



SWARDESTON
Village Hall

RENOVATION PROJECT REPORT

Prepared by The Trustees of Swardeston Village Hall

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For the sake of clarity, the Village Hall Complex refers to the Village Hall (1929 end), the Social Club, and Cricket Club changing facilities.

A condition report was commissioned which very quickly highlighted urgent measures were required both to meet with legal requirements of a public building and to extend the life of the building. It was realised that without radical intervention the life span of the existing building is limited (particularly the 1929 Village Hall end). The Trustees have recently put in hand works to temporarily extend its life, but to fulfil its function in the medium to long term, it needs to be redesigned and renewed to accommodate a variety of community uses and to be more economical to run and maintain. The Social Club and Cricket changing facilities also deserve enhancing to reflect the enormous success of the Cricket Club and their opening up of their activities to women and their dedication to youth cricket.

During our considerations, we have systematically surveyed all the residents of the village and the clubs and societies that use the Complex to gather in their views and produce a list of core essential requirements which helps us to envisage how the changes could benefit other community interests and be fully utilised to form the centre of the community.

Swardeston Village Hall Complex Core Essential Requirements

Village Hall

- Area to accommodate approximately one hundred people and ability to segregate to smaller area if required
- Disabled toilet
- Ladies and gent's toilets (minimum two cubicles each)
- Large professional kitchen with door and serving hatch to VH (minimum 20Msq)
- Extensive glazing to rear to give view and access to children's play area
- Well organised lobby hall with disabled access
- Storage with good wide access (min 25Msq)
- Consideration to road safety
- Bar to include cellar

Social Club

- Sufficient space to accommodate pool table and darts
- Seating for at least fifty people
- Ladies & men's toilets (2 cubicles each)
- Extensive glazing looking onto cricket pitch
- Doors to playground area rear of VH
- A small kitchen to prepare bar meals, teas and coffees
- Storage
- Bar to include cellar

Cricket Club

- Two team changing rooms to accommodate home & away
- Third changing room to accommodate youth/ladies
- Umpire changing room to include toilet and shower

Our Journey

A firm of architects were consulted who offered pro bono assistance and produced a set of drawings based on the current footprint. It was very quickly realised that the current footprint of the Village Hall Complex would not meet the requirements of a rejuvenated complex and an extension was inevitable. It was even considered to move the Village Hall Complex to another part of the common. We have concluded that the building would be best to remain where it is.

After much discussion we concluded the best way to meet all our requirements would be to rebuild the 1929 end and rejuvenate the more modern extension. Our aim is to provide a building which is usable by any village organisation. It should be possible for more than one activity to take place at the same time. To make this possible, the 1929 end should be accessed on the south side to include entrance lobby with disabled access ramp. The social club and cricket facilities should be accessed from the North side, essential for cricket, but also include access on the south side to the children's play area.

We have concluded that to provide space for these facilities, which should be on the ground floor level only, it is necessary to expand the footprint of the village hall. We have concluded that the addition of a strip along the south aspect of the present building 4m wide would allow enough space if organised in an integrated way. We also favour moving the western end of the village hall further back from the road to provide a disembarkation area for disabled clients.

Another architect was commissioned who produced a floorplan drawing which accommodates all the above and we are in the process of seeking elevated drawings to deliver visuals of how the building will look. We then aim to recruit a Quantity Surveyor to give us an estimate of cost before attempting to obtain funding.

In 2021 Little Ladybirds Stay & Play made the Village Hall their home. Currently running on a Thursday morning, they are considering adding another session in the Summer of 2022. Emily and her team have made a huge difference, attracting younger families to events, and being pro-active in organising and supporting events. The new facility will offer the storage the group is desperately seeking. We have also seen a significant rise in bookings from families for children's parties as well as the regular income generated from Stay & Play.

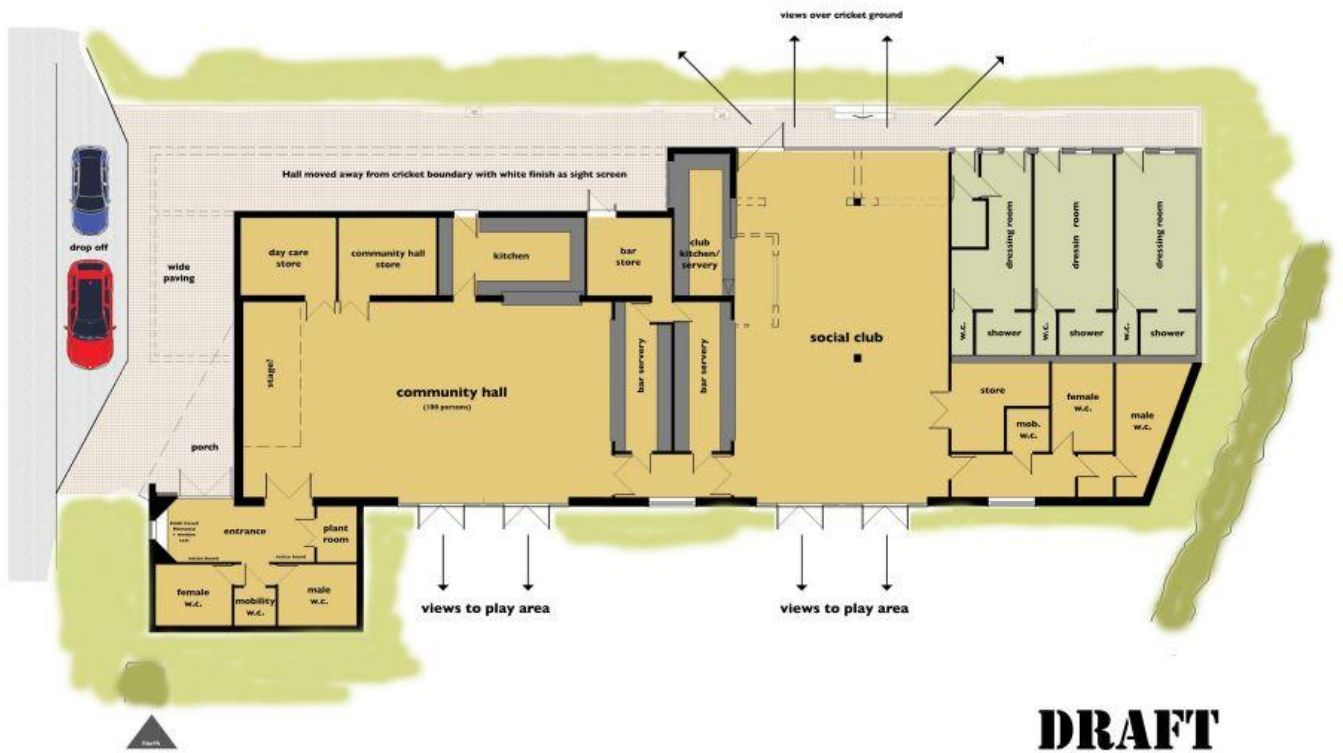
Funding

We are currently looking into ways of obtaining funding from grant giving bodies. In the meantime, we are arranging more village events to raise money and receiving lots of support from local residents. Works are continuing to invest Covid grant money into improving the Complex to make it more attractive to hirers and thus increasing rental revenue. The Trustees are working hard to bring the Complex into the 21st century with its own Facebook page "Swardeston Life", keeping people informed of events and current affairs, and more recently a website which provides booking information, newsfeeds, an events calendar, and much more "www.swardestonvillagehall.org.uk". We too hope the success of Swardeston Cricket Club will be contributory to sporting grants.

Before and after photos of the improvements in progress at the Village Hall



Proposed Floor Plans



DRAFT

Draft Proposals for Alterations to Swardeston Village Hall

Scale: 1:100 :: 23 April 2020



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