



Higher Denham Community Association

Meeting to discuss a Proposal for a new Community Hall in Higher Denham

**Tuesday 11th February 2014
7.45pm in the Hall**

**Residents are invited to attend a meeting
to discuss this important matter**

Purpose of the meeting:

As discussed at the 2013 Annual General Meeting and in subsequent Newsletter updates, the current Higher Denham Community Hall having served the community for many years, is now reaching the end of its life span.

As a community we have to consider and decide the Hall's future. Do we continue to maintain the building in its current state for as long as community finances allow us to, or should we consider replacing it with a modern, purpose built building for the residents of today and for years to come?

Please come along and hear the Community Association Committee's views and ideas and we will be asking for input from residents too.

This is a discussion meeting with decisions (if any) being made at the AGM on Thursday 20th March 2014.

Do we need a new Hall?

The Community Hall at Higher Denham was originally built many years ago and has been extended and modified in more recent years. Most of the structure is made of wood and it does not have sound or heat insulation. In particular, the roof of the building will require renovation within the next few years and the wooden structure is rotting in places.

The Social Case

The existing Hall is well used by the local community for many things including health and fitness activities, children's parties, Senior lunches, support for "Open Gardens" and other communal events. The Social Club is used most days as the focal point of community social gatherings. Higher Denham does not have, and is unlikely to ever have, a church, a pub or a shop. The Hall is therefore the centre of all our communal activities along with the Glebe Field that the HDCA also manages on behalf of local residents. As such these facilities are essential to prevent Higher Denham becoming merely a sleeping dormitory estate.

A new Hall with sound insulation would, almost certainly, attract even more activities without being an irritant to residents living close by. Heat insulation would save on heating costs and generally benefit the environment.

The Business Case

If residents are in agreement that a new Hall is needed a sound business case will be compiled. Initial thoughts are that a new building would occupy the same area footprint, but potentially not on the same site. Funding will be a critical part of the planning and the CA Treasurer is currently looking at options and will share these with you at the meeting on 11th February.

A new Hall would be used much more - what facilities could it include and what would you like to see?

The committee of the HDCA is aware that many threads would need to be pulled together to make a new Hall for Higher Denham a reality - and this is why we need to hear your thoughts and views at this important initial discussion stage.

We look forward to seeing you on 11th February.