

Website update wording for Worminghall Village Hall – Project Page

January 2024 update on village hall extension project

During 2023, the extension designs were refined to optimise the floor layout, planning approval was granted by Buckinghamshire Council and grant funding was obtained from a variety of sources such as the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund, the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board, the Worminghall Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council Old School House Fund and generous private donors. This is all in addition to funds generated by the village hall activities/rentals together with the Section 106 monies already available from past village housing developments.

With funding at virtually 100%, it means that at year end 2023 it was possible to launch the project implementation phase by awarding supplier contracts. Firstly, the heating oil tank was relocated in January 2024 followed by the start of demolition and building works in February. Completion of the three phases (new toilet and store room block, new accessible double door exit to garden and kitchen units upgrade) was planned for 12 weeks later in May 2024 and regular monthly updates were given as the project progresses (see following bulletins). Disruption to regular village hall activities were minimised as much as possible by screening, temporary toilets and planned tie-ins of utilities.

The project would not be possible without the hard hours put in by our team of volunteer trustees and committee members, with particular thanks to John Henry who has done all the architectural drawings, specifications and planning office liaison and to Nick Hughes, our Chairman, who has worked tirelessly to bring everybody together, to secure donations and to achieve the best outcomes for the village hall.

March 2024 update on village hall extension project

The main building contract started as planned on Monday 5 February 2024 and after only two weeks our contractor Cotmore Construction Limited has made a flying start despite the weather throwing down a tonne of rain!. Most of the demolition and knock through work has been completed, the foundation trenches excavated and filled with mass concrete, the sub-drainage pipes and fittings installed, the block and beam flooring installed and the damp proof course laid. Building control has completed two inspections and approved the work done to date.



Concrete delivery for foundations



Block and beam construction



Village Hall activities continued as near normal as possible while project work was ongoing and indeed the Velo Café was a very full and lively affair with live music from Bea and Charlie and some old sing-a-long favourites from Mike.

April 2024 update on village hall extension project

The main contractor, Cotmore Construction Limited, has continued to make very good progress in the past month with the new toilet extension external walls, roofing and insulation all completed. The internal stud partitioning and floor screed is also done with plastering in progress alongside second fix plumbing and electrical installations.



EPDM roof membrane being installed



New toilet cubicle partitioning in progress

A second phase of the project is to remove the old kitchen, screed the floor to the same level as the hall and install new kitchen units kindly donated by Watermark. The kitchen will be finished and up and running again for Easter Saturday and is a stunning contemporary design.



Old kitchen removed and floor screeded



New kitchen units being installed

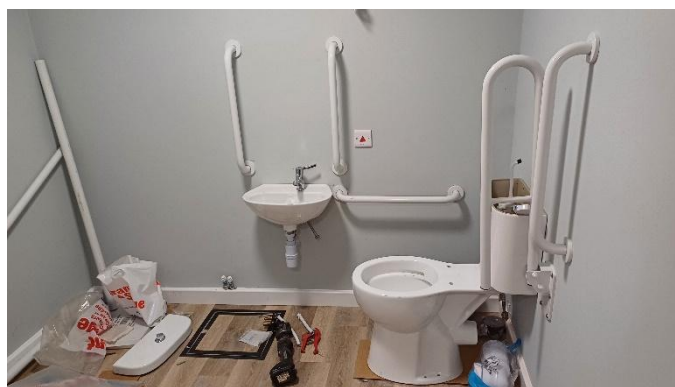
The Velo Café had to be closed for three weeks while the new kitchen was being fitted but reopened on Easter Saturday, March 30th 10.00-12.00 and every Saturday thereafter.

May 2024 update on village hall extension project

By the end of April 2024 the village hall extension project was completed after three months of intensive effort by the project team, the main contractor, Cotmore Construction Limited, and all the suppliers and artisans pulled into the work. The results are very impressive and have considerably enhanced and modernised this Victorian village hall. We now have a spanking new toilet block with four individual cubicles (Ladies, Gents, Unisex and Disabled/Inclusive) with auto-lighting, auto extract ventilation and central hot and cold water feeds instead of individual sink heaters.



Toilet cubicle doors being fitted



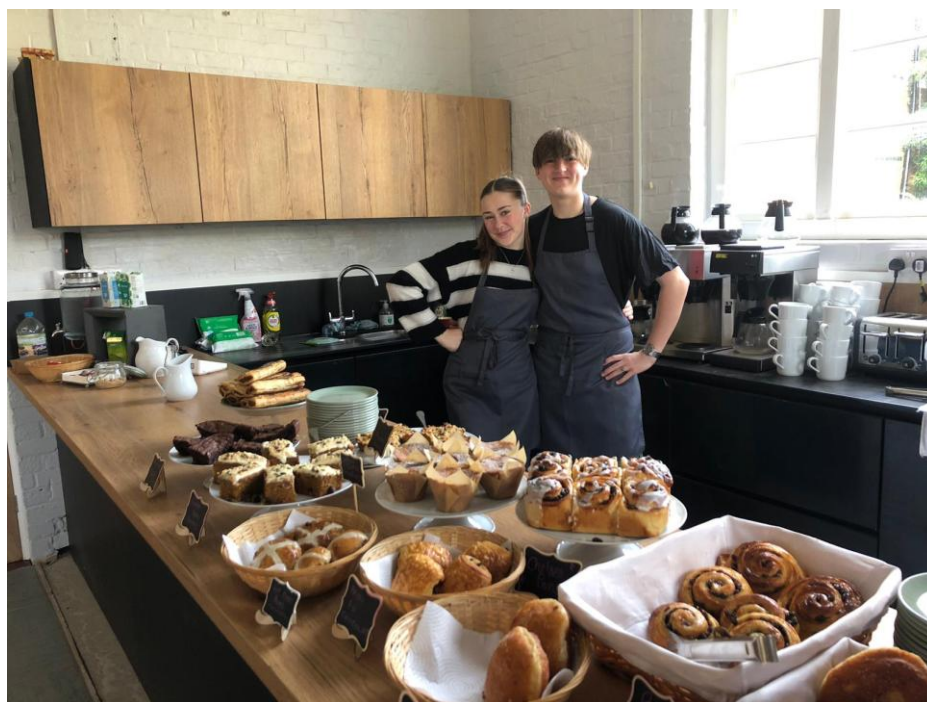
Disabled/Inclusive sanitary ware in progress

The old toilet block has been stripped out and converted to a versatile store for housing the hall furniture, bowls mat, materials and water heater and softener. A new feature double door with fire exit has been fitted to join the hall with the garden with wheelchair ramp and patio area to make a summer al fresco café area.



Internal and external views of the new garden door being fitted

The new kitchen is proving a great hit with the Velo Café now open again every Saturday morning 10.00-12.00 since the Easter weekend. Do come along and enjoy some delicious cakes and coffee and marvel at the modernised hall facilities.



Worminghall Village Hall Open Day

Following the successful completion of the £100k village hall extension and upgrade project, an Open Day was held on Saturday afternoon 20th July 2024 to display and promote the new facilities to the local community and other interested parties. The Open Day event followed the regular Velo Café morning and so volunteers had a very busy day on the catering front! Special thanks go to Chris and Becky Glover for the cakes and sumptuous pulled pork baps with the crispiest crackling ever! Also to Jo and Lizzie Hodges for picking the sweetest and tastiest strawberries that could be found at Rectory Farm on the hottest day of the year!

The event was well attended throughout the afternoon with Trustees on hand to provide guided tours and answer questions. Distinguished visitors included Elaine Hassall, representing the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board who provided a £6k grant towards the project and will showcase Worminghall to other communities trying to improve their own facilities. Representatives from Ickford Village Hall and Brill Memorial Hall also attended the Open Day to pick up ideas and knowledge and it was fortuitous that Elaine was present at the same time to help answer their queries. A photo slide show was set up in the hall so that visitors could follow the whole project journey from inception to completion with an appreciation list of all who helped along the way.

But most importantly it was an opportunity to throw a community party, have chats to fellow Wernal Folk while relaxing indoors or outdoors on a lazy Saturday afternoon, supping a glass of wine or cup of tea and soaking up the atmosphere while the youngsters could tear around in free abandon! Long may it last and already our online calendar is picking up a surge in new bookings.



Open Day visitors relaxing outdoors in the garden



Open Day visitors relaxing indoors with photo slideshow in background

Worminghall Village Hall hosts Community Board meeting

As a result of the Open Day in July for our £100k village hall extension and upgrade project, the Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board asked us to host and to showcase our project at their next biannual meeting which was held on 19 September. We provided a slideshow and tour for attendees which instigated many questions from other village hall representatives in the early stages of their own projects.



The Community Board helped us with a £6k grant and as their main meeting later revealed their community support for the 32 parishes and 33 000 residents comprising the Community Board is far reaching, including tents for Guides, digital awareness workshops, Dungeon & Dragons

Club (after school board games) and facilitating inspirational space and Antarctic explorer speakers to promote STEM subjects at school.

It was an honour to host the Community Board and we are certainly appreciative of the grant support they provided for our own project.

CSR work completed for Worminghall Village Hall

The civil engineering contractor Mott MacDonald Bentley has been expanding the wastewater treatment plant for Thames Water on the Oakley Road and at the conclusion of projects like to offer some CSR (corporate social responsibility) volunteering to the local community. We quickly came up with some possible CSR ideas to tidy up the outdoor areas of our extension project, which had been on the “wish list” but could not be financed. So I’m pleased to say that Bentley accepted all our challenges and completed the CSR projects in early December 2024 and we give



a huge thanks to Danielle and Alishba for applying masonry paint to the rear wall and to Jim and Gavin for laying paving slabs around the oil tank bay and for installing handrailing to the garden door ramp (see photo). The WVH trustees and committee are very appreciative of the CSR provided by Bentley to improve the appearance and safety of our hall external areas.

Compiled by:

Bob Merry on behalf of the WVH Trustees and Management Committee