

## Village Hall Extension July 2012 (Parish Mag August 2012)

In the light of the changing economic circumstances funds for development have become harder to raise, and the Trustees decided that the plans needed to be reduced somewhat in scope if they were to be affordable.

Consequently, a new design has been put to Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council for planning approval, as this is the best way of getting the specialist environmental, highways, building regulations etc. advice required so that the Trustees would be in a position to present a realistically costed scheme to the Village for consideration and comment.

A copy of the plans is attached, and can also be seen on the Village Hall website ([www.silchestervillagehall.org.uk](http://www.silchestervillagehall.org.uk)).

To implement this scheme the Trustees will need to raise by way of grant, donations and from current assets, the sum of about £150,000. This is less than half the estimated cost of the previous scheme, but nevertheless gives us the improvements to the Village Hall that are so badly needed, such as a separate kitchen area and disabled toilets. Various sources of grant aid are being explored, and the Trustees have looked at the current resources of the Village Hall to see how best they can be utilised. This review took account of the strong reaction against selling the "vegetable plots" to build a house to help defray the cost of the extension.

For many decades now the land known as the "bowling green" has been let to the various owners of "Woodrow", the house next to the Village Hall. The current owners have long since expressed the wish to purchase the land as it currently forms a very significant part of their garden. If the land was to be sold, there would be no loss of amenity to the Village Hall apart from the loss of the very modest rent paid each year, and the sale of the land would fund a very substantial part of the total cost of the extension. The Trustees have therefore concluded that the sale of this land, if a mutually satisfactory price can be agreed, is the best way to raise the seed funding required if we are to be able to attract grants and donations to build the extension.

Before the Trustees can formally sell the land, the proposal must be put to a Special Meeting of the Trustees and Villagers living within the area of benefit (which is defined in the Management Deed). Notice is therefore given of a

### **Special Meeting**

to be held at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 31st July in the Village Hall when the Trustees will seek formal approval to the plans and to the sale of the "Bowling Green" land provided that satisfactory terms can be negotiated. In the meantime, if there are any observations or suggestions regarding the design of the proposed extension, please contact any of the **Trustees**.

