

Future of the victory hall

From: Jo (josibley73@gmail.com)

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Hi Ali,

Thank you for seeking the views of preschool regarding the future of the village hall.

As much as a new build would be great, we feel using the funds to refurbish and update the existing build would be the best option now and to continue to be of main use to the school and preschool as the survival of these is crucial to our wonderful village. The building is in a very poor state of repair so getting things improved quickly is now a priority.

As a preschool and I imagine the second biggest user of the hall, we would love to have our own room but understand that this is not a realistic option! We understand that it is necessary to share the premises with other village users, but as we have to close on a Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime, we are limiting our numbers as many children attend other settings that are open all day.

However, we do struggle to operate with the billiard table as it dominates the room. It poses health and safety issues for us and limits what resources and activities that we can provide as well as limiting our numbers of children each day. Ofsted requirements and early years provision recommendations are increasing and we are not able to provide what we would like to given the limitations of the room. We would encourage the hall trustees to consider replacing the billiard table for a smaller pool table, perhaps on wheels so that it could be moved. Or perhaps this facility in the village could be re-located to the cricket club if future plans could accommodate it. We also feel that the preschool room would be more desirable to rent for other functions if it didn't have the billiard table in it and could therefore bring in more revenue.

If the hall is not going to be re-built or extended now, we would like to put an undercover area between the preschool room door and our store cupboard which the preschool would fund. We would like to be able to make better use of this space. This would then be a beneficial transition area between inside and out which many preschools have and we would be able to use it for activities. I will forward plans to you for consideration. We would like to get the preschool room into a more desirable state which we would be happy to help fund if we could get the billiard table removed and another option sought for the people who enjoy the use of this. (*We will update you with plans for the kitchen unit and appreciate the funds you have already raised for this from the table top sale*).

Some comments from preschool committee members:

"Repairing the cracks, adding a functionable double sink kitchen unit and additional storage above that of the existing in the preschool play room are essential. Additionally with the snooker table being removed we might even be able to grow the pre school, make more spaces available and open for longer Tues – Thurs. I think we all would like to see a large covered outdoor area added and possibly artificial turf to ensure the garden is useable all year round."

"maybe we could contribute financially but only if the billiard table is removed"

"Perhaps if we want to secure some of the funding we will need to put all of our ideas into proposal in the form of a business case, with the list of ideas and associated costs etc? I guess what they will really want is to see how it can benefit both the village and their own 'hall income'? If so, we can come up with some ideas of how it will help generate new revenue, such as an increased demand to rent the hall for functions, including kids parties?? I