

Minutes of a meeting of village organisations held on Tuesday 29th June 1999 in the Drax Hall Bere Regis at 7pm.

In attendance 7 parish councillors and 48 representatives of 26 village organisations.

Mr.L.Fairhurst opened the meeting and explained that Mr.Maunder and Miss.Stone would address the meeting and after that the groups, yet to be formed, would go to come up with a suitable site and whatever comments they had to support this choice.

Mr.C.Maunder and Miss.S.Stone each gave a 15 minute address on their idea for a suitable site and possible design for a new village hall/community centre.

After this the meeting, excluding parish councillors, divided into five groups and spent the next hour discussing this.

Attached are reports from each of the five groups.

A summary of their findings is as follows:

With regard to a site all five preferred the allotment site to North Street.

Other sites: 2 suggested the area near the scout hut (one said swap with the Drax Hall)

The school

Play Area

Car park

The Moor

On the proposed new development (to cut down on the number of houses)

The other main point that came from the meeting was that people wanted to be consulted over this matter and to be kept informed of any progress made.

GROUP 1

8 members of 5 organisations.

The group asked if sufficient investigation had been done, such as engineer's reports, on the statement that the Drax Hall could not be used after 2004.

Type of hall

It should be large enough for wedding receptions, including those from outside the village, it needs a stage, bar facilities, conference room, 2 separate rooms, kitchen and should meet all the needs of the disabled.

With regard to bar facilities the Royal British Legion should be encouraged to participate in this project.

North Street

The site is too remote, street lighting in North Street is inadequate and the lack of pavements is dangerous for pedestrians.

There is not enough room on the site and the proposed building will intrude onto the playing fields.

The group felt that involving a lot of groups in the running of the hall would make administration very difficult and they weren't sure that all groups could work together.

Allotment Site

Access could be via a mini roundabout on the junction of West Street and Southbrook which would also ease the problems of getting out of West Street.

A pelican crossing opposite the Church would help pedestrians not just for using the hall but for general use.

The Ancient Monument of Court Green could be enhanced by a nice hall to form a feature to a village green.

How do we know that the Drax Estate do not wish to sell the site or even donate it?

It felt that the parish would have to fund whatever and the group would prefer to fund a site that is an enhancement to the village.

Preferred Site

The area by the scout hut is a central site, it has a good setting and a could an exchange deal be done with the Drax Hall.

It strongly felt that any decision made should also deal with the proposed health centre at the same time and that full village consultation is needed on both facilities.

GROUP 2

11 members of 7 organisations

Type of hall

Multifunctional with conference room, stage, 2 rooms possibly partitioned and the usual services with the possibility of land available to be able to erect a marquee as an extension.

Sustainability

Looked at joint use.

If a separate building it could be used separately but it was felt that groups that met in homes would not want to pay to use a hall.

The Sports and British Legion Clubs shouldn't be incorporated as they wouldn't work together.

An upgraded type of Drax Hall on a single storey would be best.

Site

North Street is not preferred as people are against walking.

It looked at the plot by the bus stop in West Street although parking there is difficult.

It suggested that the play area could be relocated and that site used for a hall.

The car park itself.

Allotment site: there is land for parking and that access would be no problem.

It was hoped that it wouldn't spoil Court Green but a single storey hall would probably be ok.

It is very important that public consultation takes place and that information is made available to the public of what progress is being made. Suggested council minutes etc.

GROUP 3

8 members of 8 organisations

Hall

The group wanted a village hall not a community centre and maybe a single storey building would do.

Site

North Street. The group couldn't see how this would work ie the mix of profit and non profit making use.

Allotments. The group felt pushed to this site - it is central, access is busy but North Street is busy and could get worse.
Access could be off of the Poole Hill roundabout with a pelican crossing in Southbrook.

Finance

Not for the group to decide.

Administration

To be run as per the Drax Hall.

GROUP 4

The group asked why there was no say on other sites and wanted to know why there should be more than a village hall. If there was a community centre it felt a fulltime caretaker would be needed to run bookings etc.

Type of Hall

There should be small committee rooms, one large meeting room, stage and changing rooms and kitchens facilities. If it was a good design it could be added to and the whole village should be consulted on the design.

Site

Allotments. The pedestrian crossing was a good idea and any noise problems would be experienced anywhere a hall is.

North Street. It is too far out.

Others. The school site could be used as dual purpose with the school using it during the day as an extra facility and access could be via the field gate and the slope shouldn't be difficult to cope with.

The scout hut is a good site and is another possibility.

Comments

They want no white elephant so it must be easy to run. There are already sports facilities, with changing rooms, in the village.

Another site could be on that of the proposed development therefore cutting down on the number of new houses.

The village shouldn't be pushed by the developers.

GROUP 5

The group concentrated on the choice of site.

North Street

This was felt to be too far from the village centre and is possibly too small.

Allotments

It should be ascertained if this site is available.

For. It is central.
 It is large enough.
 If the starting hall was small it could be added to if funds were available or a need was established.
 Access could be via the Poole Hill roundabout or by a new one.
 The site is level which is good for the elderly.

Against. There was concern about pedestrian access but a pelican crossing would help.
 What would happen to the allotments?
 Could the planners resite them at the end of Blind Street.

Alternatives

The site between Southbrook and the Bere Stream (The Moor) is a possibility and have investigations been done.

