

**Presentation to the Parish Assembly on behalf of:**  
**Debden Village Hall Trust and Debden New Village Hall Group**  
**15 May 2019**

For anybody here who does not know me, I am Richard Cawte the current Chairman of the Village Hall Trust

I'll report in a moment on wider matters to do with the Village Hall Trust but, firstly, on behalf of both the Trust and the New Village Hall Group, the topic I suspect people are most interested in: the current status of the new village hall project and plans for going forward.

Hopefully, you will have had an opportunity to look at the plans displayed in the hall and to read the accompanying information. I should stress that these are preliminary plans prepared by our architects, Plater Claiborne, and there is much detailed work still to be done, for example in deciding what kind of wall cladding and roofing materials will be used.

Over the past 18 months we have passed several milestones:

1. Through mediation between the Village Hall Trust, the Recreation Ground Trust, the New Village Hall Group, the Parish Council and the MOD, agreement has been reached on the **site of the new hall**. As you know, it is proposed to build it on land where the pavilion now stands
2. The consent of the **Charity Commission** has been issued to exchange land owned by the Recreation Ground Trust with the pavilion on it, for the land occupied by this Village Memorial Hall, which will continue to be used during the building of the new hall and which will be demolished once the new hall is up and running.
3. The unveiling of a **commemorative plaque** in November, coinciding with the centenary of the ending of WW1, linking the new hall – where the plaque will have pride of place - to the original Memorial Hall, and acknowledging the continued support of the MoD
4. The appointment of **architects** and the production of these designs
5. Despite delays during the consultation period, which prevented the New Village Hall Group pursuing major grants, we have continued with smaller-scale **fundraising** that takes the total to £330,000 in the bank or pledged, which is getting on for half the estimated cost, further than we have ever been before.  
Very recently we have entered the Calor Rural Fund. You may have seen the large banner hanging outside on the hall fence, as well as posters around

the village. On your chairs you will have found a flyer, which has an online link to register and vote for the new hall. If we get enough votes we could be awarded £5000. In conjunction with this we have also set up a crowd fund page where donations can be received and our target is to raise £3500. If we achieve both of these goals we will have raised enough to pay for water installation and services to the new site, which amount to £8500. Funding is a step-by-step process, and this is a small contribution that you could ALL do to help us achieve our goal. The deadline for voting is June 17<sup>th</sup> and the deadline for donations to be in is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

Please support us.

With regard to the **shop**, the new group that has taken over the shop will shortly sign a tenancy agreement with the Village Hall Trust so that they can open and operate as a separate entity.

As to the new village hall itself, the main points to emphasise are that it will be, overall, larger than this building; the main hall will seat 120 people when staging is used, more without staging; there will be a separate meeting room seating up to 30 that can be used at the same time as the main hall; a kitchen to serve both main hall and meeting room; and plenty of storage space.

The design brief is based on the expressed wishes of both user groups and the community during an extensive consultation period, and since.

An earlier design made provision for pre-school and whilst those facilities are no longer needed, it would be an easy matter to reinstate them if they were required in the future.

We will keep residents informed as the design develops and you are welcome to make comments through the village hall email address on the bottom of the explanatory notes on the boards (insert email address). The VHT will take these into account when we make the final decisions on the design.

Environmentally, the new building will be as eco-efficient as we can make it. It will have plenty of light. There will be sound-proofing, while the front will overlook the recreation ground, there will be big windows and a veranda to take advantage of the view of the meadow and sports field.

The next major steps are:

- Finalising more detailed plans

- Applying for planning permission, made easier by the fact that we had permission for earlier projects
- Tendering for the construction of the new hall
- And the small matter of raising the rest of the money! The New Village Hall Group fundraisers have a target list of public funds, charities and commercial organisations who they will shortly be in a position to approach. They are also looking at new community schemes to enable every household in Debden, if they wish, to make a contribution towards OUR new Village Memorial Hall.
- Timescale is now dependent on one thing: fundraising, and because of that it would be unwise to speculate on when construction will begin. The one thing the VHT is sure about is that the new hall WILL be built and that there is now a new energy and optimism that will bring it about as fast as possible.

Now back to the **Village Hall Trust** originally set up in 1922 to provide a Memorial Hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of Debden and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex, political, religious or other opinions.

Following the AGM on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 there are 7 Trustees and representatives from the various user groups form the management committee.

### **Finance**

The year ended 31/12/18 and showed that we are down year on year on income, mostly due to the closure of the Pre-school, but new business is now making up for the shortfall as there is more flexibility on booking times and no major maintenance has needed to be done this year. The accounts for the existing hall and the new hall project are kept separately, so all money raised for the new project is used for that purpose only.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the other Trustees if you require further information.

That concludes this report, are there any questions.