



GREAT GLEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Manager - Joanne Adkins

GREAT GLEN COMMUNITY HUB – UPDATE ON THE NEW BUILDING

Cllr Bill Glasper, Chair, Great Glen Parish Council

Dear Village,

I am writing to update you on the situation the Parish Council finds itself in with respect to the proposed new community hub building here in Great Glen.

Being totally open and honest, we do not have sufficient funds to build the design for which we have received planning approval and to which the offer of Section 106 funding relates. Despite returning to our project consultants and architects, and even involving our chosen building contractor, we have been unsuccessful in reducing the specification and condensing the planned building to align with the level of funding available to us. Costs of materials and labour have risen exponentially since the Pandemic and this has put the project, as drawn, beyond our means.

Our bid to the National Lottery was not at the stage we thought, even if successful now this would not make a significant addition to the pot.

The doctors, whilst previously enthusiastic, are now no longer on board with the project due to their own circumstances and we do not see this changing.

The Village Hall, which is governed by a charitable trust, has been unable to progress a ground lease to us for many reasons, and therefore we now have no choice but to exclude their site from our plans. The Village Hall has however reopened and is available for hire.

Investigation into acquiring a Public Works Loan concluded that borrowing a substantial amount would put the village into debt for thirty years or more, and this is not something Councillors felt willing or comfortable doing in the current economic climate.

This issue has been the subject of much in depth discussion amongst Councillors, resulting in a proposal at the Full Parish Council Meeting held in July, to concentrate the new build on the site of the current Youth Centre on Main Street. We are frustrated and highly disappointed that we cannot present the village with the building previously depicted.

Two main objectives remain unchanged – to provide a new community hall suitable for the use of all (although this would be reduced in stature) and dedicated office space for the Parish Council.

The reduction in size should not present an issue as the Village Hall will be available as a larger venue. The new hall will be complimentary to the existing facility and provide much needed additional activity space for this growing village. The Parish Council will endeavour to support the Village Hall to ensure its sustainability.

Parish Council are now forced to rethink, redesign and effectively start from square-one. We are where we are and can only move forward which we shall do in earnest. Updates will follow as soon as we have something to share.

28th September 2022