



Progress so far:

Defining what is needed.

This has been covered by the earlier work completed. i.e. the Neighbourhood Plan and the subsequent survey asking Villagers and current users of the hall what they would like to see and discussions within the planning group. A number of issues have emerged:

1. Improvements needed in the heating of the and dealing with the damp problems.
2. Some enlargement of the main hall.
3. Increase the storage capacity.
4. Remain on current site if feasible.
5. Ensure the future rental costs of the hall remain affordable for village use.
6. Create a resource for the village that will encourage more local groups that could in turn enrich village life and the health of the people living in the village.
7. Ensure the improved hall has a 'shelf life' of at least another 50 years.

Definition of site:

We are closer now to defining the boundaries of the village hall site given access to old site (and rather vague) plans and some clarification from Suffolk County County Highways. We feel this gives us enough confidence to work up more detailed plans for improving the hall.

Energy Audit:

Completed, and the various recommendations are now being actively explored. A recent visit to Bradfield St George village hall was useful in seeing how such energy recommendations can be put in place and for checking out their effectiveness and any problems encountered. It was also useful in establishing some useful contacts.

Options for the Village Hall:

Some early outline plans have been developed. The current thinking is to extend the hall along the front of the front of the building by around 3 metres. This increase will increase the main hall size plus improve storage capacity and offer the option of improving the toilet area.

The next steps:

1. More detailed plans of building options and costings to be worked up.
2. Development of a plan to identify timescales for money raising targets.
3. Sharing the current plans with the village.
4. Continue to learn from other examples and take advantage of any help offered by outside agencies.

What do we know:

The planning group intends to bring to the village on Saturday 2nd November 2019 in the village hall more detailed plans for consideration. The idea is that between 11am and 4pm there will be an opportunity for the village to see the progress on the Village Hall proposals plus progress from the Footpath Group and the Nature Group. Do come along and contribute your thoughts and ideas. We will be needing skills and energy to complete the tasks so please consider what you might be able to offer.

Members of the Village Hall Working Group are:

Jill Upton, Vic Turner, Sue Hammond, Cat Williams, Colin Painter, Chris Hartnell, Paul Rogers and Dave Taylor.