

KETTINS PARISH HALL

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News Update

At the recent meeting of The Kettins Parish Hall Committee we came to decisions on the way ahead which we considered you should be made aware of.

Since we started in 2013 considerable progress has been made as follows:

1. The sports field has been purchased from Hallyburton Estate and is now owned by the community;
2. A new car park has been created and is available for use;
3. The school garden has been established on its own permanent site;
4. Ground is now available for a Community Orchard; and
5. Plans have been produced and planning permission obtained for a new hall.

Despite this solid progress, we have not been able to raise the necessary funds to build the new Parish Hall which was the wish of the large majority of villagers when we first consulted on this. We did receive initial development funding from Big Lottery which enabled us to finalise plans and apply for planning permission etc. Unfortunately, we, together with many others, were unsuccessful in our bid to Big Lottery for 50% of the funding for the main project. This was over a year ago and since then, we have either discussed our proposals with or submitted applications to all organisations who might conceivably help us. During that time it has become clear that while many would be willing to offer grant aid, such offers would only be in support of a main funder. In the absence of Big Lottery funding, we have no main funder willing to take the lead and are unable to proceed with the main hall building project.

In these circumstances, we have had to conclude that the development of a new hall at a cost of £500,000-£600,000 is simply not achievable at this time. We believe that if we were to move immediately while "Leader" funds are still available we could raise a total of around £100,000. That would enable us to erect a multi-use facility with changing rooms and communal area. This would replace the existing football pavilion which is badly in need of repair/renovation. It would be designed for use by other sports as well as Kettins Primary School and general community use. It would be built and positioned in such a way that it could, in the future, be incorporated into a hall if funds were to become available.

In the meantime, we will write to those who participated in a 'Sponsor a Brick Scheme' and any other specific contributors we can identify, to give them the option of (a) leaving their contribution in the fund towards the cost of our revised proposal; or (b) requesting reimbursement of their donation.