

Report to Parish Council re: exhibition of plans for village hall on the village green Nov '15

The exhibition took place in the Community Centre in late November on 2 weekend days and 2 weekdays early December. Architectural drawings and plans, costings for the building and a list of pledges for materials amounting to about £90,000 were displayed. Over the period the exhibition was visited by 118 people; of these 9 people were visitors from neighbouring villages who use these facilities. 101 people made comments about the plans and 77 offers of help with construction etc. were made and some people made helpful new suggestions for consideration such as the addition of velux roof windows to create extra light, and planting schemes to shield the building.

There was strong interest in the cost of the project and how funding was to be achieved. The Community Centre Committee have planned for this to be a mainly self-build project, using voluntary labour wherever possible and using skilled contractors as necessary. The exhibition resulted in generous offers of help and new pledges for materials which now total approx. £110,000 altogether. This means that there will be less to find through fundraising from trusts etc. about £170,000.

A rating system was designed to gauge the positivity of the 101 written comments. Comments were rated between 0 (no support) and 10 (strong support).

Comments breakdown as follows:

55% rated at 10
6% rated at 9
23% rated at 8
2% rated at 7
5% rated at 6
2% rated at 5
5% rated at 4

The committee is pleased to report that 84% of the comments were rated positive or very positive about the hall plans and the overall aggregate rating for comments was 8.74. There were many comments about the professionalism of the display and information; and there were a small number of comments about the Church and the uncertainty about it. And purely by

coincidence, no doubt, a circular was delivered on the Saturday 21st Nov. claiming that a village hall is being created in the Church.

The Uttlesford Youth Development Officer commented 'this looks like an excellent scheme that will bring facilities up to date.'

The Essex Boys and Girls Clubs also commented: 'the plans for the new Community centre look brilliant and very well thought out. The building is sympathetic in its size and scale and would be a great replacement for the facilities currently in place.'

In addition the WI made a detailed statement in support of the Community Centre on the village green, which concludes: 'The WI thoroughly embrace the proposed plans as it will meet not only ours, but more importantly, the village needs for many future generations.'

The Langley Community Centre Committee feels strongly that the village green is the right place for the new village hall, bearing in mind that so many activities in the hall would also utilise the wonderful space and fresh air of the village green. It creates a central meeting place for fun, friendship, meeting and learning, thus strengthening our community and the heritage of Langley. This project safeguards Langley Village Green in the heart of our community - an important part of our community's heritage and one of the largest village greens in Essex.