

Rhossili Village Hall

A Sustainable Focus for the Community



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Rhossili Village Hall Committee

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The Team

- Rhossili Village Hall Development Committee
 - Additional voluntary professional input from the community
- Partners
 - The National Trust
 - The Gower Society
 - Rhossili Community Council
- Liaising with other key organisations
 - City & County of Swansea (Tourism)
 - Swansea Council for Voluntary Action
 - The Environment Centre
 - Gorseinon College (Lifelong Learning)
 - University of Wales Swansea

The Project

Status:

- The hall is an unattractive venue in need of refurbishment
 - Inadequate accessibility
 - Poorly maintained kitchen and toilets; insufficient storage
 - Lethargic management
 - Unsuitable venue for young children
 - Limited to one function at any one time
 - Resulting in decreasing demand as a venue and diminishing as a focus for the community

Aim:

- To develop a sustainable and maintainable welcoming venue, which acts as a focal point and meets the needs and aspirations of the wider community and those of future generations.

Objectives

- Add a new building linked to the existing hall, to
 - Improve accessibility - new entrance, foyer and toilets
 - Improve facilities – new kitchen, showers and plant room
 - Add accommodation – bunkhouse style in roof space
 - Add flexible space for meetings, exhibitions, ICT
 - Add an office, storage space and a secure play area
- Retain and refurbish the existing hall, including
 - Convert the existing kitchen and toilets into flexible space
 - Redecorate throughout
 - Install hearing induction loop

Local Context

Synergy with Swansea Local Action Plan

- **Tourism**
 - **Objective 1g:** “to improve, expand and diversify tourist venues and accommodation”
 - **Policy EC12:** “creation of well defined unserviced visitor accommodation.... ...bunkhouses situated close to walking, cycling and horse riding routes”
- **Environment**
 - **Objective 2a:** “to upgrade the visual environment and image of the area”
 - **Policy EV12:** “sympathetic in scale and materials”
- **Community**
 - **Objective 3f:** “to ensure that sites and premises are available to meet future community and education facility needs”

Local Need

Identified in a series of reports:

- Rhossili 2000 (March 1999)
- Countryside Exchange (October 1999)
- Community Appraisal (September 2000)
 - 150 of 208 questionnaires returned – 72%
 - 37 of 70 young people also replied – 53%
 - 60% wanted the hall to be renovated
 - 37% also wanted the hall extended

Local Support and Awareness

- Fund raising
 - Events, donations, covenants are all underway
 - Voluntary work in the preparation of the project
- Community consultation
 - Consultation meetings to discuss outline and final plans
 - Milestone meetings to discuss progress
- Information dissemination via
 - Leaflet drop to all households and businesses
 - Regular newsletter and notices throughout community
 - Web site and email distribution lists
 - Partner organisations

The Environment

- Energy saving measures are a priority
- Sympathetic landscaping will be undertaken
- Recycled materials will be used wherever possible
- The hall will provide a focus for environmental education and nature conservation
- We are seeking advice on collective recycling facilities for the community
- Liaison with *The Environment Centre*

Maintainability

- Extra flexible spaces enabling concurrent activities, combined with improved facilities, will attract users
- Proposed accommodation will address an established need in the Rhossili area and provide income
- Appointment of a full time Hall Manager (possibly residential) will enable improved management practices
- New practices will focus on the quality of provision
- SMART Targets will enable monitoring of progress and retargeting the provision of facilities
- Leading to widening use of the hall and more income for maintaining the facilities and local businesses

Added Value and Innovation

- Bunkhouse style accommodation in roof space
 - Affordable accommodation
 - Available to disadvantaged groups
 - Encouraging countryside activities
- Hygiene Kitchen and Produce Market
- Learning Centre; Environment Education Centre
- Local Government use, e.g. Pensions, Job Centre Plus
- Tourist Information Point
- Possible purchase of 3 acres of adjacent land
 - Youth Club and other community activities
 - Small group camping in conjunction with bunkhouse

Costs and Funding

- Project total cost: £313,333
- Funding sources confirmed to date
 - The Gower Society
 - Rhossili Community Council
 - Rhossili Village Hall
- Potential sources of major funding
 - Community Facilities & Activities Programme (WDA)
 - Community Fund (Lottery)
 - Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (WAG)
 - Community Buildings Fund (WCVA)
 - Wales Tourist Board
 - EU Objective 1

Delivery

- Rhossili Hall Development Committee
 - Research, planning and funding applications
- Professional appointments
 - Architect appointed
 - Project Manager to be appointed
- Voluntary professionals within the community:
 - Administrative, Financial, ICT
 - Project Management, Tourism
- Actively seeking further skills from within community