

## Position Statement of the LCCC dated 08 June 2015

The LCCC recognises that it will be difficult in present circumstances to obtain a 70% majority of all households for an enabling development to pay for a new village hall and sports pavilion. It also recognises that the issue has become a divisive one for the community. In addition, a planning officer from Uttlesford District Council, on a recent inspection in Langley, advised that an enabling development would be unlikely to be granted if the Church was both available as a village hall and at risk of closure. The LCCC has therefore decided to shelve the idea for an enabling development while other avenues are pursued.

There remains the issue of what to do for the best with regard to the hall and pavilion, and whether the hall should remain on its present site or should move to the Church.

The LCCC holds a lease on the present site which expires in 2087. The pavilion is in a very bad state, but the hall could be kept going for several years more. The Church Reordering Committee has been raising funds and preparing plans for the possible conversion of the Church for use as a village hall, and we await a report of the progress which they have been making.

We believe that this choice between the 2 sites should be made as soon as possible. The LCCC has therefore agreed that the best course would be to proceed to an exhibition of these 2 proposals in early September, to be followed by a democratic vote of all those on the Electoral Roll. We shall exhibit what we propose for a hall and pavilion on the present site, with full costings and a report of fundraising efforts to date, and we hope that the Reordering Committee will do the same for the Church. If there is then a clear decision to proceed, either on the present site or at the Church, we shall give that project, whichever it may be, our full commitment and support.

At the beginning of this process, we did not believe that we would be able to raise sufficient funds to pay for a new hall and pavilion. However we now have plans to scale back on the costs, so as to provide one new building in stages. We also recently have received a commitment for the provision and erection of a timber frame at no cost, which would be a major help to get the enterprise off the ground, if this turns out to be the choice made by the village.

We hope that the divisions in the community can be healed, and believe that this will happen if we go forward in this way.