

KEMERTON VILLAGE HALL



BUSINESS PLAN
for the
PROJECT TO EXTEND AND REFURBISH THE HALL

Oct 2019

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Section 1 – Introduction

Mission Statement

The Kemerton Village Hall Committee aims to restore and modernise the Victoria Hall, making it suitable for a wide range of activities, while respecting the historic fabric and character of this cherished community asset. Our aim is to provide a safe, accessible and welcoming building, which will accommodate a broad programme of activities, education and entertainment for all local residents. We aim to administer the building efficiently on behalf of parishioners. We believe that now, more than ever, public spaces are crucial for fostering a sense of village identity and for creating a positive and integrated society. The Committee hopes that by breathing new life into the Hall it will continue to act as a vital hub for the community for generations to come.

Kemerton is a vibrant community with beautiful landscapes and a rich history. However, it suffers from a lack of a central social, recreational and educational facility suitable for use by all sections of the community at all times of the year.

Kemerton Village Hall was constructed in 1903. Over recent years, its age has become apparent and the facilities no longer adequately serve the needs of its current users and all members of the community. The main issues are as follows:

- The kitchen facilities are poor and space is limited;
- The toilet accommodation requires updating to current standards and to provide independent disabled toilet facilities;
- The existing space is inflexible for multiple users resulting in restricted access at times; and
- The building as a whole is not energy efficient.

Whilst considerable efforts have been made over the years by Kemerton Village Hall Committee to maintain the structure of the Hall, we are now in a downward spiral of reduced bookings at low rates because of the Hall's present condition and the lack of available daytime space during school term times. With reducing income, it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain the building, which leaves the distinct possibility of closure if the situation becomes untenable.

The project for extension and refurbishment of the Hall seeks to address these issues by:

- Providing a larger kitchen area, suitable for meetings and with direct access available to all activity spaces;
- Adequate storage facilities for Hall equipment;
- Creation of two main activity areas independent of each other;
- Designated disabled toilets;

- Greener facilities and structure;
- New and more inviting entrance.

By concluding this project, we are hopeful to achieve:

- The prevention of recreational and community activities being moved away from Kemerton due to the lack of decent facilities;
- An increase of uptake of community spirited events for all members of the community;
- Provision of suitable facilities for all ages and abilities at all times of the day, with the aim of increasing community cohesion and fostering active lifestyles for all;
- More environmentally sound accommodation, in terms of actual building facilities as well as in reducing the amount of unnecessary car journeys to other halls in the vicinity.

The committee believes the improvement of the Hall in accordance with the proposals set out in this plan will create a more appropriate, useable and sympathetic setting for all community based events and activities at all times. The existing facilities at Kemerton Village Hall are woefully lacking in many respects and the Hall is in need of some essential and significant repairs. The project of extension and refurbishment will enable us to more fully comply with current regulations, provide modern technological facilities, more available space at more times of the day and provide an attractive environment for present village residents as well as a legacy for future generations. We wish to help reduce the gloomy possibility of the village community becoming fragmented and we hope the village will come together to help provide the Hall it deserves.

Section 2 – Background

History of the village

Kemerton parish is approximately 5.8 km long by 1.2 km wide and slopes down from the summit of Bredon Hill in the north to the Carrant Brook in the south. The hill provides an imposing backdrop to the village and is an integral part of its history and character. At the summit is a well-known Iron Age hillfort, Kemerton Camp, surrounded by imposing ditches and earth ramparts. Inside the fort is a large accretion of limestone called the Banbury Stone and known colloquially as the Elephant Stone. On the inner south rampart is a square stone tower called Parsons Folly, or Kemerton Tower, which was probably built c. 1765 by the squire of Kemerton, John Parsons, and has become an iconic local landmark, seen from all directions for many miles.

Kemerton is one of a string of settlements encircling Bredon Hill and is an ancient village with agricultural roots. Kemerton is fortunate in that much of the landscape surrounding the village has retained its pre-war appearance. It remains dominated by agriculture and is set in a patchwork of arable and grass fields, interspersed with orchards and woodland.

Kemerton is a Cotswold village comprising approximately 196 distinct buildings or building groups in 2011. There are 189 separate dwellings, providing homes for around 400 inhabitants. Two-thirds of its buildings date from 1850 or earlier and much of the village is of special historic interest. Almost all historic buildings are at least partly built from locally quarried honey-coloured limestone. As is the case in most Cotswold villages, a variety of architectural styles and materials is in evidence, but an overall visual harmony is achieved through the prevalent use of local stone in buildings and boundary walls.

Analysis of the 2001 census and the Parish Plan questionnaire results shows that Kemerton's demographic mix is significantly weighted towards older people. It has a higher percentage of people aged 50 and over than the Wychavon district average. In recent years, the number of families with young children has increased, with a higher percentage in the 0–4 age group than the district average.

Kemerton is served by the Cheltenham-Tewkesbury-Evesham bus service (540/545) which operates throughout the day from Monday to Saturday. Kemerton has two churches, a shop/post office, pub, acupuncture and alternative health clinic, pre-school, shooting equipment supplier and a nature reserve. The Village Hall is the principle village recreational facility which is run as a registered charity and managed by the Kemerton Victoria Hall Committee.



Photo of Kemerton Millennium Collage, depicting the main places of interest and community assets of Kemerton, placed in the Victoria Hall in September 1999

History of the Hall

On 15th May 1897, a meeting was held in Kemerton to discuss Queen Victoria's Jubilee festivities. It was agreed there should be a permanent memorial to the Queen in the form of a Village Hall which was felt to be a fitting tribute to Queen Victoria and a much needed addition to the village.

Several years of fund-raising followed to raise the princely sum of £500 for building costs and the Victoria Hall finally opened its doors on 22nd April 1903, just in time for the May Day celebrations and the crowning of the May Queen. Tea parties, rummage sales and concerts all followed, but the work of fundraising for the Hall's upkeep continued through the years.

Successive generations of residents added a new extension and entrance as a memorial to King Edward VII, later a stage and committee room was added and more recently, an entrance foyer and lavatories.

The Hall currently provides approximately 215 m² (2,300 ft²) of floor space, along with kitchen and lavatory facilities. It is used during weekdays in school term-time by the Kemerton Early Years pre-school. Other uses include Kemerton Women's Institute, Kemerton Gardening Club, Cotswold Cutlass Fencing Club, Kemerton Parish Council, Kemerton Village Hall Entertainments Committee, Kemerton Evening Lectures, Kemerton Conservation Trust and Kemerton Orchard Workers. It also plays host to occasional community events such as fêtes, quiz nights, apple and harvest festivals, concerts and social gatherings.

Kemerton has a long tradition of recreational events, which are great sources of family entertainment and help to engender a strong sense of community. Today, there is an annual village summer fête or fair and regular events for all ages around the Christmas period.

However, Kemerton is unfortunately seen as a relatively unsustainable settlement, compared with large villages and urban centres because of its high reliance on private car use, in spite of a frequent bus service. Village sustainability would certainly be reduced by the loss of key services such as the

Village Hall. It is therefore of upmost importance to retain and improve the current level of the services and facilities the Village Hall provides. It is of key importance that a thriving village hall is maintained and enhanced as a focal point for the community's activities which is why the Trustees are keen to continue in the spirit of previous generations in raising the funds to provide a hall which meets the current and future needs of the village.



Photo, displayed at Victoria Hall, of the ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone on 24 October 1902



Photo, displayed at Victoria Hall, of the laying of the Centenary Stone on 8 June 2002

The Committee

The Kemerton Village Hall Committee was established in 1968 to administer the charity created when the Hall was conveyed to the trustees. Their main purpose is to hold the Village Hall on trust:

“for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Kemerton and the neighbourhood without distinction of sex or of political religious or other opinions, and in particular for use for meetings lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants”

The current members of the team are:

Chairperson - John Harvey

John is the new Chairman and Trustee of the Committee and a relatively recent resident of Kemerton. He is also is a Trustee of Berkeley Castle and Spetchley Gardens, so has plenty of experience in the supervision and guardianship of important assets for the community. John enjoys boating and is the President of The Dinas Cross Regatta and Cwm yr Eglwys Boat Club. Previously, John was a Director of Sotheby's between 1979 and 2009 and Director of Chorley's auctioneers between 2009 and 2016. Currently, John is a consultant and occasional auctioneer for Chorley's fine art auctioneers. His other interests are gardening and walking.

John believes fruition of the plans to refurbish and extend the village Hall will be of great benefit to the village and the surrounding area:

“I am keen that the pre-school be able to continue its important work in better suited surroundings, and that the Hall itself will be available to the community at any time of the day. We will be able to increase the use of the Hall markedly, the addition of a fine new kitchen and activity room will be a great new asset, as will the new loos and entrance hall.

The present hall is not fit for purpose in the 21st century; it is dilapidated and in urgent need of renovation, this renovation and the proposed extension will enable the hall to become the centre of a community once again.”

Secretary - Emma Bulley

Emma is the new Secretary of the Committee and has been a resident of Kemerton since 2004. Emma's committee experience includes being a member of the 'Financial and General Planning Committee' at St Benet's Church in Kemerton, which converted many aspects of the church to meet today's Health and Safety standards and Historical Churches Conservation regulations. As part of that committee, she also project managed the complete stripping back and refurbishment of the housekeeper's cottage, so

she has much welcome experience of renovations. In business, Emma was previously involved in recruitment and now runs a Tewkesbury based company with her husband that locally employs around 120 people.

Emma has used the village Hall regularly. Her children attended the preschool and, with her family, she has attended many other village events at the Hall. Emma believes tradition and progress can work together to benefit the Hall and to provide an excellent and much needed service to the local community:

“The preschool is a vital life-line for local families and has been fantastically run for many years. As it has become such a success the village now needs its own space so that the rest of the villagers can utilise the Village Hall throughout the week. I believe this new configuration works beautifully to access the available space for lunch clubs and Pilates, for example, and many other activities that the community would like to use it for. It keeps the traditional feel of the building whilst modernising the facility, preserving its usability and the integrity for years to come”

Elected Trustees -

Adrian Williams

Adrian is a recent resident to Kemerton, having previously lived in Tewkesbury. He is one of the new members of the Committee.

He is the MD of a small company based in Bredon designing, manufacturing, installing and distributing products using solar energy as the primary power source. He is a keen mountaineer, climber, ski mountaineer and has established a climbing club “the Tewkesbury Mountain Goats” which is very active throughout the mountain ranges of the UK and Europe. Family, friends, his dog and gardening takes up the rest of his time and he can often be seen either running up Bredon Hill with his dog or in the Crown.

Adrian strongly believes that if a village is going to become a close community rather than just a picturesque place to live it needs a focal point where people can meet and enjoy a multitude of activities in a safe and pleasant environment:

“There are too many villages across the UK that fail to attract younger families to move into the area because such amenities are missing. The play group is an integral part of Kemerton but it does restrict the use of the Hall by other groups. If Kemerton is to thrive for generations to come it must continue to support the first class play group services currently provided, offer a viable space for other activities to grow and to encourage a greater use from the wider Kemerton community.”

Phil Yerburgh

Phil was born in the village of Kemerton, where his father's family lived for nearly a century, and has therefore known the village all his life.

Interestingly, his Great Grandmother was one of the people responsible for the initial building of the Hall and can be seen, along with her husband, in the inaugural photo.

Phil himself has lived in or close to Kemerton for 40 years. During that time he has been involved with a number of village activities such as treasurer for the RSPB committee and the church, assisting with village fetes and fairs and being on 'open village' committees in the past.

Professionally, Phil is a Building Surveyor and Project Manager with 40 years of experience in property. He has worked for a number of very large organisations on a wide range of building projects and therefore brings much experience to the committee. He is still active in the Project Management field, currently working on specialised projects in London.

His main other activity is Woodturning. He displays at numerous shows during the year including shows at Chipping Camden and at Croome Court.

Rachel Hill

Rachel is a new member of the Committee and moved to Kemerton, from Cheltenham, in 2013. Rachel is also a trustee of a work-based Pension Scheme with responsibility, amongst others, for safeguarding assets, investment growth and regulatory aspects. She is a lawyer in the property industry and so is able to provide valuable input on legal issues, as well as be able to help with the proposed development aspects of the Hall. Rachel has a young son at primary school and a baby daughter. When not being kept busy by her children, she enjoys travel, interior design and Pilates.

Rachel believes the presence of a thriving and active Hall in the community is paramount for all members of the community and the vital function such a hall can offer local families will be of great value:

“With a young family, I am particularly mindful of the important role the Hall can play in ensuring that families with young ones feel integrated in the rural community, by providing parents with the opportunity to socialise with other parents and thereby access support networks.”

Treasurer -

Deb Manns

Deb has been on the Committee since 2011 and has been the Committee's Treasurer since May 2013. She maintains the Hall's website and organises Hall bookings. She has been heavily involved and supportive of many village and school activities both in Kemerton and Bredon for the past 30 years. With four children, all of whom attended local schools and pre-schools, Deb has served on school and pre-school voluntary committees raising funds for education. She has also helped raise annual funds for Kemerton Conservation Trust. She therefore has vast experience of committee and fundraising work. Deb also developed the local Forest School which is available to local school children in the holidays. Since 2011, Deb has been the managing director of Kemerton Early Years & Forest School C.I.C. In June 2016, Deb won the Worcestershire County Council's Environmental & Education Volunteer of the Year award.

Deb believes the plans for the Hall will provide much needed extra space for a wide range of activities, for a wide range of the community:

“The refurbishment of the main Hall, toilet facilities and kitchen will greatly enhance the general appeal of the Hall to other users and benefit the wider community. I personally would welcome the opportunity to join a Pilates group during the day. Other activities like a toddler group, music and dance sessions or coffee mornings with parenting classes could also be offered to families of pre-school children, if a separate space for such activities was available.”

Representatives -

Diane Attwell (Gardening Club)

Diane has lived in Kemerton for over 40 years and her 3 children were all born and raised in the village. During these years, she has served on the Kemerton Victoria Hall Management Committee many times as representative of various Hall users and as Secretary and Vice Chairman. One of her first memories of life in Kemerton is the prominent role the Village Hall took during the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations in 1977, serving as the focal point for village activities:

“I recall how important the Hall was to the community back then and how it served to bring residents together, making the village a very friendly and attractive place to live. The proposed plans for the Hall are the best opportunity to raise the prominence of the Hall once again.”

The Village Hall has also served Diane and her family in many ways across the years. It has provided support in the past for her family by the running of the Mother & Baby Clinic run by the GP surgery, Mother & Toddler Group,

Kemerton Pre-School, Youth Club, Young People's Theatre Group and Young People's Exhibition. She has attended fitness and social groups at the Hall, such as Badminton Club, Billiards/Pool Club, Yoga Classes, Keep Fit Classes and Art Classes. It has served her individual interests by being a venue for the Women's Institute group, Gardening Club and Kemerton Lectures as well as being a hub for her to engage in community events, such as Village Fetes, Annual Apple Days, Quizzes, Dances and Concerts. Diane believes that the proposed enlargement/refurbishment plans are essential to the on-going usefulness of the Village Hall and will enhance the prospects and potential for future users.

Christina Darby (Parish Council)

Christina is the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee. She has lived in Kemerton since 2007 where her husband runs a family farm. She grew up in London and went to university in the USA. She has worked in finance, design and music. She has two children who attended Kemerton Early Years and Overbury First School. She has a great interest in the arts and performs as a singer-songwriter with her band 'Christina Kulukundis'.

Christina is passionate about the Village Hall and the potential it offers to local people. She plans to facilitate wonderful theatre and musical events at the Hall in the coming years:

"In the past, the Hall was very active in providing social events for the community, including theatre productions by and for the young and old. The Hall had pride of place in the community. We need to regain this fondness for the Hall once again and give it the support that it, and the community, deserves. A flourishing Hall would be a wonderful asset for Kemerton and the surrounding areas."

Saskia Bos (Kemerton Conservation Trust)

Saskia is a new member of the committee and has lived in Kemerton since 2011. Saskia represents the Kemerton Conservation Trust in the Committee, which works in association with the Kemerton Early Years and Forest School in providing space in the woodland for the children to experience the Forest School.

Saskia has a daughter who attended the Kemerton Early Years and Forest School and is grateful that there was and continues to be such a fantastic facility in the community. She believes pre-school facility creates a meaningful support for young families living in the area as well as attracts young families to Kemerton and the surrounding villages and consequently, it is a facility that the community needs to nurture. As a member of the

Kemerton Conseration Trust and as a mother, Saskia sees the importance of retaining a vibrant hub such as the pre-school in the community.

Saskia also teaches yoga and believes the vision for the Hall will create a great and welcoming space for yoga classes and other similar activities:

“The combination of providing a dedicated space for the pre-school, thereby making the main hall available for the community for other events, will enhance the overall use and accessibility of the hall and improve the lives of those in the community”.

Faye O’Connell (St Nicolas’ Church)

Faye is a new member of the Committee yet has been a member of the local community for many years, having lived in Aston-on-Carrant, Kemerton and now Overbury and she has seen how entertainment and community spirit is key to local rural life in all these settings. Faye works for a local business in the property industry. This experience is invaluable to the Committee and all the future changes that are proposed.

Faye runs a large family, with five children. She has used the Hall for family parties and attended local community events there:

“Having such a large family I appreciate how important the village Hall is to local families and how extending and upgrading the Hall can benefit families by being able to provide space for a more varied range of community clubs. I look forward to the future of the Hall.”

Section 3 – The Present

Current condition of the Hall

Exterior

Generally, the exterior walls are in good condition and only very minor repointing is likely to be required in the next 10 years. However, the brickwork to the extensions of the Hall is not of good quality and repointing will be required within the next 10 years. The pointing to the store area has water damage and this will need attention in the short term. Pointing around the main chimney needs repair.

The roof tiles over the main Hall are generally in good condition although there are a number of slipped or broken tiles which need to be replaced or reset. There is also some vegetation growing over the door entry which needs to be removed in the short term. The roof is unlikely to be felted underneath the tiles and is unlikely to be insulated. To ensure energy efficiency and save utility costs in the long term, this needs to be rectified. The flashing in some areas is in need of repair.

The roof over the extension area is part felt and part slate. The felt will need replacing shortly and the slate roof over the kitchen and store area is in very poor health. It is believed the cause may be that the slope of this part of the roof is too shallow. If so, the roof will need entire replacement.

Minor repairs and decoration are needed to the doors and windows. The door frames to the extension are beginning to rot and will need to be repaired or replaced.

Interior

Minor repairs are needed to the entrance and WC's. Whilst they serve their basic purpose, they are unwelcoming, tired and rundown. The gents WC is too large.

The store area has suffered water damage and is in need of repair and consequential replastering and redecoration. The area is not large enough to store all the Hall equipment.

The kitchen is small and inadequate, with poor, rundown equipment. It is completely insufficient for events requiring catering beyond the absolute basic.

Decoration throughout the interior is dull and in poor condition. Redecoration is required.

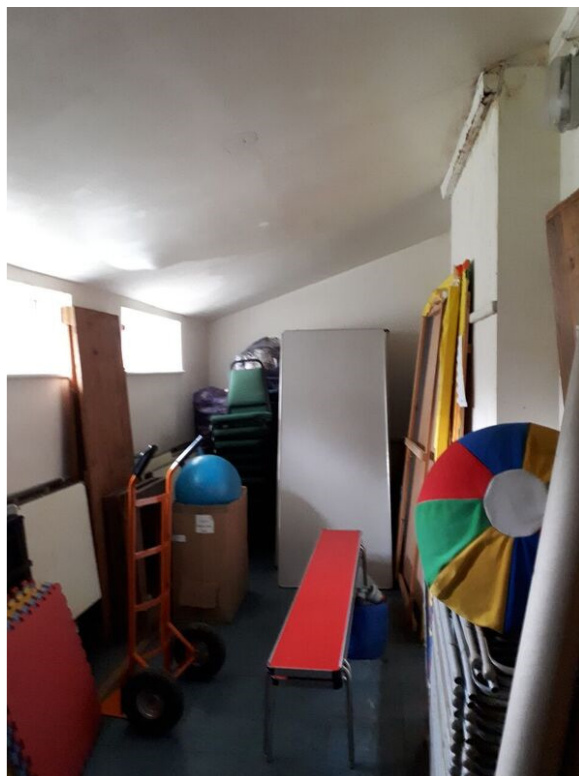
Electric wiring throughout is exposed/external to the walls and from a health and safety point of view, as well as for aesthetics, should be buried rather than surface.

The heating system is temperamental and highly inefficient.

Existing small kitchen area



Existing small storage area



Existing toilets



Existing main hall storage issue



Existing main hall heating system



Current uses of the Hall

Formal letters of support that we have received from existing users are reproduced at appendix 1.

Cotswold Cutlass Fencing Club

This successful fencing club is run by Kevin Nelson and runs classes at the Village Hall every Monday between 7 and 9pm. Fencing is a fantastic skills-based sport, that is technical, social and keeps you fit.

The club uses the main Hall room. Whilst this provides adequate space, the club feels this could be improved by proper storage for the Hall equipment. Currently, the Club feels somewhat constricted by the presence of the Hall's chairs, which are currently stacked high in the main Hall, and also the presence of pre-school play items, which also are stored in the main Hall during the clubs use.

The current entrance of the Hall also causes the Club some difficulties. The current entrance is via the side of the building, which is not prominent to the building and therefore not easily found by new members to the Club. The position and size of the current entrance also hinders manoeuvring of fencing equipment. Heating is also an issue with regard to heat loss in the winter and the current bulky wall heaters and guards which take up space in the main Hall.

The Club feels the proposed improvements to the Hall with greatly enhance its enjoyment of the space and allow more members of the Club to attend classes at the Hall.

Kemerton Conservation Trust

The Trust has been running events at the Hall for many years and considers it a key space which contributes to the community. However, it feels that over the last twenty years, the Hall has become rather run down and is rather dated in terms of décor and facilities. The Trust applauds the Committees efforts to modernise the Hall.

The Trust feels improved heating, lighting and disabled facilities would make the Hall more accessible and appealing to a range of users. The Trust uses the Hall for talks and illustrated presentations, so improved audio-visual equipment would be welcome.

The Trust supports the proposed plans and has graciously offered its support in fundraising efforts.

Kemerton Early Years & Forest School C.I.C

The Hall has housed a playgroup for pre-school aged children for the last 50 years; growing from a parent run group running a few mornings a week to a daily service. The pre-school is now run as a Community Interest Company and employs six qualified staff with a board of volunteer directors overseeing the administration and legal obligations. It is OFSTED registered and was rated “good” at the recent OFSTED inspection last October.

Local demand and increasing pressure on parents to work has meant the pre-school now needs to occupy the Hall Monday to Friday during term time from 8:30am until 3:30pm. The pre-school has places for up to 25 children per day and offers the government’s 15 and 30 hours funded provision for eligible parents.

The current location of the toilets and cloakroom area at the entrance to the Hall means that the pre-school needs to have exclusive use of the Hall during its operational hours. This is due to the regulations placed upon early years education providers which are formulated to ensure children are safe and secure in their learning environment. The outdoor space at the rear of the Hall and the small room leading off the rear entrance are fundamental to a high quality learning environment. However, as they are so far from the location of the toilets, extra staff are needed to be able to take advantage of these spaces. As an example of how the Hall’s current condition and layout is inadequate for this user due to the requirement placed on the pre-school to comply with government regulations, the pre-school had to purchase a couple of mobile sink units to comply with an OFSTED requirement for warm running water for hand washing that was closer to where the children eat.

Evening use of the Hall by other clubs and organisations means the pre-school needs to put away and set up their main play space most days. The pre-school caters for children aged 2 to 5, so the pre-school needs and has numerous and various equipment to cater for those differing ages and stages of early years education. Equipment is tidied away but has to remain in the main Hall and the other rooms due to inadequate storage facilities at the Hall. This has obvious repercussions for the marketability of the Hall for other uses.

The high ceiling and windows mean the main Hall is difficult to heat in the winter and keep cosy for the children and noise levels make it much harder for children to hear instructions. Proposals

for proper insulation and a new and efficient heating system will be extremely beneficial. The pre-school also feels that the refurbishment of the Hall and the proposed new toilet facilities and kitchen will greatly enhance the general appeal of the Hall to other users and thereby benefit the wider community.

As a non-profit making organisation, any excess funds held by the pre-school are put back into the setting. Over recent years, the pre-school has paid to replace some floors, provide an awning for outside shade and shelter, a heavy duty iron gate, child-sized foldable tables and mobile storage units that can be wheeled in and out of the Hall.

The parents support the pre-school's fundraising events and the pre-school also provides some village activities like the annual pancake races and coffee mornings. The pre-school is proud to confirm it has built up a fund over the past few years to enable it to offer a significant sum to the new extension project and the committee expresses its sincere gratitude to the pre-school, the children and their parents.

Kemerton Entertainments Committee

The Kemerton Entertainments Committee was set up five years ago to put on a range of interesting events at the Hall. Though now not active, during the four years when the Entertainments Committee hosted events in the Hall, it successfully attracted a wide range of local residents to Fish and Chip nights, quiz and curry nights, childrens' film nights and discos. The activities of the KEC were so successful that their events sold out and, whilst not motivated by profit, they did manage to make money which helped promote and provide further entertainments for the village.

The founding member and Chairperson of Kemerton Entertainments Committee, Kirsty Cartwright, has expressed to the committee her written support of the proposed plans to refurbish and improve the hall and has offered to support the refurbishment of the hall with some of the money the Entertainments Committee accrued whilst it was active. The committee is extremely grateful for this kind offer.

Whilst the Entertainments Committee was active, it became clear to it that the Hall was not an easy place to hold events. It is the Entertainments Committee view that the Hall tends to be cold, the toilets are run down and there is no integrated audio-visual system which was a real deficiency for the Entertainments Committee's events. The lack of proper disabled facilities was also a problem. Kirsty wholeheartedly encourages the local community to support the plans to refurbish and extend the building, which will make it so much nicer to use and welcoming to visit.

When the hall is modernised and the pre-school moved to their own room, Kirsty anticipates that the Kemerton Entertainments Committee may rise again in one form or another to meet some of the needs of the community by providing fun activities and events for Kemerton and other local residents and has expressed a delight in the idea of hosting events in a newly refurbished Village Hall in Kemerton. She believes the exciting plans for new classes and events which the Village Hall Committee has in mind will go hand in hand with the kind of activities and events the Entertainments committee can provide.

The Village Hall Committee is excited by the possibility of the Kemerton Entertainments Committee becoming active once more and what this would mean for the community.

Kemerton Evening Lectures

Kemerton Evening Lectures have been regular users of the Village Hall since the 1950's, when they were organised by the extra-mural department of Birmingham University. They meet as an adult education class during Autumn and Spring for 10 weekly lectures per term, with topics that range from local history to ecology and art history. They attract up to 40 or 50 attendees from the village and beyond, and make a distinctive contribution to the life of the village.

The Hall has offered an important and valued central meeting place. As audience expectations of lecturing standards and presentation continue to rise, the group would welcome improvements to the Hall's facilities, especially to heating and to audio-visual provision (e.g. amplification and digital projection). The kitchen hatch is useful for serving interval refreshments, but it is felt an upgrade generally, yet in particular to provide a dishwasher, would be timely. The small, domestic oven cannot cope with heating food for a group of any size and using the hob is potentially dangerous as it is in shadow because of the poor lighting.

Kemerton Evening Lectures has expressed to the Village Hall Committee that it wishes it every success in bringing about the refurbishment and improvement of the hall.

Kemerton Gardening Club

Kemerton Gardening Club was formed in 2011 in response to an email enquiry sent out by a village resident asking whether there would be an interest in a local gardening club. The response was very positive and Kemerton Gardening Club has gone from strength to strength in the ensuing years.

Chris Atwell has been Chairman since 2012 and the club now has in excess of 50 members, meeting monthly at Hall. Many members are resident in the village, but a large percentage of members are also drawn from the surrounding villages of Westmancote, Bredon, Overbury and Aston-on-Carrant.

The Hall provides an adequate venue for our meetings as well as being the venue for the club's social occasions such as plant sales and quiz nights.

Whilst the club feels the Hall, in its present state, meets their needs in most respects, they do see the need for many improvements. The fact that it is the venue for the pre-school during the day can be a distraction for the club and the club feels would be hugely beneficial if the pre-school were able to have a self-contained area for their activities, thereby allowing full use of the Hall by others, including the highly popular and well-attended club.

Other improvements that the club feels would make the hall a more useful and pleasing area for their meetings include:

- Larger and more functional kitchen area

- Improved toilet facilities
- Improved lighting and décor
- Much improved media resources

Kemerton Parish Council

The Parish Council have said that they listened with great interest last year to details of the Committee's plans to modernise the village Hall in Kemerton. The then Chairman, John Philip, was kind enough to present the plans to the Council and answer their questions. They found the scheme which has been granted planning permission to be of a high quality and they agree with its underlying objectives of maintaining the fabric of the Hall and enhancing this valuable community asset.

The Parish Council are aware that steady progress has been made since last year and are pleased to see an enthusiastic new Committee has been recruited and is busy refining the plans, writing a business plan and preparing to approach the community and grant-giving bodies for financial support.

The Parish Council acknowledges that the large majority of Kemerton residents who replied to the Committee's initial survey were in support of the Hall and wished to see it improved. The Parish Council fully supports the Committee's proposals and will be willing to make a financial contribution when the time comes, for which the Committee are sincerely appreciative. The Parish Council has expressed their wishes of good luck to the Committee in what they consider to be a most worthwhile endeavour.

Kemerton Women's Institute

Kemerton Village Hall has been the meeting place for Kemerton Women's Institute for a number of years. It is the place where their monthly meetings are held and where they lend their support to functions like the Village Fete by organising refreshments when invited to do so.

It is apparent to the WI that the Village Hall is in urgent need of repair and refurbishment particularly the kitchen and toilet facilities and that this has been the case for some time. In their view, consideration should also be given to accessibility, as some of their members have mobility problems. The Committee have welcomed the WI's thoughts and believe the new entrance to the hall will improve accessibility for all.

The WI have expressed their full support to the Village Hall Committee in endeavouring to get the necessary improvement works done as soon as possible, in order that the Village Hall can continue to provide Kemerton with a social space where many groups, including the WI, can continue to meet and thrive.

St. Nicholas' Church

St Nicholas' Church is very supportive of the Village Hall and use it primarily as a venue for their fairs and other fund raising events. For the Church, these events would normally take place at weekends, so the lack of weekday daytime availability is not a key issue for them. However, they

have stated that when they wish to host a big event at the Hall, such event can use every bit of floor space (especially in bad weather) so the space occupied by the pre-school equipment in the main Hall is an issue for them, despite the efforts that the pre-school staff willingly put into hiding such equipment away. It is the Church's opinion that the state of repair and lack of better equipment are not really an issue for their current use, but appreciate it might well discourage other events being held at the Hall such as suppers, wedding fairs, film shows and auctions.

Current income and expenditure

Below are the last three annual accounts for the Hall, showing income and expenditure. Following payment of outgoings, income for the Hall is consistently below £2,000.00 per annum. The Committee feels this can be improved upon if more space at the Hall can be actively marketed for a variety of uses in both the daytime and evenings.

The main income source is the Kemerton Early Years and Forest School C.I.C. and it is clear that without the pre-school, the Hall would not be sustainable. Retaining that income source is fundamental for the future of the Hall and there is concern that without the Hall improvements and extension, the pre-school will seek out more suitable accommodation and the Hall will lose this vital income stream, with obvious consequences for the Hall and the Community as a whole.

The accounts also show that year on year, some of other sources of income have dwindled in monetary terms. This is likely due to the restrictions on the type and size of space the Hall can offer and the declining quality of the facilities, such as the kitchen, toilets and poor heating, which may be deterring existing and potential users. Other sources of income appear to fluctuate and the Committee recognises the importance of seeking to retain stability of income by marketing the Hall for regular and consistent use.

<i>RECEIPTS</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>
Hire of Hall (other)	£397	£569	£636
Hire of Equipment	£18	£137	£74
Cotswold Cutlass – Fencing	£560	£720	
Parish Council	£84	£84	£111
Women's Institute	£270	£189	£243
Pre School	£5,910	£5,765	£5,605
Phone	£122	£498	£499
Parochial Church Council	£0	£143	£47
Gardening club	£209	£189	£135
Evening Classes	£621	£432	£351
Donations	£60	£53	£0
Misc	£3		
Total	£8,254	£8,779	£7,701

PAYMENTS 2018 2017 2016

Utilities incl Phone	£2,526	£3,141		£2,909
Cleaner	£216	£783		£657
Maintenance	£3,752	£868		£1,028
Insurance	£1,279	£1,323		£1,281
Water & Sewerage	£226	£473		£308
Gardening & waste	£56	£56		£112
Cleaning materials	£104	£92		£418
Miscellaneous (inc equip)	£146	£66		£65
Total	£8,305	£6,802		£6,777

Consultation

In May 2015, a questionnaire was sent out to every house in the village to ascertain opinion on the general principle for extension and refurbishment, together with requests for fundraising ideas. A copy of the questionnaire and accompanying brochure is attached to this plan as appendix 2.

200 questionnaires were distributed. 147 responses were received. This means that the response rate was high at 73.5%. This shows the Hall holds a prominent position in the minds of residents and that the future of the Hall is of importance to the community.

There is strong support within the community for an extension and refurbishment of the Hall, in that 64% (94 out of 147) of the respondents were in favour. Of those 94 who were in favour, 65 of them regularly use the Hall and are therefore aware of the difficulties it faces.

The main reason given in favour of the project was that Kemerton needs a suitable centre for people to get together. Other reasons given were:

- the current facilities are inflexible and unattractive;
- kitchen, storage and multimedia facilities are inadequate; and
- the pre-school is a major user and needs its own independent space in order to survive and as well as free up daytime useable space for other members of the community.

Of those 44 respondents who were not in favour of the project, the majority gave parking/road safety issues as the reason but many also expressed that the Village Hall was an important part of the community and that they wanted to retain such a central social facility and wished for a better Hall/facilities. Only 16 of those not in favour were strongly against the proposals. The Committee is sympathetic to the concerns raised regarding parking /road safety issues and acknowledges that such issues are general issues affecting the entire village's High Street and will seek to work with others to find ways of improving the situation generally.

9 of the respondents had a neutral stance or no opinion on the project, yet, as was the case for the respondents who were not in favour, half of them also stated a wish to have a thriving Village Hall with better facilities.

Of the respondents who were in favour or neutral to the project, 67 have indicated they would be willing to help with fundraising. This amounts to 70% of such respondents and this is an important factor when considering how the Committee can raise the large sums required to complete the project. Of those who were not in favour of the project, 7 of them nevertheless stated they would be prepared to assist the community with fundraising. The Committee feels bolstered by this outstanding level of support offered.

All of the current users of the Hall have expressed their full backing to the proposals, as mentioned in the 'current uses' section above.

Following on from the 2015 questionnaire, the Committee invited the community to view revised proposed plans at the 2017 Spring AGM. During that meeting, it was clear the Village Hall is dear to everyone's hearts and many varying views were expressed. Other options were put forward by residents for discussion, all of which were then carefully reviewed and researched by the Committee. These are set out below:

- Build a new hall in a different location – The Committee understood the advantages of relocation of the Hall to a location whereby on-site parking could be provided. However, after surveys of the locality, no suitable alternative location was found either due to proximity to existing buildings, potential planning issues in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and lack of prominence. Further, costs of the land purchase as well as costs of a new build would be considerably more than the proposed refurbishment and extension plans of the existing Hall and a willing seller would need to be found. This option was therefore discounted.
- Do not have a village hall in Kemerton at all – The Committee appreciate that there is a village hall in the neighbouring village of Bredon as well as Overbury. Bredon village hall is a large hall approximately 30 minutes walk away along a 40 mph road, which may not be suitable to certain types of user. Overbury village hall is again large and approximately the same distance from Kemerton but also is an old building with the same issues that Kemerton Village hall suffers from. Such Halls would require residents to have transport or to walk some distance along roads with fairly fast traffic with no street lighting and which in some places have narrow footpaths. Activities taking place for locals at Kemerton would be more convenient and closer for residents and therefore more environmentally friendly. Kemerton itself consists of approximately 400 residents which would benefit from a community centre on its doorstep.
- Carry out a cheaper, more basic refurbishment of the Hall – The Committee have considered this and acknowledges that refurbishment of the Hall is greatly needed. The Hall is very run-down, offers inefficient space and is unappealing to use. Refurbishment would allow some increase in revenue by offering more attractive space but the issue is not just increasing the attractiveness of the space and improving heating, for example. The Hall will only become more expensive to run as it ages and a simple refurbishment cannot cure this inevitability. From the issues outlined in the current condition section above, it is clear a more extensive refurbishment and repair of the Hall would be required and given the issues with the current extension area, the savings in carrying out the refurbishment and repair required, rather than a new extension, would be minimal. Further, a more environmentally friendly heating system is required, as well as general insulation and lighting. The kitchen requires much

upgrading if the Hall is to continue to attract its current users of the kitchen, such as the Women's Institute, as well as be able to attract individual and village/neighbourhood wide catered events. In addition, a simple refurbishment will not solve the problems of the current lack of useable daytime space for other potential activities and without the extension, it is likely the main source of long term income (the pre-school) will seek out alternative accommodation elsewhere, likely resulting in the eventual closure of the Hall entirely.

Need

Existing organisations in the village that use the Hall are listed above. Whilst this is a diverse set of users, serving a range of ages of the community, there remains a significant amount of unmet need and, via the consultation referred to above, discussions with existing users, discussions informally around the community of Kemerton and the locality, as well as amongst the committee members, the following has been identified:

- Without improvements and the extension to the Hall, existing users have indicated they may need to move their activities/provision to other more suitable premises outside of Kemerton;
- Individuals or groups wishing to start activities in Kemerton cannot do so because of a lack of adequate facilities and available space, particularly during the daytime;
- Those members of the community who may have transport problems, such the elderly, people with disabilities or young families, have no suitable place to meet, particularly during the daytime, which is within walking distance of their homes;
- Potential users are put off from attending the Hall due to its condition. In the past, potential users have had to be turned away due to inadequate space and poor kitchen facilities on offer for a catered event and some interest from potential organisers of group activities have not come to fruition, most likely due to the unwelcoming and poorly heated space. In particular, in the case of users like Neal's Yard Remedies, Kate Evans Style Consultancy and Pampered Chef, the lack of ambience is in conflict with their brand image and they have chosen to go elsewhere. The lack of a practical kitchen has put off people looking to host receptions and parties which hinge on catering.
- Some people would like to be become more involved in community life and have an opportunity to meet likeminded others but feel alienated as there is not a wide range of activities taking place at the Hall;
- Some people are unrepresented at the Hall and the reason for this is because there is no flexible space to accommodate groups or activities aimed at all members of the community.

All of the above issues point to the distinct and regrettable possibility of fragmentation of the community and isolation of certain members. However, such issues also show there is a definite need for this project to go ahead and indications and opinions from the community and groups

reiterate this need. This project will serve the priority of the community's need for flexible, improved space for meetings and activities.

Section 4 – The Future

Extension and Improvement proposals

Detailed Planning Permission for the proposals has been granted. The permission is for the demolition of the existing stores, kitchen, passage and office with the construction of new level access entrance via a covered porch and entrance porch, new storage/activity area, new second activity area with entrance lobby and WC accommodation, new kitchen and refurbished WC accommodation including specific disabled toilet. Architect drawings for the proposals, together with elevations are produced at appendix 3.

Exterior refurbishment

The proposal is to carry out the general repairs and redecoration required to the exterior, with the addition of new clearer signage, improved outdoor lighting, solar panels and a new main entrance at the front of the building.

Internal refurbishment

Efficient, new insulation and a heating system to the main hall is proposed to be installed together with new flexible lighting adaptable according to the type of event, new blackout blinds, new curtains for the stage and improved secondary glazing. General repair and redecoration will be carried out throughout the interior of the main hall. A larger serving hatch will be created to the new kitchen (see extension proposals below). A new integrated visual projection and sound system is proposed to be installed and the existing theatre lights will be fully serviced. The current stacked chairs will be removed and placed in a separate storage area within the proposed extension and the pre-school equipment will be removed from the stage and main hall area and housed within a designated activity area (see extension proposals below).

Occupying the same part of the building as they do currently, the new facilities will include a proper designated disabled toilet (with baby changing facilities) as well as reorganised and refurbished facilities generally. The existing main entrance will be closed up and replaced with a full length glazed window and the current foyer will become a useful space for storage of visitors coats etc.

Extension

The existing yet poor extension area will be removed and replaced with a larger extension. Given the extent of the problems with the existing extension (as previously mentioned) a rebuild of this area is advantageous in many respects.

A new, greatly enlarged kitchen will allow for 6 or more people to work simultaneously. It will be lit with bright task lighting and there will be more generous work surfaces over the fitted floor units. A large serving hatch will connect to the main hall and in the centre of the kitchen, a wooden farmhouse style table and chairs will serve its purpose perfectly for smaller get-togethers, community lunches, group baking and other similar craft activities and committee meetings. The kitchen will also have a catering stove, a dishwasher and refrigerator, as well as lots of storage and outdoor access to the rear of the building. The kitchen will also have a further door/hatch connecting to the new activity space intended for the pre-school use.

An extra activity room will be created off the main hall which will be intended to accommodate items requiring storage such as stacks of chairs and tables, as well as items belonging to village organisations that use the hall regularly. The existing change in floor level between the hall and the current small storage room will be eradicated thereby increasing ease of access for users. This activity room will also have its own outdoor access, which will be a useful addition when the hall is at its busiest and will also include a separate WC, enabling the room to be available for use for therapy/health/private consultation types of activities.

A further new activity space will be created with the intention to accommodate the pre-school use. Whilst smaller than its current accommodation (taking into account the pre-schools use of the main hall), the new activity space will be bright, efficient and safe, adhering to Ofsted standards with its own toilet facilities, additional sink for arts and crafts and its own secure entrance. This space will be a marketable asset for the Hall should the pre-school no longer run its services from the Hall.

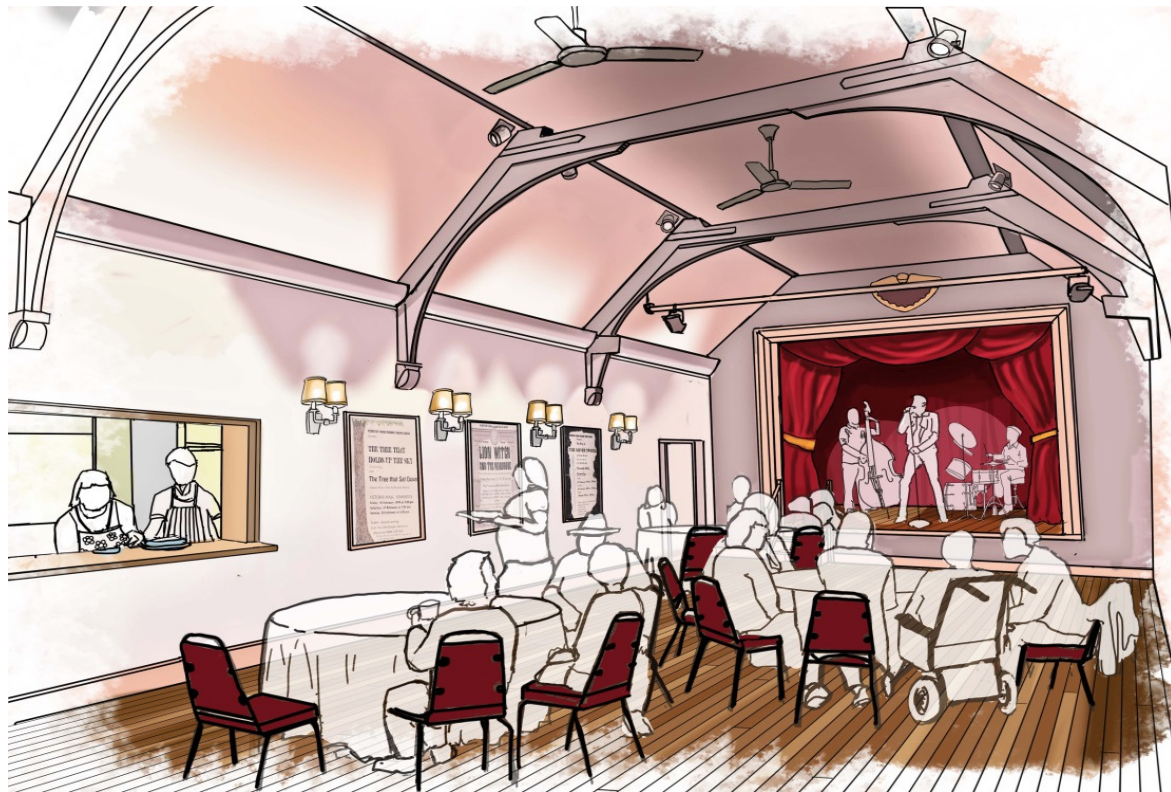
It is understood that the entire works will take between 6 and 9 months to fully complete.

The Committee have commissioned artistic impressions of some of the proposals, which are set out below:

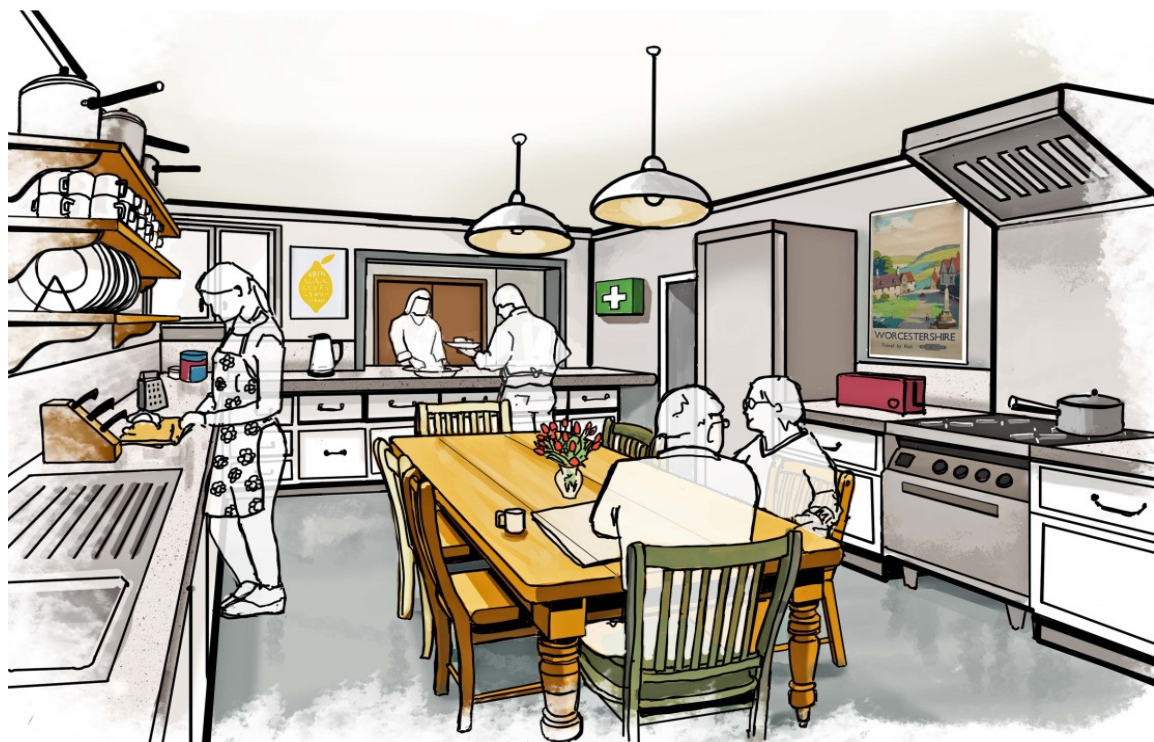
Proposal for interior refurbishment of the Hall, showing potential daytime use.



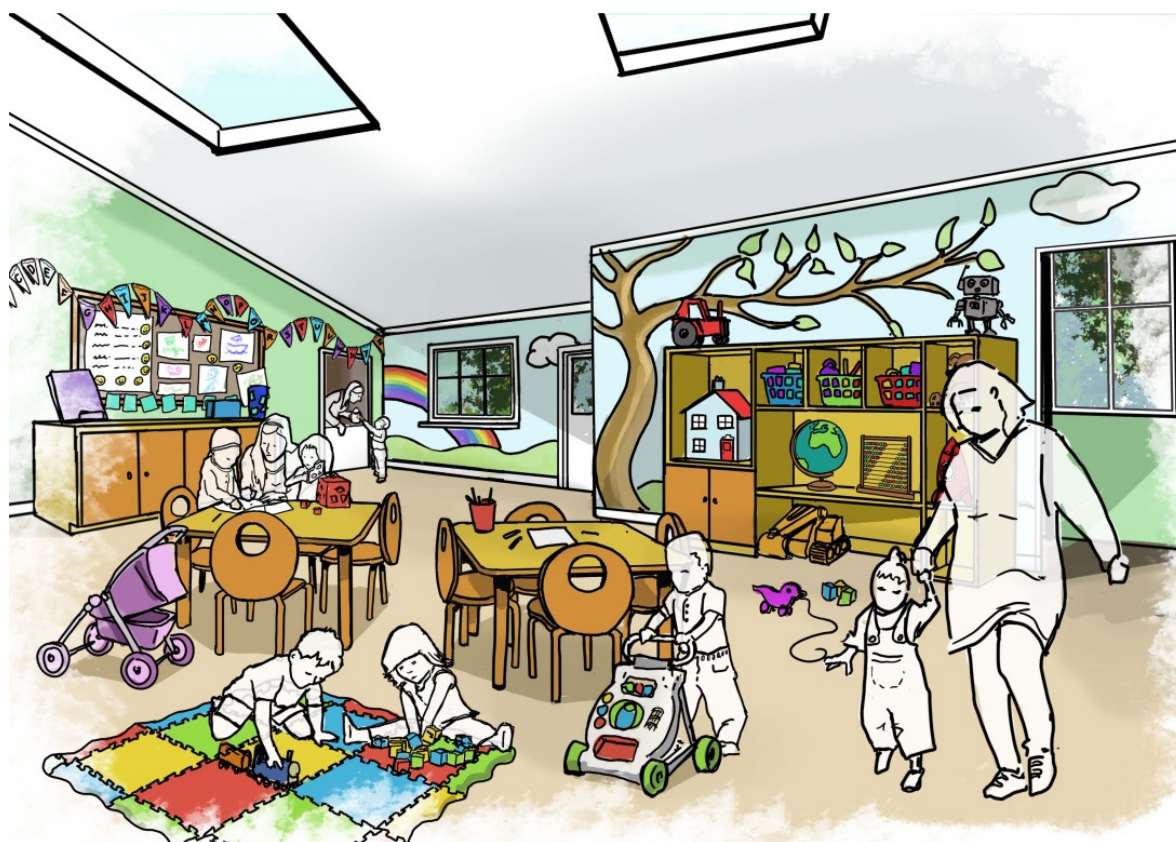
Proposal for interior refurbishment of the Hall, showing potential evening use.



Proposal for extension of the Hall, showing kitchen area.



Proposal for extension of the Hall, showing new activity space to accommodate pre-school service.



Estimated costs

It is estimated the rebuild/extension works will consist of the following (all exclusive of VAT and professional fees):

<u>Item</u>	<u>Predicated cost (£)</u>
Creation of new activity spaces with associated toilet facilities, kitchen and rear entrance lobby	
Internal and external construction works	37,598.00
Decoration, including flooring, wall and ceiling finishes	23,116.00
Kitchen and toilet fittings/services (exc. white goods)	8,308.00
Electrical, heating (entire building), ventilation installations and drainage	23,199.00
Sundries	2,158.00
Preliminaries 20%	18,876.00
Contingency 10%	11,325.00
Inflation to Aug 2019 (1.5%)	1,869.00
TOTAL	126,449.00

It is estimated the refurbishment/improvement works will consist of the following (all exclusive of VAT and professional fees):

Item	Predicated cost (£)
Reorganise/Refurbish existing toilet accommodation	
Construction works	19,500.00
Decoration, including flooring, wall and ceiling finishes	8,248.00
Toilet cubicles and sanitary fittings, including hot and cold water alteration	9,117.00
Electrical, ventilation installations and drainage	3,237.00
Sundries	1,079.00
Preliminaries 20%	8,236.00
Contingency 10%	4,942.00
Inflation to Aug 19 (1.5%)	815.00
TOTAL	55,174.000
New Porch Entrance	
Construction works	6,364.00
Decoration, including flooring, wall and ceiling finishes	723.00
Electrical installation	216.00
Sundries	108.00
Preliminaries 20%	1,482.00
Contingency 10%	889.00
Inflation to Aug 19 (1.5%)	147.00
TOTAL	9,929.00
Refurbish main hall and stage area	
Insulation	14,814.00
Decoration	3,695.00
Ventilation installation	1,079.00
Preliminaries 20%	3,918.00
Contingency 10%	2,351.00
Inflation to Aug 19 (1.5%)	388.00
TOTAL	26,244.00
External works	
Paving	3,884.00
Fencing	9,064.00
Preliminaries 20%	2,590.00

Contingency 10%	1,554.00
Inflation to Aug 19 (1.5%)	256.00
TOTAL	17,348.00
Refurbishment works to retained building (costs as at Oct 19)	
Roof, including guttering and downpipes	24,600.00
Chimneys	5,200.00
Windows	10,600.00
External works and decoration	8,465.00
Sundries	1,700.00
Preliminaries 20%	10,113.00
Contingency 10%	6,068.00
TOTAL	66,746.00

The total anticipated costs for the entire construction project is **£301,890.00**. £72,344.00 of that total is set aside for preliminaries/abnormals and a contingency fund. For kitchen furniture as well as kitchen white goods consisting of a cooker, fridge, freezer, dishwasher and glasswasher and audio visual equipment consisting of projector, screen and speaker system, it is anticipated the cost will be approximately £19,242.98 plus VAT.

It is further anticipated there will professional fees amounting to approximately £33,000.00 and VAT on the whole at 20%. The Committee has now registered the charity for VAT purposes and is able to recover VAT on all costs.

Funding so far

The Committee have already been successfully proactive in seeking funding for the proposed project and some of the current users of the Hall have generously pledged amounts.

Fundraising Event	Amount raised (£)	
200 club	5,000.00	
Village Summer Fete 2016	5,170.00	
Car Boot Sale	300.00	
Village Garden Party 2017	1,500.00	
Curry Night	180.00	
Fish & Chips Night	100.00	
Film Nights	100.00	
Quiz Nights	70.00	
Concert	80.00	
Children's Disco	100.00	
Valuation day event	243.00	
Village Summer Fete 2018	1,410.00	
Open gardens and village fete	2,552.00	
200 club	6,126.00	
	TOTAL	£22,931.00

Pledges	Amount (£)	
Kemerton Early-Years and Forest School C.I.C.	25,000.00	
KVH Entertainments Committee	457.00	
Kemerton Parish Council	1,000.00	
	TOTAL	£26,457.00
	OVERALL FUNDRAISING TOTAL	£49,388.00

Fund raising opportunities/plan

Below is a list of example events which have either taken place in Kemerton in the past and can be planned again, or are ideas from members of the community which can be organised to bring the community together and help raise the funds needed:

- Kemerton Village parties – a garden party was organised in September 2017 for Kemerton village residents and those in its surrounding villages. It was a fantastic way of bringing the villages together and consisted of food and drink sales, raffles, completion prizes and plant sales.
- Kemerton Village Fete – this annual event takes place in late August each year (with the odd exception due to weather/other circumstances). It has involved food and drink sales, plant stalls, cake, toys and bric and brac stalls, games and a local band. In 2019, the fete was expanded to include various open gardens throughout Kemerton, which was a huge success.
- Antiques and Jewellery Valuation Day – This took place in May this year where a local auction and valuation house generously offered their expertise for a few hours and residents brought in their valuable for valuation for a modest fee. The event was well attended.
- Quiz nights – this is a simple and fun way to raise money.
- Film nights/"flicks in the sticks" – one off/occasional cinema style event is a great community possibility without the need for travel to a large cinema in the urban areas.
- Concerts.
- Supper evenings – such as fish and chips, curry, hog roasts, cheese and wine tasting.
- Auction nights.
- Coffee mornings.
- Bingo and Raffles.
- Fun days/Fun runs/themed evening parties.
- Dance evenings.
- Christmas event/village party.

The Committee appreciates that without the support and generosity of the residents of Kemerton and the neighbourhood, this worthwhile and overdue refurbishment and improvement of the Hall will not be possible. The Committee will therefore be seeking pledges and donations from the residents of Kemerton and the neighbourhood as well as from current users of the Hall to help fund the project. Any pledges or donations would be gratefully received and as a gesture of appreciation towards such acts of amazing kindness, the Committee would seek to commemorate all individuals/families that have pledged or donated, in the refurbished and improved Hall.

The Committee aims to raise approximately a further £10,000 through fundraising events, pledges and donations.

Grant possibilities

To fund the shortfall in funding, the Committee will target Grant-giving bodies who are rewarding schemes which aim to drastically improve the “green” credentials of the Hall through insulation, heating and solar panels, and also funds helping those reaching out to vulnerable and isolated members of the community, including armed ex-forces, the elderly and looked-after families. The Committee also hopes to attract Grants which support historic buildings in rural Britain, helping them to sustain themselves by adapting to the 21st Century. Funding for healthy lifestyles and sport in the community will also be sought, reflecting the increase in sports activities offered once the Hall has been refurbished and extended.

Sustainability

Future Uses

Listed below are the existing users who have stated that they will continue to use the Hall rather than seek alternative space or will increase use of the Hall if it were in a better state. Also listed are groups/activities who have used the Hall in the past and which have expressed a renewed interest in the Hall once extended and refurbished. All of such would provide vital social, health and educational activities for all sections of the community.

- Kemerton Entertainments Committee - In their letter of support to the Hall Committee, the Entertainments Committee expressed their desire to reform and reactivate their role in organising fun activities and events at the Hall once it is modernised and the pre-school is moved to their own room, in order to meet some of the needs of the community.
- Kemerton Conservation Trust – In their letter of support to the Hall Committee, the KCT indicated that with improved audio-visual equipment, they would continue to use the Hall for talks and illustrated presentations.
- Kemerton WI – The WI have expressed their desire to continue to use the Hall for their meetings and are particularly interested in the improvement of the kitchen facilities and access.
- Badminton Club – There used to be a very active badminton club in Kemerton and there has been some interest expressed in starting a club once again (see below).

Our research in marketing tactics has brought to our attention that those halls with the most varied and exciting programmes have been proactive in finding people to start their own societies or interest groups rather than await approaches from groups and individuals. The Committee have researched local groups and activities which could use the Hall and have created an ‘Expression of Interest’ form for interested parties. The following is a list of local

activities which may be interested in using the improved Hall or have already expressed an interest:

- Rosamae Botanicals – local soap making and natural beauty school workshops.
- Kemerton Badminton Club – a badminton club for all ages, with post game socialising.
- Winchcombe Dance Academy – a very successful a young persons dance school which already has some of its members residing in Kemerton.
- Kemerton Lunch Club – a fortnightly lunch club for the elderly residents of Kemerton and the surrounding areas offering good food and company.
- Kemerton Youth Club – A once or twice monthly club for local young people to socialise, exercise and learn, together with the possibility of offering a “quiet room” to enable young people to chat with an adult if they are experiencing any issues at home or at school.

Where the committee have received formal letters of support/interest, these are reproduced at appendix 4. The Committee feels excited at the prospect of being able to accommodate the above interested parties as well as the other ideas/activities listed below. The addition of such types of users and activities would be a great local asset. It would benefit the entire community and provide excellent support for everyone resulting in a positive and lasting impact. Given the responses received throughout this process, is felt that there is a great need for more and varied activities for residents and the opportunity to provide such activities to improve the wellbeing of the community both physically, mentally, socially and educationally, is one of such importance that it must be grasped with enthusiasm and positivity. Here is an opportunity to really make a difference to the lives of the residents of Kemerton and the neighbourhood by providing events and activities which will enhance community spirit, improve the skills, build networks and improve communication and foster a sense of place and pride.

During our research, the Committee has come across many ideas for event which could be organised at the Hall. Canvassing ideas of the community has resulted in the following list of ideas/activities that individuals wish to see take place regularly at the Hall:

- Pensioners lunch club
- Yoga/Pilates/Tai Chi
- Theatre/Drama
- Over 60's I.T. club/internet café
- Walking club
- Running Club
- Individual sports such as karate and table tennis
- Cookery classes
- Crafting
- Calligraphy classes
- Chess club
- Film nights/"Flicks in the Sticks"
- Children's parties
- Aerobics
- Chair exercise /access to fitness classes

- Photographic club
- Art club
- Slimming Support club
- Sewing group
- Youth group
- Dance classes
- Ballet/children's dance classes
- Bingo nights

All of the above ideas are potential users of the Hall and therefore potential revenue for the Hall as well as offering potential for added vibrancy of the village and its surrounding areas.

This potential market can be segmented into the following:

- Anchor tenants – these are organisations who will leasing space within the hall. The main long-term user/anchor tenant of the Hall is the Kemerton Early Years and Forest School C.I.C. This charity-based organisation has expressed their willingness to enter into a formal lease of the extended premises for a term of approximately 7 years. It is hoped the success of the pre-school will mean such a lease would be a renewal commodity in the future. Further, that the pre-school has been run from the Hall for the last 50 years is clear evidence of its longevity and success in the community.
- Group hirers. Local community groups or commercial organisations wishing to hire the hall to stage their own events or activities.
- Personal hirers. Local people wishing to hire the hall to hold their own, usually one-off, events.
- Attendees at organised events and paying audiences at cultural, artistic, sporting or musical events or activities.
- Members of the local community with an active interest in preserving the Hall for cultural and historic purposes.

Marketing and hiring strategy

The village Hall is well known to the community. Most residents will have used the hall in a variety of ways over the years and have fond memories of spending time with friends and family there. However, the Hall needs to be brought back to the attention of the whole locality. The availability of the proposed facilities for hire and events needs to be highlighted widely once it is completed and available, if not beforehand. An active and energetic promotion and marketing strategy will address this issue.

The objectives of the marketing strategy will be to:

- Let appropriate parts of the available space to core users thereby creating stability of income.
- Maximise the hire of the Hall by groups and individuals for private and community use.
- Promote the usage of the Hall more widely and expand the range of hirers.
- Encourage the widest possible use of the Hall for community activities.
- Offer a varied and thriving multi-purpose venue to the community.

As a venue, the committee is seeking to market and thereby sell the Hall's resources and services to a wide range of users. The current state of the Hall is such that there is not much in the way of resources that the Hall can provide, particularly during the daytime, due to existing use. Marketing prospects are therefore limited. Once the planned refurbishment and extension is completed, the Hall will have much more to offer in terms of space and facilities and the committee will promote the village Hall in order to secure repeat bookings from existing users and to attract new users.

The current, most profitable user of the Hall is Kemerton Early-Years and Forest School C.I.C. and the Committee recognises the important contribution that this user provides to the Hall as well the invaluable service it provides as to our community. It is of utmost importance to seek to retain their use of the Hall and the proposed project will go some way to secure this by providing better and more appropriate useable space which complies with Ofsted requirements. As previously mentioned, the pre-school has expressed willingness to enter into a longer term rental agreement upon completion of the works to secure their use and to secure income for the Hall. This is a major step forward for the future of the Hall and the Committee are grateful to the pre-school and their demonstration toward commitment.

Kemerton itself is a very marketable village. It has a local post office, pub/restaurant and local business which attract custom. Its landscape offers fantastic walks and areas of interest such as churches and Kemerton Lake. The wider area is also very marketable due to the local businesses and landscapes of the surrounding villages of Bredon, Westmancote, Kinsham, Overbury and Conderton. Such marketability brings custom to the area, which the Hall can seek to take advantage of in marketing terms.

The Committee believes the best way to market the Hall is by the following means:

- Hall website with a facility for online booking
- Advertise in local publications
- Word of mouth
- Open days
- Use of the Hall notice board
- After-sales care and follow-up
- Brochures, leaflets and flyers placed in local businesses
- Special events at the Hall

The Committee also appreciate that the quality of resource and service that the Hall provides is a marketing tool in itself.

The Committee intends to have a dedicated subcommittee responsible for the Hall's marketing activities.

Future income and expenditure

Research of other village halls in the vicinity have revealed the following pricing detail, which the Hall will consider adopting where appropriate:

- Village halls tend to charge prices per hour commensurate with the size or the facilities offered with the accommodation, with discounts for village residents between £2 and £5 discount per hour.
- Main areas are priced between £11 and £15 per hour. Areas that can accommodate up to 200 persons have prices up to £22 per hour.
- Smaller areas are priced between £5 and £8.50 per hour

The Hall's charging rates are currently within or slightly below the range of charging rates in the locality. Slight increases in line with the local charging rates would be considered by the Committee following the completion of the improvement proposals but the Committee will be mindful of the need to attract users in the initial marketing stages and would wish to keep the Hall available to the entire community rather than outprice its service.

Ongoing maintenance

It is clear that without carrying out the proposals to the Hall, the Hall will continue to deteriorate at a steady pace and some repair works are becoming so crucial that if the repairs are not carried out, deterioration will be rapid. It has been mentioned that without the proposals, some major repair and refurbishment would be required, which would be costly. The proposals would ensure that those repairs and refurbishment which are necessary to the main part of the Hall would be carried out and for those areas where vast repairs are required such as the existing extension area, the new extension would alleviate the need for immediate expensive repairs to that existing area and for further repairs which would no doubt be needed again in the longer term. By providing brand new, up to date and efficient facilities in the new proposed extension, this will result in less overall maintenance being required in the long term.

The heating system in the Hall and the kitchen equipment are in poor condition and not fit for the uses which the Hall would like to attract for the community. They will only require frequent costly maintenance and eventually complete replacement in the future. Prior to that, their existence only serves to be inefficient and off-putting for potential users of the Hall. A new heating system, with improved insulation and secondary glazing, will provide efficient heating for the entire Hall, making utility bills less costly, maintenance requirements less frequent and costly and help give the Hall a cosy and welcoming and safe atmosphere for its users. New kitchen equipment will attract new users to the Hall in terms of community and private catered events as well as be a marketable asset for those existing users. Up to date and proficient equipment will result in less frequent replacement or repairs thereto.

Improved toilet facilities will provide better access for all users of the Hall, provide a higher level of hygienic facilities, promoting positive public health wellbeing and habits, as well as provide a welcoming area generally, in turn reinforcing the sense of improved service the Hall will be able to offer the community.

How we will measure our success

The overall objective of this project is to provide a village hall for the community which is welcoming, pleasant, bright and clean, open to all, accessible, with better and more up to date facilities and space, energy efficient and more environmentally friendly with increased variety of events, activities and clubs, reaching all members of the community in terms of delivering social, recreational, educational, support and wellbeing provision to improve quality of life and to ensure those who are disadvantaged in our community are able to take a fuller role in the life of the community. The aim is to bring the community together in a central space where everyone is welcome and supported. The measurement of our success in this project will be the extent to which the Hall has made a positive impact to the lives of local people and will be assessed by looking at user variety, frequency and satisfaction as well as the number of new attendees to the Hall's existing activities and the number of new users and activities attracted to the Hall. Following completion of the proposed works, the Committee will invite the local residents to an open day and initial success will be measured via the feedback received.

In the shorter term, the success of the physical aspects of the project will be measured by criteria such as delivering the project on time and within budget, as well as assessing how the project has improved the condition of the Hall, increased storage, activity space, accessibility and created a brighter and more welcoming atmosphere.

Section 5 – Conclusion

The Village Hall benefits local people by providing a focal point for village activities. It has always been cherished as a gathering point for the village and with the proposed refurbishment and the subsequent introduction of a new range of activities, it will be fit to serve the community even better. Usage of the Hall has fallen away in recent times as its condition has deteriorated. The Committee wants to stem that decline. Better facilities and a co-ordinated marketing approach will result in increased bookings by local users and thereby increase income. Splitting the Hall into distinct, self-contained areas increases flexibility and will allow the Hall to accommodate a wider range of groups.

The Committee expects to impact social isolation (through regular lunches and teas for elderly and new parents), the health of residents (through new sports and fitness classes), education (through the pre-school and adult IT Clubs and similar), as well as offer entertainment (through film screenings, talks and concerts), support (through meetings/support groups aimed at various members of the community such as social mornings and parent and toddler stay and play) and community cohesion (by encouraging interaction between all ages of the community through schemes such as pre-school day visits for experience sharing by older members of the community). All these initiatives will give residents an increased sense of community and belonging, as well as foster pride, spirit and identity, which is good news for everyone.

APPENDIX 1 – Letters of Support

(formal letters)

25th February, 2018

Dear Mr. Harvey,

As a founding member and Chairperson of the Kemerton Entertainments Committee which was set up to put on a range of interesting events in Kemerton Village Hall, I wanted to write to you in support of your plans to refurbish and improve the hall. Though now not active, during the four years when we hosted events in the hall, the Entertainments Committee attracted a wide range of residents to our Fish and Chip night, quiz and curry night, childrens' film nights and discos. I believe all our events sold out and, whilst not motivated by profit, we did manage to make money which helped us book and promote further entertainments for the village. I am sure we will support the refurbishment of the hall with some of the money we have accrued.

As you are aware, the hall is not currently an easy place to hold events. It tends to be cold, the toilets are run down (though clean), and there is no integrated audio-visual system which was a real deficiency for us. The lack of proper disabled facilities was also a problem. I wholeheartedly encourage you to refurbish the building, which will make it so much nicer to use and welcoming to visit.

When the hall is modernised and the pre-school moved to their own room, I believe that the Entertainments Committee may rise again in one form or another to meet some of the needs of the community by providing fun activities and events for Kemerton (and other local) residents. The exciting plans for new classes and events which I understand the Village Hall Committee have in mind, will go hand in hand with these.

Best of luck in your fund-raising, and I look forward to using a lovely refurbished Village Hall in Kemerton.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Kirsty Cartwright

Chairperson

Kemerton Entertainments Committee

Kemerton Conservation Trust

Kemerton Court
Kemerton
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire
GL20 7HY

Tel: 01386 725 254

www.kemerton.org

Registered Charity No. 702488



GOVERNORS

ADRIAN DARBY, OBE (Chairman)
MATTHEW DARBY
PETER DOBLE
LORD HOWICK, VMH
PETER MARREN
Dr MARGARET PALMER, MBE
BRETT WESTWOOD
ROGER WORKMAN

Mr. John Harvey, Chairman
Kemerton Village Hall Committee
Hollybrook,
Kemerton
Tewkesbury, Glos
GL20 7JF

23rd January 2018

Dear John

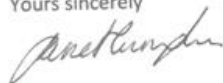
The Trust would like to offer our support for the planned refurbishment of the village hall.

The Trust has been running events at the hall for many years and we consider it a key space which contributes to the community. However, it has become rather run down and dated looking in the last twenty years and your efforts to modernise it are to be applauded.

The Trust feels better heating, lighting and disabled facilities would make the hall more appealing to a range of users. From our point of view, we primarily use the hall for talks and illustrated presentations, so improved audio-visual equipment would be a bonus.

We are therefore very pleased with the proposed refurbishment plan and are happy to offer our support of the fundraising effort, although as a charity, we are sadly unable to contribute financially.

Yours sincerely



Janet Cunningham
Secretary

1.3.2018

Dear Mr. Harvey,

It was with great interest that the Parish Council listened last year to details of your Committee's plans to modernise the Village Hall in Kemerton. The then Chairman, John Philip, was kind enough to present the plans to the Council and answer our questions. We found the scheme which has been granted planning permission to be of a high quality and we agree with its underlying objectives of maintaining the fabric of the hall and enhancing this valuable community asset.

In the intervening months, we understand that steady progress has been made. An enthusiastic new committee has been recruited and is busy refining the plans, writing a business plan and preparing to approach the community and grant-giving bodies for financial support.

The Council acknowledges that the large majority of Kemerton residents who replied to your initial survey were in support of the Hall and wished to see it refurbished. The Parish Council fully supports the Committee's proposals and will be willing to make a financial contribution when the time comes.

We wish the Committee the best of luck in this most worthwhile endeavour and we thank you for all the effort you are putting in.

Yours sincerely,

Ms. Jackie Shields

Clerk, Kemerton Parish Council

VICTORIA HALL: KEMERTON LECTURES

Kemerton Evening Lectures have been regular users of Kemerton Victoria Hall since the 1950's, when they were organised by the extra-mural department of Birmingham University. We meet as an adult education class during autumn and spring for 10 weekly lectures per term, with topics that range from local history to ecology and art history. We attract up to 40 or 50 attendees from the village and beyond, and make a distinctive contribution to the life of the village.

The Victoria Hall has offered an important and valued central meeting place. As audience expectations of lecturing standards and presentation continue to rise, we would welcome improvements to the hall's facilities, especially to heating and to audio-visual provision (eg amplification and digital projection). The kitchen hatch is useful for serving interval refreshments, but an upgrade to provide a dishwasher would be timely. The small, domestic oven cannot cope with heating food for a group of any size, while the hob is in the cook's shadow because of the poor lighting.

We wish the Village Hall Committee every success in bringing about the refurbishment and improvement of the hall.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Susan Bennett,

Kemerton

KEMERTON EARLY YEARS AND FOREST SCHOOL C.I.C.

Victoria Hall
Kemerton
Tewkesbury
Gloucestershire
GL20 7JE

www.kemertonperschool.com

Tel 01386 725697



January 2018

Dear Village Hall Committee

The village hall has housed a playgroup for pre-school aged children for the last 50 years. Growing from a parent run group running a few mornings a week to a daily service.

We are now run as a Community Interest Company and employ six qualified staff with a board of volunteer directors overseeing the administration and legal obligations.

We are OFSTED registered and were rated good at our most recent inspection in October 2016.

Local demand and increasing pressure for both parents to work has meant we now need to occupy the hall Monday to Friday during term time from 8:30 until 3:30. We have places for up to 25 children per day and offer the government's 15 and 30 hours funded provision for eligible parents. We are the only childcare facility in the village and many of our children come from surrounding villages where childcare places are also limited.

The location of the toilets and cloakroom area means we need to have exclusive use of the hall during term time. The outdoor space at the rear of the hall and the small 'quiet' room are fundamental to a high quality learning environment, especially for some of our children with additional needs, but as they are so far from the toilets extra staff are needed to be able to take advantage of these spaces. For example, we had to purchase a couple of mobile sink units to comply with an OFSTED requirement for warm running water for hand washing that was closer to where the children eat.

Evening use by other village organisations means we need to put away and set up our main play space most days adding to our staff costs.

The high ceiling and windows means the main hall is difficult to heat and very noisy.

As a non-profit making organisation any excess funds are put back into the setting. Over recent years we have paid to re-place some floors, provide an awning for outside shade and shelter and replaced the side entrance gate.

We have built up a fund over the past few years to enable us to offer a significant sum to the new extension project.

The project has our full support.

Cllr. Adrian Hardman

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care Democratic Services
Worcestershire County Council County Hall
Spetchley Road
Worcester
WR5 2NP
Tel: 01905 848392
Email: aihardman@worcestershire.gov.uk

16th January, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very supportive of this project to provide a positive, safe and welcoming hub for community activity. Kemerton Village Hall sits at the centre of the village and has provided the only space for any sort of meeting or function in the area since it was built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee, and therein lies the heart of its need for reform.

It is a barn of building and normally on the cold side even with the best efforts of its very loyal and hardworking supporter group. It needs to be a warm and welcoming space with multi-functioning areas for residents to use, be they children or adults. People from all walks of life need a place to meet in and form all-important village bonds, as well as space for seniors' friendship groups which help battle loneliness and a space for celebrations like wedding receptions. This visionary plan supports a wide range of cross community aims.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Hardman

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Adult Social Care Democratic Services

APPENDIX 2 – Questionnaire and Brochure

Cost

We have spent £500 on preliminary drawings and it is estimated that the total cost of the extension and refurbishment will be in the region of £200,000. Approximately 90% would be raised from grant-giving organisations, leaving approximately £20,000 to be raised by the trustees and the community.

Next Step

Before spending any more of our precious funds, the trustees need to hear your views and ideas. We recognise that without community support there is little point in proceeding.

We would be very grateful if you would complete ~~and return~~ the enclosed response form. ~~There is a collection box in the shop.~~ Alternatively drop it in to ~~John Phillip~~, The Wings, Wing Lane (between Castle Hill and Hill Road).

We will be holding an Open Meeting in the hall on Friday, 26th June at 7pm to allow the trustees to clarify any lingering issues, to enable the community to hear the results of the survey and to voice their opinions. If the survey finds support for the proposed improvements your presence at the meeting will greatly help the planning of the next stages.

THE FUTURE OF KEMERTON VILLAGE HALL



Introduction

Our village hall has served the community for more than a century as a place of entertainment, a meeting venue for numerous organisations and as a pre-school. It has been extended at least twice as the needs of the times change. We are again confronted by a need to evolve and improve.

The pre-school is by far the biggest user of our hall and we are delighted by its success. However, it means that the hall cannot be used for other functions in the daytime and considerable effort is needed to clear most of their equipment out of the hall for evening events.

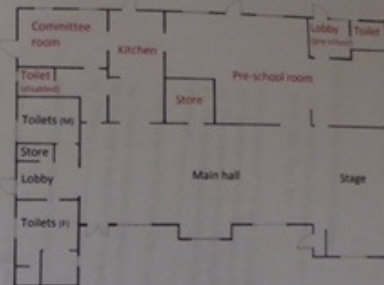
Proposal

Because the village has not been offered any land on which to build a new village hall our only option is to improve the existing building by extending and refurbishing.

We sought help from an architect with considerable experience of building and refurbishing village halls in our locality. Based on our requirements he has produced the floor plan shown on page 3. Informal discussions with the Wychavon Planning Authority indicate that they would look on it favourably.

We are aware that the lack of car parking space is a major issue. Improvement options are limited but the Parish Council is seeking approval for an official parking area which will alleviate, to some extent, the parking problems in the High Street.

Diagram of extended building



The appearance of the front of the hall will be unchanged.

The plan will provide the following improvements:

- Self-contained facilities for the Pre-school, including separate entrance and toilets.
- The main hall will be refurbished to look more attractive, modern and uncluttered, with new lighting and multimedia equipment.
- A new committee room with appropriate multimedia facilities.
- A much larger and better equipped kitchen, accessible from all areas.
- Heating is a potential area for improvement, but the trustees feel that the present system has ample capacity if made easier to manage.

OPINION SURVEY

Please circle your preferred answer

1. Having read the brochure, do you think that the extension and refurbishment of the hall is a good idea? Yes / No

If you answered 'Yes' was it because:

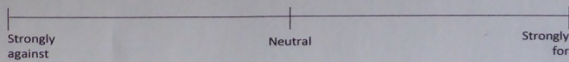
- (a) Kemerton needs a suitable centre for people to get together? Yes / No
(b) The present facilities are insufficiently attractive? Yes / No
(c) The kitchen and multimedia facilities are inadequate? Yes / No
(d) Other.....

If you answered 'No' was it because:

- (a) There is insufficient demand for such a facility in our area? Yes / No
(b) The cost is excessive for the anticipated benefits? Yes / No
(c) Other.....

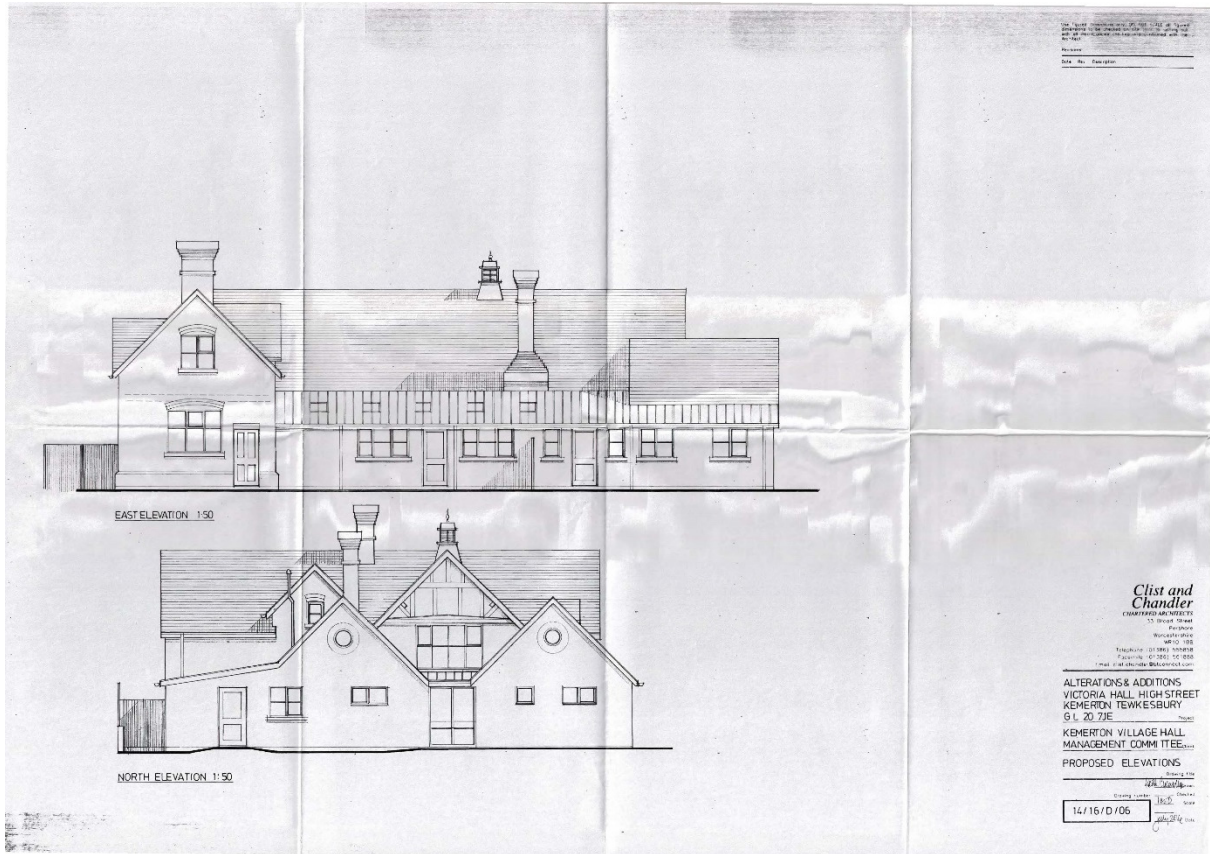
2. Would you be prepared to help us raise the £20,000? Yes / No
3. Can you suggest some fundraising methods?
.....
.....
4. Do you organise or attend events at the hall? Yes / No
5. Please list the events that you have attended in the last 2 years.
.....
.....

Please mark your level of interest on the scale below:

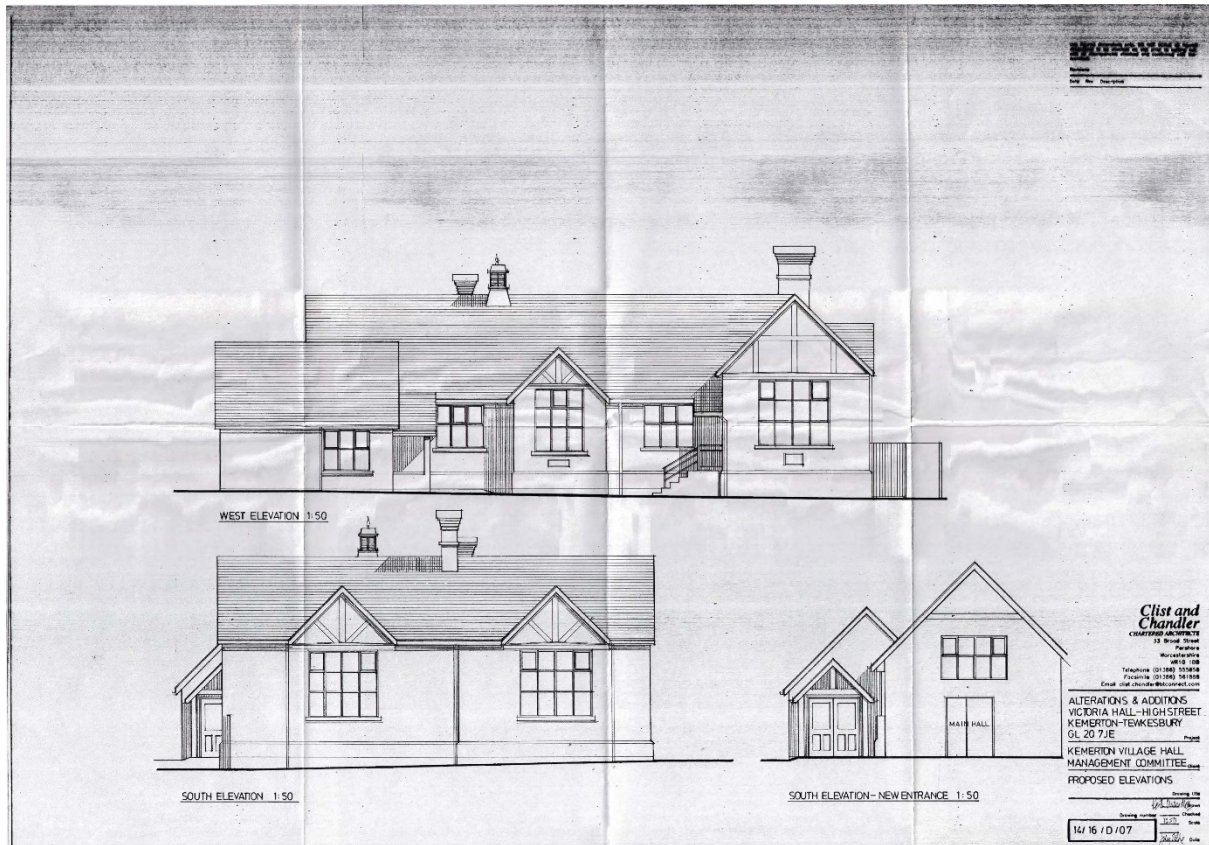


Your name and address (not obligatory)

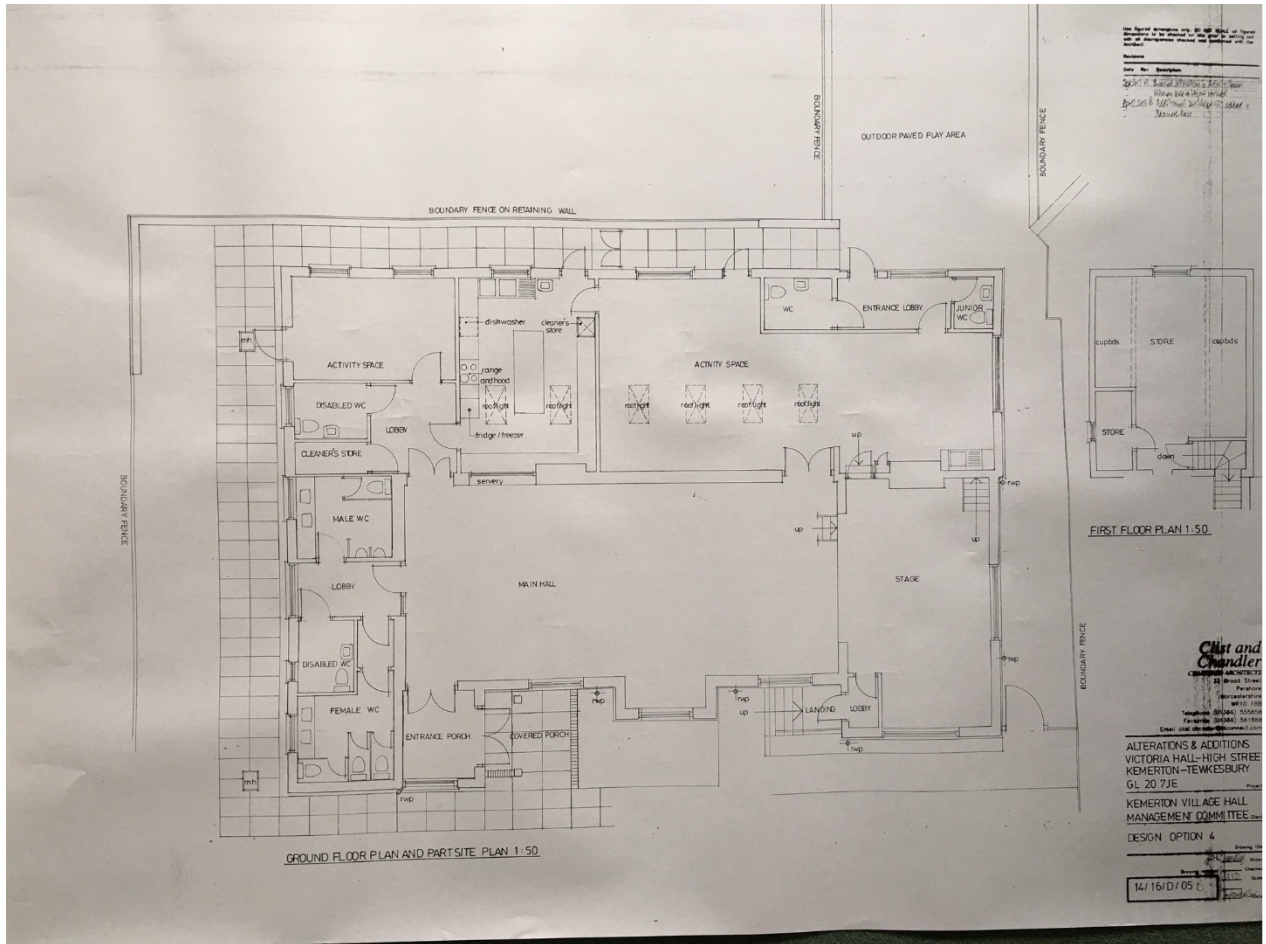
APPENDIX 3 – Architects Drawings



Architectural drawing of rear and side (North) elevations



Architectural drawing of front and side (South) elevations



Architectural drawing of internal layout

APPENDIX 4 – Expressions of Interest

(formal letters)

27 March, 2018

Dear Village Hall Committee,

As a young person living in Kemerton, I feel there isn't much for my friends and I to do in the village. We have to travel mostly to Tewkesbury or Cheltenham to take part in sports activities. My friends and I would like to change that by starting a young people's Badminton Club at the Village Hall.

We have been told that there used to be an active Badminton Club in Kemerton and we hope that once we get going, some of those enthusiasts (of all ages!) will join us. We are currently thinking of ways to raise money for the equipment we will need and hope to get going on those efforts this Summer.

Unfortunately, we have found some of our ranks less than enthusiastic about using Kemerton Village Hall as the venue for our new club. It is rather run-down, cold and the toilet facilities are pretty grim. Another more practical problem is that the lighting in the main hall is insufficient to effectively light a badminton session, especially in winter months. The inconvenience caused to the pre-school by asking them to pack away all their equipment in order for us to play is also awkward. Sadly, these factors have put us off starting to play Badminton in the Hall for the time being.

My friends and I really support the refurbishment plans that the Committee are planning. If the hall was newly decorated, brightly lit and warm, with a nice place to share a cup of tea afterwards, we would be very happy to host our Badminton club there! We also really believe there are more people in the village who would join us once we started, and would really enjoy this community activity in the newly refurbished hall.

With best wishes,

Eleanor Darby

Dear Mr. Harvey,

I run a busy Dance Academy in Winchcombe and have as my students some children who reside in the village of Kemerton. Over the years, I have thought of branching out to run after-school dance classes in an additional location and I believe Kemerton would really fit the bill. I know there is not dedicated parking at the Hall, but I feel there is ample parking on the surrounding roads as dance classes tend to have only up to 8 students, and they are usually dropped off by parents and collected later.

Though I am aware of rival dance schools also operating in the area, I believe I have a unique offering with a mixed roster of dance styles taught, pre-school classes and adult classes. I also have the support of my existing students.

I recently attended an event at the Hall which is a lovely historic building. Whilst in no way wishing to criticise the facility, I felt that in its current state of repair I could not consider starting a new venture there at this time. The un-modernised toilets were a particular problem, and the building in general felt cold and heavily-worn. The presence of play school equipment on the stage, whilst understandable, was messy and uncondusive to achieving the calm, focus and elegance we strive towards in dance. Unfortunately these factors combined to make it unsuitable for dance instruction currently.

Since that visit some weeks ago, I have been informed of the wonderful plans the Committee have to upgrade and modernise the building, and would like to be kept informed of the progress of changes so that I can plan for the future. I am sure that Kemerton could be a wonderful venue for dance, and that my dance school and my students could bring great benefits to the community there.

Yours sincerely,

Felicity Jowett

Winchcombe Dance Academy

29th April, 2018

For the attention of the Kemerton Village Hall Committee,

I very much look forward to the refurbishment of the Village Hall in Kemerton in the coming months. Once the work is complete, I am planning a fortnightly lunch club for the elderly residents of the village. The lunches would have a gentle welcoming atmosphere, with hot drinks and a pie and mash lunch. Depending on the popularity of the event, I expect to host the lunches around the table in the newly expanded kitchen.

In its current state, a lunch club is not feasible due to the unmodernised kitchen, the inefficient heating in the hall, the cold WC facilities and the general run-down atmosphere.

My friends and I Thank the Committee for their sterling efforts to bring about the refurbishment and very much look forward to running a lunch club to offer a warm welcome to the more isolated members of the community.

Yours sincerely,

Christina Kulukundis

9th May 2018

Dear Kemerton Village Hall Committee,

Having recently moved back to the village after a number of years overseas, I was surprised to find that there so no active Youth Club in the Village Hall.

My children are 12 and 10 and it would be great to have somewhere in the village for the children to 'hang out' at on a Friday evening.

As a child growing up in Kemerton I have great memories of attending 'Youth Club' in the Hall, it was a fun safe environment and long lasting friendships were formed. Kemerton does have fewer facilities than some of the other villages nearby, so it was hugely popular and also attracted other local children from outside of Kemerton too.

Unfortunately, after re visiting the hall recently, I was surprised as to how cold and unattractive it felt. The kitchen felt a little rundown, the toilets had the same cold grotty feeling, and felt quite rundown compared to other village halls. It didn't have the feeling to be able to create a modern environment for the children to enjoy. To be honest it hasn't really changed in over 45 years.

However, I do believe that the time has come again for a good old-fashioned Youth Club. There are lots of children that hang out at the Bredon playground for hours on end which is fine, but demonstrates that they don't actually have anywhere to go. So I approached the idea with my children this is what they thought would work:

- Once or twice a month on a Friday evening or Saturday afternoon.
- £2 entry per child.
- Drinks and snacks available to purchase, and maybe a hot dog.
- Games to enjoy like table tennis and dodgeball.
- A craft area or other quiet activity.
- Definitely background music and maybe a DJ sometimes (could be one of the parents if there was a suitable sound system).
- Cooking / cupcake decorating, if the kitchen was suitable.
- A quiet room to chat to an adult for those children who maybe experiencing issues at home or school.
- They also felt that it needed club rules for bad behaviour and bad language.
- An annual Disco / Christmas party.
- And.... a cool name for the club!

After discussing this prospect, I would love to head a team to get a Youth Club going again. But in the halls current state, it is not the most attractive of venues. I understand that there are plans for the Hall and this will be a huge asset for the village if they were to go ahead.

Kind regards,

Nicola Wilson, Kemerton