

Trimingham Village Hall Pathfinder Project

Project Update Report: 10 March 2010

Background

Trimingham Village Hall (The Pilgrim Shelter) is a facility that the community of Trimingham is proud of; being something of a cultural/ historic icon locally. It is, however, very small, has very limited space around it for parking and outdoor uses and is inadequate for many of the potential uses to which it could be put. The building is likely to be lost to erosion within approximately 20 - 30 years; consequently it is not considered to be viable (or sensible) to invest in extensions or improvements to it. This project is to enable a replacement village hall to be provided within the village, in a more sustainable location.

Community Involvement

Before any decision had been made about the outcomes of this project an open day was held in the Pilgrim Shelter, Trimingham on Saturday 6th March between 10am and 4pm. The purpose of the event was to provide information about the project to the local community and to gather feedback. Interactive displays provided a means for those attending to contribute views about the following:

- the possible location of a new village hall
- the preferred uses for a new village hall
- issues relating to the design of a new village hall
- issues relating to the existing Pilgrim Shelter
- the process for involving and communicating with the community

The Parish Council publicised the event and provided refreshments; NNDC provided the display materials and a member of staff to assist on the day, alongside the Parish Council.

Feedback Summary

Approximately seventy people attended the open day. A great deal of interest was expressed with overwhelming support and enthusiasm for the project. There was a general consensus that sites to the west of the village were favourable, with the site to the west of Staden Park clearly coming out as the most popular option. The traditional uses for a village hall were suggested, some the seeking additional outdoor uses, such as children's play equipment and a space for the village fete. This was seen as an opportunity to expand the social life of the village as well as potentially bringing valuable new facilities such as 'after-school' activities. As would be expected there were a variety of views expressed about the possible design, with many favouring a traditional style building, some suggesting straw bale construction, and there was overall support for the incorporation of 'green' technologies.

Next Steps

The first thing that needs to be done is to feedback the findings of the open day to those who participated and make it available to others in the village

(probably via the 'Land and Strand' village newsletter). We need to capitalise on the enthusiasm, though be mindful of the danger of raising expectations. In order to provide the context and parameters of what might be possible an initial feasibility should be undertaken as soon as possible, including costings of the preferred site and likely design. It will then be necessary either to scale the project appropriately; to seek additional funding or to provide a staged implementation plan over a longer period.

Figure 1 process diagram

