

Stowupland Village Hall an update on the new build Project for the Annual Parish Meeting 10 4 2024.

Planning application had been put into MSDC in 2023 and we were pleased to receive the go ahead for the plans towards the end of last year. There were certain conditions attached and the plans had also received some negative comment from members of the public. So some modifications were made to the plans to accommodate the changes suggested. Also a relocation of the re cycling centre to look after residents wishes.

Towards the end of last year we had further unwelcome news when MSDC informed us that funding had been reduced further, to £100, 000 per project, we had been informed that the bulk of the funding would come from them but this was no longer the case .Revised plans were clearly needed and the VHMC came to the following recommendations for those plans.

1 Knocking down the building and starting from scratch would save £500,000 on vat. This would make the building project quicker with the hall back in use a lot sooner.

2 Not having a second floor would save a further £300,000 on the budget.

3 Shared use of toilets and kitchens will save costs on the building project.

4 Changes to the building corridors to save space as they are effectively wasted space.

Making these changes will still give us the new and improved facilities needed for the village and the organisations associated with use of our village hall, we will still have the following updated building.

1 A completely new Bowls pavilion.

2 More storage in the village hall for chairs and tables. A brand new committee style meeting room. A new small meeting room.

3 Much improved areas for the vh and SSC improved toilets and Kitchen area, much improved bar areas for the SSC and Village hall. New rather than refurbished areas will be available.

4 Solar panels much improved heating and lighting this will help with the carbon footprint of the hall and surrounding area.

5 New and improved storage areas for the clubs to store equipment in secure areas around the playing area. We also working on a project to improve footpaths around the area and also working with various agencies on the safe route to school's project.

6 Improved Bio Diversity in the area with more trees and areas for wild life and plants.

These new plans if approved by MSDC planning dept, and these are being worked on, will give a better building at nearly have the cost of the original plans.

5 Funds available so far £300, 000 from CIL funding held by the PC and a application to MSDC for a further £100,000 which is awaiting approval.

As a result of these changes the VHMC took the decision to put a revised planning application in. We have revised the start of the project and the hall will remain open till the end of 2024 and we continue to take bookings up until the end of this year.