

July 1, 2021

Bragenham Side Project Phase 2

The last Parish Council during the early part of 2021 decided to communicate the history of the Bragenham Side Project and the actions carried out to date.

This activity was completed with the SH News insert and the subsequent Zoom meeting.

It was agreed that proposals on the way forward should be left until the new Parish Council was elected in May, but a recommendation was made that a new professional project team be established.

The current situation in summary is:

1. The Bragenham Side field is to be provided with a gate from Bragenham Side or the field behind the Community Centre. The field to be made available to parishioners as soon as possible. Councillors Venn and McNally are dealing.
2. Progress on the proposals shared with parishioners in May 2018 for the provision of a multi-purpose sports hall has been negligible. This activity has stalled largely because an agreed access has not been delivered and the lack of available funds to complete the project.
3. The old project team considered an alternative approach to extend the existing Community Centre to cater for 200 to 250 persons at any one time with an assumed floor area of approximately 200m². A feasibility and order of cost estimate was commissioned that provided a budgetary cost limit of £665k.

In recommending the following course of action, we would ask the Parish Council to consider the following:

1. The original recommendation to move forward on a multi-purpose sports hall was based on a survey response from only 10% of the village population in March 2018.
2. Since 2018 the village has increased in size by 30 to 40%
3. The alternative approach does not deliver the original recommendation shared with the community in May 2018 and, has never been tested with the Stoke Hammond/Newton Leys South parishioners as an acceptable alternative.
4. The growth in parish housing/population has occurred without any review of available parish services/facilities or the communities' needs.

Our recommendations are therefore:

1. The Parish Council should commit to leading on the provision of a Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan.
2. That a fresh consultation is required with parishioners on how the Bragenham side field might be best utilized, however, we believe this should take place in a much broader context and not in isolation. It should address the facilities already generally available within the overall community and those areas they would like to see improved, extended and/or developed.

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3. The consultation to include all groups within the parish, both large and small, as well as individuals, with the views of at least 60% (benchmarked target) of the parish population being obtained.
4. That a dedicated expert team be set up in the parish to deliver a formal process for delivering the consultation as the first steppingstone to developing a Community Strategy and Neighborhood Plan.
5. That pre meetings be held with the key groups in advance of the actual consultations to outline this overall approach, to stress the end game is to deliver benefits in line with the strategic objectives of the groups and the wider community and to obtain their support.
6. The Bragenham Side Project should from now on be subsumed within the Community Strategy.

Cllr Malcolm Newing
Cllr David Venn
Cllr Fran Sharkey

Groups within Stoke Hammond Parish

Key Groups

Community Association
Sports & Social Club
Buttons
Stoke Hammond Show Committee
St Luke's Church

Others

Gardening club
Scouts
SH Youth Football
SH Senior Football
Cricket
Coffee Morning
Keep Fit Class
Slimming World
Womans Institute
Village Shop