Rhossili Village Hall
A Sustainable Focus for the Community

John Furneaux, Lynda Shaw, Rob Symberlist
Rhossili Village Hall Committee
halldev@rhossili.org.uk    www.rhossili.org.uk
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