

Three Options for future development of the Village Hall

Put forward by local champions

OPTION - RENOVATION OF THE EXISTING HALL

Brampton Village Hall has a history that dates back to 1889. It was purpose built and maintained by the village for us all to use, undergoing a major rebuild in the 1970s.

Home to the Village Club, the hall is in a reasonably central location, and provides the only secular public space in Brampton.

I believe we should preserve and renovate the existing hall for a number of reasons, not least the issues of simplicity and cost:

- This is cheapest of all the options and also has the advantage that the work does not have to be completed in one go, but can be staged and carried out bit by bit, utilising some volunteer labour.
- The initial renovation of the interior decoration could be done immediately by volunteers for next to nothing
- This option requires no planning approval or legal work and can, therefore, begin straight away
- Alternative uses would need to be found for the site if it is not renovated which may not meet with village approval

Granted the hall is not perfect – it has no car parking for one thing – but it is ours, it is there and, with relatively little expenditure, could be returned to a good condition for everyone to enjoy.

B Spinks and S Wilson

OPTION – BRAMPTON CHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Brampton Church is the most important building in the village, both architecturally and historically. It is also, arguably, the most beautiful building in the village. Built in Medieval times, its function was twofold: a place of worship and a social space for village celebrations and feasts. It was only during the Victorian era that churches became reserved solely for worship.

I believe reverting Brampton Church to a building with both religious and social functions has a huge amount in its favour:

- The nave would make a wonderful hall; large enough for big parties, wedding receptions, etc.
- It is positioned amongst lovely fields with great views
- There is land available for parking

- There is room to build onto the side to provide separate toilets, kitchen/bar and snug
- Services can continue in the chancel, separated from the nave by a screen/door. However, this could be opened for bigger services, so the whole church could be used again.

However, my main reason for supporting this plan is that I fear our church will become redundant in the next 20 years. The congregation is small, and funding such a building for so few is not something, realistically, the C of E is likely to continue. What might then happen to our church? Probably it would be sold as a private house, or just allowed to deteriorate. I find this very, very sad.

The possibility of using the church as a multi-function building is an exciting and realisable way of saving this much-loved landmark, and providing a space for both religious and social functions for us and our children, long into the future.

F Scott

OPTION – NEW VILLAGE HALL AT GREEN FIELD LOCATION

We now have an opportunity to create a new, purpose built amenity for our village. Importantly, it focuses the requirements for a venue, outdoor space and parking on a single site and I believe this is the best option.

- Its location would bring Upper and Lower Brampton together. Additional advantages are that there are no direct neighbours, and it could provide overflow parking for congested residential streets
- It could offer a base for clubs, societies and social activities including village Christmas parties and barbeques, sports and children's play. It could also be a resource for allotment holders, and would allow us to hold our fete without closing the road, saving us money. Indeed some activities would generate income
- This is a chance to develop a sustainable, low running cost building based on green credentials that would be sympathetic to the surrounding landscape
- Based on the 'two birds with one stone' principle, we could progress this scheme in conjunction with a church development (a kitchen and toilet, for example) for other community events or joint venue ventures

In order to realise this scheme and retain the existing playing field, we will need more land. This could come from allotment land, either through negotiations now or else development could be delayed until the current tenant has given up his lease. Alternatively, parking could be designated along the top side of Low Farm adjacent to the road, again subject to negotiation and approval.

This development, which will require planning permission, will allow us to build an environmentally friendly one-stop-shop for a host of future community events.

P Knaapen