ITCHENOR
Memorial Hall

Itchenor Memorial Hall is on land transferred between 1944 and 1947 by Glenister Woodger and others to local residents, who were the first trustees. Covenants were placed on the land requiring it to be held on trust for the benefit of the residents of the Parish of Itchenor and its immediate vicinity.

The trustees and residents of Itchenor built the Memorial Hall in 1953, in memory of those from the village who gave their lives in the Second World War. In 1963 the trustees formed a charity bound by the original covenants. The hall is a registered Charity run by Trustees elected annually at the AGM.

The Hall is a provider of space in its tree and parkland setting for groups and classes from anywhere in Itchenor, West Wittering, East Wittering and Birdham.
The Hall is in use most weekdays in school terms and some weekends. Art groups, yoga classes, Village Voices choir, a film club, country dancing, the Parish Council and private parties are among the users.
St Nicholas Church is across the road and our Hall acts as a Church hall for church functions such as weddings, christenings and funeral wakes.

The Need for Refurbishment

The Hall has been largely unimproved since it was built. It is poorly insulated and heating is inadequate. The lighting is insufficient for winter months. The car park is poorly placed, bringing cars right past the doors making indoor/outdoor usage unsafe. There is insufficient storage for tables and chairs and equipment for classes, The kitchen which was built in 1999 needs upgrading. The bathrooms need to be modernised and the main entrance should not be through the toilet area. The glass window frames at the south end of the building are rotten in places and the glazing is of a low standard affecting the retention of heat and do not seal in the rain.

With only one available large space, small groups are in a room that is too large for them and disproportionately expensive to heat. They tend not to come because of this. A small room added on will enable local smaller user groups to enjoy this facility.

Who will benefit from the refurbishment?

The main beneficiaries will be -

a. The current attendees, who will be using a hall that is properly insulated and heated, has modern toilet and kitchen facilities, and a car park that does not intrude on activities in an unsafe way as at present. There are approximately 5,000 attendances per year of which 85% are from Itchenor, West Wittering, East Wittering or Birdham.
b. Other groups who will engage in small group activities in a smaller room that is easy to heat and has good lighting.

Purpose for which funding is sought.

The trustees have made a plan to refurbish the Hall and relocate the car park to a new landscaped area. The existing hall will be completely modernised, to high standards of insulation to reduce heating costs to a minimum. The main space remains and a smaller space will be made . The kitchen and bathrooms will be modernised and refitted. The main entrance will be moved to communicate better with the car park in its new situation.

The relocated car park will be on land for which we have heads of agreement signed between ourselves and JH & FW Green Ltd. for a 99 year lease, rent free unless the car park becomes a pay car park.

Planning application and Sustainability

The project has been discussed with Dr Stephen Austin and Steve Lawrence at the Harbour Conservancy, who indicated the Conservancy would have no objection, subject to-

a. Screening the new car park according to their requirements, which we will be able to do. They will give us a detailed planting plan based on their standard guidelines.

b. There being no net increase in hard surfacing. There will in fact be a reduction, as the existing car park will be returned to grassland and the new one will be gravel and/or grass re-inforcing mesh. As indicated on the plans, only about 60% of the area of the new car park will be for parking- the rest will be planted with shrub and tree.

The building will be enlarged. Every existing part will be improved. Exterior walls will be insulated inside and out. The floor and roof will be insulated. The large SW window will be replaced with windows that have improved thermal properties.

Funding

No funding has yet been secured. An application to the Community Business Fund Power to Change programme in December was unsuccessful.

Possible sources of funding-

a. Local residents, fundraising activities.
b. The Woodger Trust, LEADER and current available funds and grants
c. Balance provided by a Public Works Board grant through the West Itchenor Parish Council if the idea is accepted by PC and Parish.
d. We have reserves of £12,000 but need to keep these for contingencies.

Summary

We are a local community based charity providing space for a range of activities. Used almost exclusively by residents of Itchenor, West and East Wittering, and Birdham, we have over 5,000 person visits per year with the building in use almost every school term week day. The building is in considerable need of refurbishment, with many parts unimproved since 1953.

It is anticipated that this refurbishment project will increase the number of residents taking part in activities at the Hall because of the enhanced small space and improved facilities. It is also making a good investment in a community asset for future generations.

Contacts

Hon Sec
Dr Tom Trevelyan, 01243 511 038 mob 07932 157 894

Chairman
Susan Green, 01243 512 221 mob 07718 902 768