

Village Hall 2022-23

It has been another testing year for the hall, having just about recovered from the Covid lockdowns, we have now been plunged in to the world of high energy costs (which in the halls case is not subject to a price cap).

The village hall has been able to attract and retain a very good base of regular hirers and when you couple that with the private hires and the modern needs of our local population it has reaffirmed our plans to develop the hall and the adjoining sports clubs.

The development project will expand on the hall's useability. Allowing disability access to the social club and changing rooms, which will allow the sport clubs to continue developing. By Creating a second function room for further hirers and the addition of modern technology it will allow the hall to cater to a larger market of hirers.

The trustees and architect have met the planning department from mid-Suffolk to discuss the project to ensure the final plans are suitable for the hall, the village and the planning department. A biodiversity report is being currently being prepared which will see a great improvement in the green aspects of the site with bat boxes, new trees and other methods to ensure the development is as carbon neutral as possible. Suffolk Highways is also being consulted to guarantee the new development will not have a negative effect on traffic in the village.

We are looking at installation of a borehole, ground source and / or Air source heat pumps and solar panels to reduce the hall's dependence on the energy markets with a view to generate more energy than we actually need.

We will be formally submitting a planning application in the coming weeks with a view to starting the construction phase in the first few months of next year. This small delay from our original programme is

to allow suitable time for fundraising and other preconstruction phase contractual processes to be undertaken.

The Booking website has been a superb addition to our service allowing hirers to view an active calendar to aid, the now simple, process of making a booking. From the hall's point of view, it allows the invoicing to be a much easier affair than it was a few years ago. And coupling that with the addition of online banking, we are bringing the hall in to the new age of cashless and chequeless finances. The hall now has WIFI which again is a great addition to the increasing useability of the building,

Due to personal reasons our treasurer has had to resign from the board of trustees. So as of now we are actively looking for new trustees to take positions on the committee. Currently we have vacancies of 2 major roles (treasurer and chairman) but there is space on the committee for general trustees as well.

I would like to thank both members of staff. Twig and Lisa for their work in the day to day running of the hall and to my fellow trustees for their hard work on the committee.

Thank you

Patrick Stephens

Vice Chairman Stowupland Village Hall