

Crawley Down Village Hall
Turners Hill Road
Crawley Down
West Sussex, RH10 4HE

Mid Sussex Planning Application DM/19/2671 submitted Aug 2019

This is the final stage of plans to make available car parking which is of upmost priority and has taken 5 years of considerable time and effort to arrive at.

Option 1) 2014 **This option was the cheapest and the best option**

Requested 106 monies from Worth Parish Council to enable the surfacing of an area on the Hastoe site, now renamed The Pheasantry. The plan was rejected as there was no pedestrian crossing and that crossing could/would not be funded by WPC. **This would have enabled the new residents of the estate safe passage across the main road; they still do not have that.**

Option 2) 2015

A scheme was provided to enable access through the adjacent plot which had planning approval for a number of houses, the scheme was to demolish the Parish Office and the old Rifle Range and enter a parking area at the rear of the Hall. This plan was rejected by Cllr Gibson on cost, which involved some loss of profit incurred by the developer of the site.

Late in 2015 Cllr Coote asked the WPC Clerk to investigate the availability of the Hastoe Car Park but the option had expired.

In 2015 The Crawley Down Monday Club gave notice that the club would have to relocate due to the safety concern of its members. It consists of 92 Members and Volunteers, many over the age of 80, with the lack of parking facility, heavy traffic on the Turners Hill Road and lack of any local parking availability it made booking enquiries to the other venues in Crawley Down.

The Haven Centre could not accommodate the group, The Glebe Centre kitchen was not adequate, the new Hub did not have available hours, Rowfant was not up to standard, and The Ark could not provide the main kitchen for use. The club relocated to the Pavilion Sports Hall in Copthorne. The Village Hall lost the revenue, 6 hours per week for 50 weeks of the year.

Option 3) 2016/2017

Made extensive enquiries to use the path to the side of the Hall and have 6 spaces at the rear. The first problem was to overcome the protrusion of the buttresses, that issue may have been resolved, with some trepidation, but there was still not the available width of 10ft on part of the length of the path. The property owner neighbouring the Hall was both generous and helpful but even with his assistance there were issues we could not overcome. This option was also rejected on cost of £100k approx by Cllr Gibson prior to the buttress examination.

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Last Option. 2018

From conversations with WPC Councillors I learnt that the Haven Sports Field Car Park area was owned by MSDC, I made enquiries and after many hours of discussions with the Trustees of Crawley Down Village Hall we made the decision to further our application. We advertised and held a public meeting on 18th June 2019.

This has not been an easy decision for anyone; we all love the Village Hall. The parking is the major issue, 3 spaces at the front on a very busy Turners Hill Road. We have many users of the Hall and a list of activities held at the Hall has already been provided. Maintenance of a 100+ year old building of course another factor but without the income what happens?

In 1906 the Hall was left in Trust as Crawley Down Village Hall for the leisure and enjoyment of the residents of Crawley Down Village. We wholeheartedly believe that it should remain as such, wherever the Hall is situated, for future generations.

Our intention is that should we be successful in our application that a developer builds us a replacement hall before we vacate the current facility. The proposal is that we finance the scheme through the sale of the current site. We are not asking for any public money outside of our normal fundraising.

We agree with the Crawley Down Neighbourhood Plan October 2015 proposes that 6 buildings and parcels of land are acknowledged for their importance to the life and enjoyment of the community, they include The Haven Centre, The Village Hall and the Glebe Centre.

We have never competed with the Haven Centre, the Administration Manager and The Bookings Member of the Village Hall have an excellent working relationship.