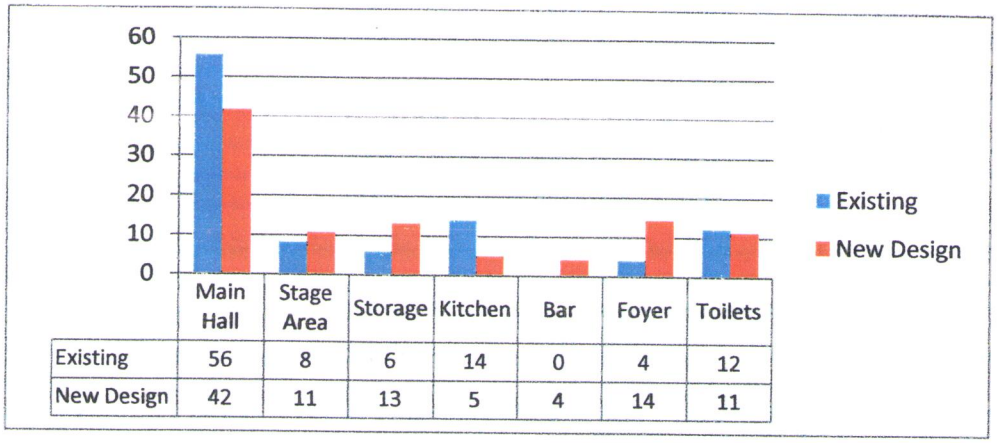
I support a community building on the Recreation Ground but I have some concerns regarding the internal dimensions and the external appearance.

Village Hall

The chart below compares the % of the total space in m² dedicated to different areas in the existing and new village hall.



	Main Hall	Stage Area	Storage	Kitchen	Bar	Foyer	Toilets
Existing	56	8	6	14	0	4	12
New Design	42	11	13	5	4	14	11

Village Hall Dimensions(m²)

Area	New Design m²	% of total	Existing m²	% of total	Difference m²	Comments
Main Hall	102	42	74	56	28	Increased by 33%
Stage Area	26	11	10.9	8	15.1	Increased by 150%
Stage Store	15	6	5.3	4		}Storage increased to 13%
General Store	15	6	2.5	2		}of total area. Storage m²
Janitors Cupboard	2	1		0	24.2	}increased by 300%
Kitchen	12	5	18.71	14	-6.71	Decreased by 33%
Bar	10	4		0		
Foyer	35	14	5.44	4	29.56	Increased by 600%
Toilets	27.6	11	16.15	12	11.45	Increased over 70%
	244.6		133			Increased over 80%

Main Hall - I'm very supportive of the increased size of the Main Hall for the following reasons.

- It will provide much more useable space for many activities including Zumba and Pilates.
- The increased capacity will enable more villagers to participate in meetings and social events eg Annual Village Meeting, Meals, Film Nights, Pantomines etc.
- More attractive space to hire - for villagers' private events, the WI and the school.
- The increased capacity will support the village's future requirements.

Design Issues

- The floor needs to be sprung as with the current village hall, so that it's suitable for sports/dance activities and doesn't cause injuries.

- New Hall design must provide an adequate air flow. The windows in the current village hall are all on one side so it's difficult to create a flow of air. This is a problem in the summer, particularly when doing exercise classes, and will be a problem if lots of people are in the hall.

Kitchen - I'm very concerned about the size of the kitchen which has been reduced from 18m² to only 12m², even though the building size and capacity has increased. This is a very small kitchen for a building of this size. The space needs to be larger because it needs to accommodate industrial kitchen work surfaces and equipment - which are likely to be larger than the current domestic fittings - and there needs to be plenty of room for several people to be working at the same time in the kitchen preparing, cooking and serving food and drinks, clearing away and washing-up.

Bar - The Bar appears to be open to the Main Hall and doesn't appear to connect to the kitchen. It would be better to make the bar and the kitchen part of the same room with a serving hatch into the Main Hall. This works well in the Goring Village Hall.

Storage - Storage has increased by 400%, occupying 32m² in the new building. This seems excessive and some of this space could be better utilised.

Toilets - There are too many, taking up more space than necessary

Foyer - We don't need a foyer. 35m² of the new building is foyer. This is mostly wasted space. The porch entrance to the existing village hall is 2.23m².

Shop

The trading space of the new shop is nearly 2½ times greater than the existing shop. What evidence is there that sales and profitably will increase if the floor space is increased? I would like to see a robust business case to justify increasing the size of the shop.

Location

The cafe needs to be positioned so that the terrace is in the sunshine - a dark, shady terrace will not be appealing, whereas a sunny terrace with sun umbrellas will attract people.

One or Two Buildings

My preference is for one building combining the village hall, cafe and shop because

- reduced construction cost
- ability to share some facilities such as toilets
- if the shop should no longer be viable in the future, it will be easier to find a new use for the shop space (unlike the pavilion)

Building Design

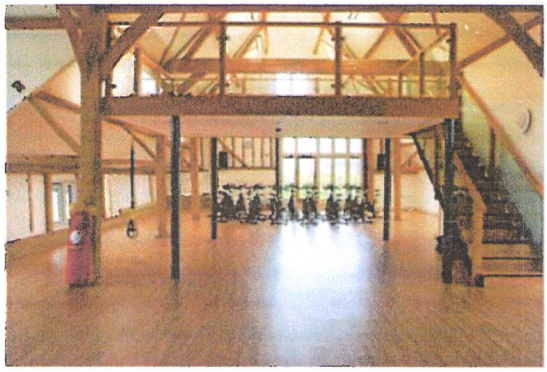
I support the use of natural materials in-keeping with the area and the incorporation of low-carbon, sustainable features.

The appearance of the building needs to be reconsidered. The design is dated and it resembles a 1970s school building. It looks awkward, there's a mishmash of angles and shapes and it lacks

cohesiveness. This building will be part of the village for many years and so it should be more contemporary. Contemporary doesn't mean 'wacky' - there are many examples of classically contemporary designs using natural materials such as the examples below. A lot of thought went into the design of the playground which resulted in a playground that is well loved and well used by people all around. We can create a Community Building which the village can be proud of too.

The picture above is of the English Heritage Cafe and Shop at Goodrich Castle. The contemporary design uses natural materials and is suitable for its historically and environmentally sensitive setting.

The Italian Cafe in Kensington Gardens - note the straightforward contemporary design and the use of sympathetic materials

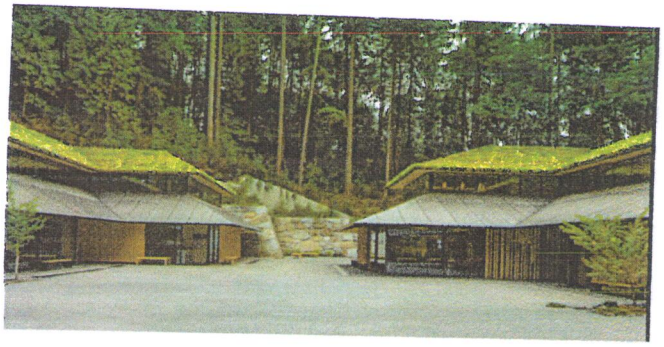


The picture above is of the studio at 'The Barn' Gym in Cholsey. It's a converted Barn but the interior is both modern and sympathetic to the original building. The mezzanine is also a good use of space.

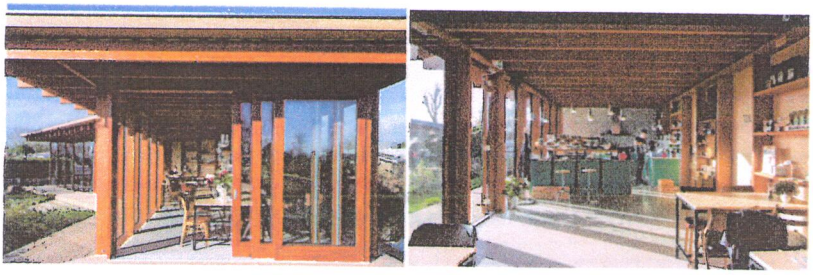
The Sports Centre in Lech in the Austrian Alps, note the large feature glass wall

Part of the Montisfort Visitor Centre nr Romsey - a striking way to connect 2 buildings

Japanese Cultural Garden - Portland. Simple shapes, natural materials sitting beautifully in their site



Other examples



Shop means more deliveries, perhaps with larger vehicles. I presume the aim of a bigger shop is to have more customers, most of which will come in cars. Rec lane is too narrow and turning off Cross Keys Road too tight.

A new hall seating 120 people means there could be at least 60 cars, where are they going to park. The Rec car park is too small, the new Glebe park will just about cover the Cross Keys Residents.

25 new houses on the Glebe means 50 more cars (average in this area 2 cars per household).

50 cars from Glebe, 60 from hall, delivery lorries extra shoppers how are they all going to get up and down Cross Keys Road unless it is made wider and the junction with the B4009 improved.