

Rhossili Village Hall

A Sustainable Focus for the Community



Development Update

Rhossili Village Hall Committee

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www.rhossili.org.uk

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

The Project

Status:

- The hall is an unattractive venue in need of refurbishment
 - Inadequate accessibility
 - Poorly maintained kitchen and toilets; insufficient storage
 - Unsuitable venue for young children
 - Limited to one function at any one time

Resulting in decreasing demand as a venue and therefore 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 Support and Awareness

- Fund raising
 - Events, donations and covenants
 - 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
 - Leaflet drop to all households and businesses
 - Newsletter and notices throughout community
 - *Haven't used the web site yet...*

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
- Better facilities will benefit 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
- Hire of adjacent land from The National Trust
 - Youth Club and other community activities
 - Small group camping in conjunction with bunkhouse

The Team

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

Progress

- Acquisition of land adjacent to Hall
- Architect appointed: Bob Hennings
- Plans drawn up and planning permission granted
- Objective 1 funding secured: £147,803
- Match funding secured: £147,803
 - New building not exempt from VAT, offer of loan obtained to cover shortfall
- Project Manager appointed: Meirion Howells
- Cambrian Construction appointed as builders
- Construction began in early October 2005
- Voluntary professional within the community
 - David Cann has been the key to liaison during the planning and construction phases

Funding Secured

The Gower Society	£15,000	
Rhossili Community Council (over 3 years)	£1,500	
Rhossili Village Hall <i>Existing funds</i>	£21,303	
Rhossili Village Hall <i>Loan offer</i>	£20,000	
Swansea CC Sustainability Development Fund	£10,000	
Swansea CC Local Regeneration Fund	£80,000	
EU EAGGF Objective 1	£147,803	
	Total	£295,606
Awards for All Wales (Kitchen)	£5,000	
	Overall Total	£300,606

Costs

Construction	£295,606
Kitchen	£23,500
Dormitory	£19,600
Meeting Rooms and Office	£23,500
External Works and Play Area	£14,200
Total	£376,496
<i>Less Funding</i>	<i>£300,606</i>
Shortfall	£75,890

Next Steps...

- We need further funding to complete the fitting out of the new building.
- Awards for All Wales successful
 - £5,000 towards the kitchen
- CFAP application for capital and recurrent funding failed
 - Just been resubmitted with more evidence of local support:
 - 27 letters from all of the groups that use the hall, plus individuals.
- We should appreciate your continued support, perhaps in the form of a Covenant...

Covenant

- The Village Hall is an approved charity by the tax authorities and therefore, where a donor has given the required permission, it can make a claim from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for Gift Aid.
- Gift Aid claims can only be made by taxpayers.
- In order to make a Gift Aid donation, it is necessary to fill in a Gift Aid form at the time of handing the donation to a member of the Hall Committee. Forms will be distributed soon; they are also available from committee members. The Hall Committee will then send the completed form to HMR and C on your behalf.
- If you pay tax at the normal rate then doing nothing will be fine. However, if your taxable income (after deductions such as pension contributions) is higher than £32,400, then you should tell the tax man via a tax return and you will receive a tax credit on the additional amount.
- Information about Gift Aid is available at: www.direct.gov.uk
 - Just search for “Gift Aid”