

REPORT FOR THE BLACKBOYS TRUST MEETING (22 JANUARY 2013),
AGENDA ITEM 8

PROPOSAL NOT TO PROGRESS THE PROJECT TO REFURBISH THE BLACKBOYS PAVILION AND THAT NO FURTHER FUNDS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OR TIME SPENT ON THE PROJECT AT THE PRESENT TIME.

Summary

The proposal not to progress the project to refurbish Blackboys Pavilion is included on the agenda of the above meeting. The motion was proposed by Jeff Goggin and seconded by Selina Allen and is recommended to the Council acting as Trustees for adoption.

Reasons

- The Parish Council has a large number of assets/liabilities which are expensive to maintain and administer. A considerable amount of time and effort by Councillors and staff is also involved in their management. With even tighter budgetary constraints the Parish Council has to reconsider its position on the retention of the two refurbishment projects currently ongoing.

Background

- The Memorial Hall is a multi-user facility which benefits a wide section of the community and is in need of refurbishment for all parties. There have been complaints from users about the condition of the Hall and income is being lost to the Blackboys Village Hall.
- The Pavilion only benefits the Cricket Club, a private organisation. There is no requirement by anyone in the Parish for the facility other than the Club. Within the same village, the Blackboys Village Hall is now in very good condition and anyone wishing for a sports venue gravitates towards the Memorial Hall with the adjacent playing field. Blackboys School has a new sports pavilion in its grounds.
- Funding: it has never been confirmed exactly what funding is available from the Cricket Club, but this is believed to be somewhere around 50% of the minimum funds required to make a start on the project allowing for the necessary contingencies for which the Council would be liable. To date the Parish Council has spent over £3,500 from public funds on the project against the Club's expenditure of nil. In addition, grant funding opportunities are limited for a single-user facility.
- Funds are available within the Framfield Trust to enable the Memorial Hall project to move forwards and as a multi-user community facility the Hall will have a wider range of grant opportunities available with a higher chance of success.

Conclusion

Therefore for the reasons stated, the conclusion has been reached that the Council should no longer endeavour to progress the project but choose instead to put their efforts into the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall to which all parties have a positive attitude in going forward.

All parish councillors are volunteers and do their best to serve their community. They like to feel a sense of achievement in everything they put their efforts into. There has been a difficult relationship with the Cricket Club from the beginning. The Club has made challenges on every occasion forgetting that the Council has the wider strategic perspective of the whole Parish to consider.

JEFF GOGGIN
Proposer

SELINA ALLEN
Seconder