



**MARNHULL  
VILLAGE HALL**  
*Your Village ~ Your Hall*

## **Marnhull Village Hall Extension and Improvement Project**

### **Synopsis**

Marnhull is a large village in rural North Dorset with a population of approx 2,000. Like most villages our hall is the beating heart of our community – a focus for social, cultural and physical activity, vital in countering the effects of rural isolation, enhancing wellbeing, building a strong, independent community and reducing dependence on public services. Without the Hall and attached sports Pavilion there would be a distinct gap in village life, particularly impacting on those who are elderly, the very young, and others liable to be isolated.

As a charity the aim of Marnhull Village Hall is to maintain and extend the range of activities, responding to popular demand and initiative, as well as to the needs of the growing population of the catchment area and the loss of facilities elsewhere.

We accommodate over 500 (and growing) members of 15 regular social, special interest and activity clubs based on the Hall and Pavilion (covering activities such as gardening, art, music, table-tennis, Pilates etc), as well as a wide range of one-off private, public and other events, including the annual village show, 'Fest', church fête, pantomime, etc.

The current Village Hall committee has recently reviewed the Hall's operation, hiring policy and booking arrangements in response to current user comments and needs. It is taking advantage of contemporary systems and increasing the Hall's appeal to existing and new users.

To succeed in this it is essential that our increasingly tired and limited village hall is fit for the 21st century. The heavily used Hall and Pavilion remain largely as they were originally built (in 1971 and 1953 respectively), and suffer from a desperate lack of space, inadequate storage, and toilet facilities that fall short of current-day standards.

In addressing these issues we will broaden the range of activities and services on offer. We aim to increase by 200 the number of people regularly attending activities in the Hall. Existing and new users will benefit benefitting from companionship, physical activity and intellectual stimulus.

With significantly improved and extended facilities and much higher usage we will be in a much better position to ensure the financial stability of the Hall into the future.

### **The building proposals – outline**

It is proposed to address all of these issues with a scheme that encompasses:

- New toilets in one location directly off the entrance foyer.
- A combined stage changing room / small meeting room.

- Substantially more storage space, all directly accessible off the main hall.
- Extending the main hall to provide seating capacity of 130+ (currently 100)
- New lighter and more practical seating
- Sprung wooden floor in the extended portion for the benefit of physical activity groups
- A fully glazed wall on the extended portion of the main hall (west facing gable end) opening out onto a terrace overlooking the children's play area and recreation ground
- Replacement of the fixed stage with a mobile stage unit system to free up space and allow more flexible hall layout for differing audiences and types of event.

The estimated cost of the works is £160,000 and we have raised over £75,000 through village fundraising, donations and our own reserves. Planning permission has been granted for the proposed changes.

### **How you can Help**

While continuing with our local efforts we are now seeking external grants, donations and sponsorship to complete the fundraising. We welcome specific offers of assistance (both cash and in-kind).

A range of sponsorship opportunities are on offer which include items of equipment (chairs, tables, blinds, table-tennis tables etc) as well as naming opportunities for various spaces within the building including the main hall and meeting room.

To discuss a proposal please contact:

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