

## **APA presentation**

### Sports ground

The Sports ground has just completed its second full year hosting junior football for local youngsters, and we are pleased to see the numbers using it for the informal kick-about in school holidays and at the weekends.

The 8 pitch cricket square is about to be installed using Sport England funding, and we hope to be playing on this in 2018.

The partnership with Shelford tennis club to provide tennis courts has not received the support of club members, so we are now reviewing our options for this sport.

The Sports Pavilion has received full planning approval and I am actively applying for grant funding from The Football Foundation, Sport England, and other bodies, so that we can get it built. We already have indoor sports equipment including table tennis tables, a pool table and an air hockey table ready for use in it.

### Play area

12 months ago, the PC showed you 3 alternative proposals from different playground equipment manufacturers. Your responses and those of the primary school children were combined into the final design.

The equipment has been ordered and will be installed when the VH planning approval is received.

### Village hall

For those of you who are not familiar with the history of this project, there was a Village Plan, two feasibility studies, and a village survey organised by the VHMC before the decision was made to build a new hall on the recreation ground. Prior to that we had applied for planning permission to extend this building, but there were issues and we were advised not to go ahead with that.

So, it was exactly 12 months ago that the Parish Council held a display in this room and consulted with you on initial ideas for the Community Hub on the Rec.

As reported in the Village Newsletter of June last year the majority of responses (89%) supported the decision taken the previous year to locate the VH on the Rec and were keen to develop the area into a Community Hub with a range of activities for all ages and including the children's play area close by.

As was also reported at that time, not surprisingly, a number of residents (30%) were concerned that the building should not be too close to the existing houses.

Two separate phases were therefore started –

1 the VHMC started the process of arranging the sale of the VH, as reported by Simon, and  
2 the PC began the process of getting the VH designed – particularly taking into account  
the comments made by residents regarding location on the Rec, range of activities, and so  
on.

Following a competitive design process, the architect was selected from three in January  
2017.

The final design was presented to residents in March this year, and of 97 responses  
received 88% were positive commenting on the sustainable design and size (62%), the  
location away from existing properties (18%) and the community benefit (11%) – with a  
number of residents offering to help run the social meeting place/café part. (Just 6% were  
unhappy with the site.)

Particular attention has been paid to minimising light and noise pollution and to maximising  
the benefit of this important, very underused green space, to bring together the old and  
new communities in the centre of the village.

The planning application was duly submitted at the end of March with the location away  
from existing properties.

However, the planners have strongly recommended that we withdraw the application and  
re-site it elsewhere on the Rec, because they are unable to support it in the proposed  
location. The PC is now in discussion with the planners about a different location on the  
Rec. more acceptable to them, before a resubmission is made.

We'll continue to keep you informed of progress.