

Marnhull Village Hall AGM 24th November 2020

The Extension and Improvement Project

Context and summary

When the Hall was built in 1971 shortage of funds meant the Hall was reduced in size from the original plans, and hence until now its slightly unorthodox square dimensions; the idea of enlarging it has been there ever since. This current project probably ranks as one of the most significant developments in the life of the Hall, and follows the last major improvement – the provision of the current kitchen some fifteen years ago.

This has been a tumultuous and tortuous year for the project, and of course for everyone in Marnhull. However, in November 2020 the project is fast drawing to a successful completion, and by 24th November the main building work should be complete.

It is ironic that due to Covid the AGM cannot be held in the Hall. However the current circumstances emphasize the value of the Hall in better supporting the life and social fabric of the Village into the future, and we look forward to a return to some form of ‘new normality.’

The last twelve months in brief

November 2019

The AGM approves a proposal to proceed on a reduced scheme within the total funds available.

December and January

Major funding boosts from a Government grant and a very generous local donation.

February

EGM with record attendance approves a proposal to proceed with the original scheme including the extension. Further local donations received.

March

Fundraising Support Group formed as an individual initiative following the EGM.

Contractor commences on site, and closes down on day 2 due to Covid lockdown.

May - August

Work on site recommences.

Building materials supply and technical building issues seriously hamper progress

August - November

Building work proceeds to completion

Continuing donations and Support Group summer and autumn fundraising events allow several ‘desirable’ items to be added to the project

The terrace is the last (and largest) addition to be funded.

Finances

The Hall’s formal accounts for the year 1st July 2019 and 30th June 2020 include income and expenditure for this project only for those twelve months, while the total project income and expenditure for the whole project span some six financial years.

The final total project income and expenditure will be known following agreement of final accounts with the contractor for the main building works, along with the conclusion of expenditure on other items arranged directly by the Hall Trustees.

In the meantime the estimated final project income and cost currently stand at::

Estimated income from all grants, individual donations and fundraising activities:	£228,000
Estimated total cost of building work including desirable extras, and all other costs:	<u>£218,000</u>
Estimated remaining balance	<u>£ 10,000</u>

Ongoing fundraising will be required to address remaining needs and further improvements in other parts of the Hall. In the meantime

What has been achieved?

We believe the Hall will soon be an even more valuable facility and credit to the people of Marnhull. It should benefit us all and future generations for years to come. The project has resulted in:

- A 40% increase in main hall space
- New flooring throughout the main hall and entrance
- Bright, light décor enhanced by floor to ceiling glazing and new curtains
- Direct access onto a new terrace and to the recreation ground
- Contemporary accessible toilets incorporating disabled and baby changing facilities
- Increased storage directly off the main hall.
- Solar energy roof panel system

Thank yous

A full tribute will be arranged at an appropriate time in 2021 when the Hall can return to full use.

In the meantime it is appropriate to acknowledge all those who have so generously contributed with their voluntary time, professional and practical expertise, funding, events, ideas and energy. Without all of these the project would never have made it from conception to completion.

Thank you to:

- Hall user groups and the recently formed Fundraising Support group
- Generous individual donors
- Individuals who have helped with specific advice and information
- Statutory and grant making trusts and organisations including the Parish Council.
- Members of The Building Group and Village Hall Trustees

J.D. 5th November 2020

On behalf of the Building Group