

SITE OF DUXFORD VILLAGE HALL

WORKING PARTY RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

Following the referendum last year the working party have been seeking the opinions of the relevant bodies as to where best to site the Village Hall/community Centre. Not only where it would be most viable but to ensure it would meet the needs of the community for the foreseeable future. Those consulted were:

The various sports organisations situated on the Rec, The project manager, Alan Lamb, assigned to the project, South Cambs Planning Department, South Cambs Highways Department and Local residents via a presentation to the annual parish open meeting.

Below are the reasons and the views of the relevant bodies.

Local Residents

Following a presentation to the village at the annual parish open meeting and a lively debate that followed a show of hands showed those present to be slightly in favour of building the hall/Community Centre on the Recreation Ground. No written objections have been received by residents since the meeting.

Sports Organisations

All were in favour of the hall being built on the Recreation Ground as they could see no benefit to themselves if the hall was built on Brewery Field.

Project Manager (Alan Lamb)

The project manager is in favour on building on the Recreation Ground citing multiple accesses by all to the facility via the various paths already in place, central location for sports etc. close of utilities which would reduce cost.

South Cambs Planning Department

South Cambs Planning Department were in favour of building on the Recreation Ground they too felt that the already presence of pathways to the area would encourage people to walk to the venue, the site was more central to the village and other sports already situated on the site. They did advise that any application would have to be submitted in conjunction with plans to develop Brewery Field as a Recreation/Park to justify to the sports council the loss of Recreation Space.

South Cambs Highways Department

Highways were the most constructive and showed an excellent knowledge of the area and would not agree to the Hall being built on Brewery Field without major changes to the road infrastructure and gave their views as follows:

They would be in favour on building on the Rec. and made the following points:

- Multiple entry points to the site via current pathways will reduce the amount of vehicle traffic.
- Car park would be far enough away from the school to prevent it being used for pick-up and drop-off of pupils as the school were likely to have a travel plan in place to discourage the use of cars.
- They acknowledged that the car park could reduce parking on Hunts Road. They would accept a marked, tarmac car park, reduced from 50 to 35-40 spaces, providing we could reach agreement with the school to use their rear field as an overflow car park for major events. The car park could also be used as an all weather training area at certain times.
- We would need to ensure sufficient covered bicycle spaces provided.

Their objections to building on Brewery Field were:

- Increased congestion on St John's Street
 - a. to access the facility and
 - b. at peak time due to parents using the parking facilities to pick-up and drop-off, contrary to school policy to persuade people not to use their cars.
- Lack of a footpath adjacent to the green, nor is there County owned space to build one.
- There is no multi-point footpath access to the facility except via St John's Street.

Additional Information

Both South Cambs Planning and Highways recommended the building of the Hall/Community Centre on the Rec providing Brewery Field was developed at the same time as a Park/Recreation space Highways also added the proviso that Brewery Field should:

- a. No car parking spaces are provided.
- b. A covered cycle area is constructed.
- c. Raised walkways across the road from the current footpath to the entrances to the Park.

It is envisaged that if approved then Brewery Field would be developed along the following guidelines –

1. Outdoor exercise equipment/ games/ play areas
2. Picnic area/s with benches

3. Wildlife-friendly
4. Child-friendly
5. Water with dipping deck
6. Trees
7. Native local variety fruit trees
8. Native wildflower meadow area
9. 2 or 3 pedestrian entrances on St John's Street
10. 1 secured vehicle entrance for mowing /hedge cutting equipment
11. Jogging track
12. Access to footpath on north side
13. No car parking
14. No buildings
15. Cycle rack at one entrance (no cycle track on site)
16. Information signs
17. Dog/ litter bins
18. All structures to be environmentally sound, attractive and accessible

Recommendations

Following these discussions and the views as shown above the Working Party recommend to the Full council that the Hall/Community centre is built on the recreation Ground.