

The Future for Shutford Village Hall

As many will be aware, plans are afoot to prepare a Village Plan and a questionnaire will be sent to villagers in the coming months about various important village matters. One item on this questionnaire will be about the village hall. The Village Hall Committee is currently considering options for the future of the village hall building and this is also likely to feature in the village plan questionnaire. To provide more background to the questions to be raised, a feasibility study has been prepared that looks at three options for the village hall building, including the following:

Option 1. Continuing to repair the hall as and when needed and making no substantial alterations or improvements.

Option 2. To carry out a refurbishment of the hall.

Option 3. To replace the hall with a new building on the current site.

In many ways, the current hall provides a satisfactory village amenity that need not be improved and changed. Indeed, this option represents the lowest cost and although funding is likely to be needed for repairs in the coming years, the hall could continue in its current form to provide a useful amenity to villagers.

The committee has however considered whether a refurbishment option could be implemented to encourage increased use of the village hall and address some of the longer term building repair problems in a planned and co-ordinated manner. A hall refurbishment would seek to improve the external appearance, access, energy efficiency and interior of the building. It is estimated that this option could cost approximately £120,000 and can be achieved progressively as funding becomes available without major interruption of accessibility to users.

The option to replace the hall has been considered by the committee by purchase of an off-site made modular building which is estimated to cost approximately £220,000. This again would seek to address current access problems, external appearance, energy efficiency and improvements to the

hall interior. This may increase maintenance costs in the longer term, although this has yet to be investigated in detail.

There are a number of sources of potential grant funding for both the refurbishment and replacement of the hall and Oxfordshire Rural Community Council have provided advice to the committee on the potential sources of such grant funding. Some recent village hall refurbishments in the local area have been awarded up to 90% funding obtained for isolated elements of the work such as energy efficiency improvements.

Importantly, villagers should have an opportunity to give their view over the village hall facility and the committee is keen to ensure that villagers understand the options being considered and implications of each option. If anyone would like to know more about the village hall building feasibility study or view a copy, then please do contact the undersigned on 01295 788520.

Gordon Freeman

On behalf of Shutford Village Hall Committee

All Shutford Villagers

are invited to the

AGM of

Shutford Village Hall

on

Tuesday 14th May 2013

at 7.30pm

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS TO

Geraldine & Roger Bancroft - 780579