WD/ 2018/2655/MAJ in June 2019.

SURVEY AIMS - TO ESTABLISH WHETHER RESIDENTS STILL SUPPORT THE BUILDING OF A NEW HALL

- Identify what facilities would be needed in the improved facility.
- Explore which activities people would like to see offered in future at the Village Hall and measure the level of interest in hiring facilities.
- Establish which activities and groups parishioners currently attend both within and outside the parish and the barriers to taking part in these in the parish.

METHODOLOGY

Hadlow Down residents, along with Village Hall and Pavilion users, are invited to complete an on-line survey here:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/_HDCC

If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey please email Geoff Gregory: geoff.gregory@outlook.com or call 07936 678891. Delivery and collection will then be arranged.

A pre-paid return envelope can be provided, if you would prefer to remain anonymous.

Your individual information will be treated as confidential, if you have indicated you wish to be kept informed about the project, your contact details will be passed to HDCC in accordance with their privacy policy.

Comments will be published anonymously with the report. Results will be independently verified and reported to parishioners in the Village Magazine, on the Village Website and on the HDCC website.

WHY DO WE NEED TO BUILD A NEW VILLAGE HALL AND SPORTS PAVILION?

The only public spaces for residents of Hadlow Down to come together as a community are: St Mark's Church, the Village Hall and Playing Field.

The village has a great community atmosphere and there are a range of activities taking place, mostly centred either in the Village Hall or at the Playing Field.

However, the Village Hall is some 58 years old, the fabric of the building is ageing and beginning to require major repairs. The site is very restricted, particularly parking spaces. Access for vehicles is through a residential development and then, via an un-adopted road, in a poor state of repair.



WHERE IS THE NEW BUILDING GOING TO BE BUILT?

It was decided to build the new Village Hall & Sports Pavilion on the Playing Field, School Lane.

WHY THAT LOCATION?

The Village Hall and Sports Pavilion will be amalgamated at the Playing Field, adjacent to the site of the existing pavilion. The Sports Pavilion is also in a poor state of repair. The changing facilities, toilets and kitchen do not meet modern building standards.

The Playing Field offers the space to include adequate parking and emergency vehicle access. The Playing Field is owned by the Parish Council.

HOW DID WE ARRIVE AT THE FINAL DESIGN OF THE NEW BUILDING?

We worked with local groups and hall users to draft an architect's brief in 2016 - 2017. We then looked at other similar projects including High Hurstwood, Five Ashes and Barcombe.

After shortlisting several local architects, MJB Architecture was appointed. A preferred design was produced and this was presented to parishioners and user groups at two public meetings in July 2017, Feb 2018 and at the Village Fayre in 2018. After feedback from over 50 local people and user groups, the design was amended. Planning permission was then granted in 2019.

You can view the design on our website here - www.newvillagehall.co.uk

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The most up to date estimate is £1.9 million for the New Hall, phase 1 of the project.

HOW WILL IT BE PAID FOR?

It will be a mixture of funding sources: Grants, Sponsors and Benefactors, Fundraising Events, Community Investors and Crowd Funding initiatives.

SO HOW MUCH WILL IT COST ME?

The Trustees have no statutory power to look for funds from individual households and have no intention to do so. This would be a matter for the Parish Council to consider. The trustees have not requested any financial assistance from the Parish Council either in the past or for the future.

The Committee have been investigating all available grants and charity relief options. Several have now been identified and the respective funders approached. The National Lottery "Reaching Communities", Sport England and The Football Foundation amongst others.

We will also be looking for individual donors, sponsors and benefactors. As the building progresses, we plan to offer innovative ways for members of the community to invest in various aspects of the build.

The success of the project will depend very much on the support of parishioners and local businesses, to follow in the philanthropic footsteps of those who built the original Village Hall, over one hundred years ago. With your help we know we can do it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE OLD VILLAGE HALL?

The current hall is owned by the Village Hall Committee and the land on which it sits is owned by the Parish Council. The Parish Council applied for, and was granted, outline planning permission for three dwellings on the site in 2019. This was done in order that the option to develop the site could be put to the village in the future.

No decision can be made regarding the future of the existing Hall until the new facility has been built. Parishioners will then be asked to vote on their preferred option for its future.

HDCC recognises that this issue is of particular concern to residents of Hut Lane and Standen Mews but wishes to stress that it has no influence on the future of the existing Village Hall, this will be decided on by you, via a referendum to be conducted by the Parish Council in the future.

HOW CAN I GIVE MY VIEWS?

The consultation period will begin on the 3rd July and will run for a period of three weeks, closing on 24th July. Parishioners and current user groups from both the Village Hall and Sports Pavilion are invited to respond.

YOU CAN GIVE YOUR VIEWS BY:

Completing the online survey here www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/_HDCC
Comments must be received by 24th July 2023, or they cannot be considered. Respondents may remain anonymous if preferred.

If you would rather complete a paper copy of the survey, or wish to submit any other comments please contact: geoff.gregory@outlook.com or call 07936 678891

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Following the consultation period, a report on the outcome of the survey will be considered by the Trustees of HDCC and shared at a meeting with the Parish Council and other interested local groups. The results will be published both on our website and on the Village website in August. A summary will be made available in the Village Magazine. HDCC committee members will also consider any written responses received.

This project is about the heart of our community. It would be wonderful if you could spare a few minutes to complete the survey.

Help us to meet your needs, tell us what you think and shape the future of our wonderful Village.