

November 16th 2006

ERLESTOKE VILLAGE HALL

During the last five years we have achieved a great deal and from the list of event and highlights you can see how much hard work has been done by all committee members, there is still much to do to maintain momentum in achieving our shared goals.

This year the emphasis has been on getting accurate costings from the quantity surveyors Nisbet's. Now we can prepare a business plan and submit applications for funding perhaps by end of March 2007, we shall take advice from all interested parties on the next step. Our architect will also be asked to prepare detailed drawings to comply with building regulations.

Working with Community First we are now in a position to start applying for Lottery funding, we have slowly moved up the ladder into an advantageous position to apply for local grants. There is money available to apply for provided we meet the criteria.

I feel we need greater participation from the village to utilise the current hall's facilities. The activities you would like to have can be planned and bookings confirmed with Chris Hampton. Tel:830204. Constant activity and progress in developing local groups will improve our chances when the panel views our business plan. It's no good telling the grants panel that rentals will miraculously appear once the new hall is built we need more village participation now to justify their grants.

We know that the current hall has its drawbacks these have contributed to the fall in rentals, however last year the Pantomime and Harvest Supper and Strawberry Teas this year all went ahead without a problem. This weekend we have a Craft Fayre for us to support, in December we are funding the children's Christmas party and I hope the event is well attended.

The costs of running a new building will be similar or slightly more so having a good transition of the activities will be an important part of raising rental income and local profile proving that its viable and a resource worth having.

Our information is on the Wiltshire Village Hall Association website. (www.wvha.org.uk)

EVHC need all potential users to put their ideas into action, if some of these ideas come to fruition its a start. The popularity of our hall in the last eight months declined due to several factors, cold weather, fly infestation, however a lower level of regular bookings continue.

A few ideas that may be interesting to get involved in:

- A book on the history of Erlestoke and environs funded by the Heritage Lottery (The research conducted by a group of volunteers from Erlestoke) Funds raised from the sale of the book will help fund our new village hall.
- New Village Postcards sold in aid of Village Hall
- Arrange meetings on Renewable Energy for Communities and Householders
- Gardening/Allotments Group
- Friends of Erlestoke Village Hall annual subscription
- Youth Club
- Family Play Group
- Music Lessons/ Band / Piano
- Senior Citizens Luncheon Club
- Stamp Club/Coin Collectors meetings
- Arts and Crafts
- Satellite Post Office and Shop (Provided Covenants are waived by residents and planning consent is not infringed)

The EVHC will keep the Parish Council updated on all aspects of our plans, land issues and the legal aspects of this project will in time be covered in more detail. It is good news that the transfer of the 4ft Strip has been completed at Land Registry. We shall be contacting the Parish Council to request a valuation on the land required for the new hall carpark and road access.