

## MEMORIAL HALL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### DESIGN STATEMENT

A major public consultation exercise we carried out in June 2009 looking at various strategic options for the redevelopment of the Memorial Hall:

1. Refurbishment of existing hall
2. New hall on current site
3. New hall on new site

The community's preference was for option 3, to build a new hall on the existing site and the design presented here has evolved over the last 18 months based on the responses from consultations with current and future user groups, the general public, the Hall Committee and the Town Council.

The brief was to design an environmentally responsible multi-purpose community hall capable of accommodating as wide a range of user groups and functions as possible within the budget constraints, available funding, and the size of the site.

We wanted to create a building that is as flexible as possible so it can respond to both current needs and also the needs of future generations. We are all aware of the limitations of the current hall and we have tried to create a new community centre that addresses those shortcomings.

#### Layout

The main hall is designed so that the proportions will create good acoustics and sight-lines for audiences and performers. It is proportionally half as long as the current hall. There will be direct access to a dedicated outdoor space immediately south of the hall so that building can be used for events that require both indoor and outdoor spaces.

The main hall is designed so it can be subdivided to produce either a medium sized hall with stage or separate small halls.

The central foyer space is designed to afford a large and generous area for mingling during larger events. The bar and kitchen opens directly onto this space to avoid the congestion of the current arrangement. The foyer can also act as an exhibition or performance space in its own right. The space will be open to the public throughout the week it is planned that it will develop as an exciting all day community hub. It will be naturally lit from above, and at the sides, at high level to create the ambience of a covered courtyard.

A small meeting room is proposed adjacent to both the main entrance and stage area. The function of this space is two fold. Firstly as a committee or small event room (to avoid the cost of opening up or heating the whole building for very small bookings) The room comes equipped with kitchenette, dedicated toilet facilities and direct access to outside so can function at the scale of a "village hall" within the community centre. Secondly the room functions as a dedicated green room for performers providing all facilities required without the need to cross the foyer along with direct access to the outside.

The centre will include a Community Support Office and private interview room so it can provide a base for outreach services, AM surgery sessions etc.

## Design

The form of the building is a reflection of the environmental approach we have adopted. The section through the building shows that it is designed to maximise the use of daylight, sunlight and natural ventilation in the following ways:-

### Sunlight

The orientation of the building is east west and the main roof over the hall is pitched so that the roof slope is facing due south to maximise the uninterrupted solar gain available. It is intended that the roof is one large photovoltaic panel creating electricity to be used in the building, approximately 10 Kwh. When not needed the energy will go back into the grid to offset that used by the building. It is hoped that considerable credits can be built up this way to minimise running costs and therefore rental charges by making the building close to self sufficient in electricity. The panels will be part of the roof structure, not imposed upon it thus creating the most attractive appearance and a cost saving.

Wide eaves overhangs will create solar shading in summer to prevent the interior overheating whilst still allowing low winter sun to penetrate the building to provide passive solar gains

### Ventilation

The profile of the section is intended to create a stack effect within the building. In warm weather warm air will rise and exhaust at high level this will in turn pull cold air in from low level around the building perimeter. In cold weather when the building is heated, a heat exchanger will harvest the warmth from the air before allowing it to exhaust and use that warmth to preheat the incoming fresh air.

### Daylight

It is intended that all the principal spaces can be naturally lit. Roofs have generous overhangs to create solar shading so the advantages of day lighting are not at the expense of glare or overheating. Use will be made of brise soleil, and external and internal window louvres to give building users the ability to fine tune the internal environment.

### External Appearance

The building will be constructed using a traditional palette of materials put together in a contemporary way. The walls will be constructed in rubble stone, timber weatherboarding and self coloured render (to avoid the need for repainting). There will be extensive use of glazing, combined with timber doors and windows and external timber louvres. At the heart of the building there will be a load bearing timber frame which will be visible both internally and externally.

The design concept has roots in both the original hall and the traditional building techniques of the Welsh Marches.