

## Moorsholm Memorial Hall 'New Directions' Survey

Your Name

Address

Phone

email

Do you support the Committee's decision to move towards Refurbishment rather than Rebuild? (Please tick)

Yes

No

You can make any further comments here:

What new projects or activities do you suggest might be worth considering to attract grant funders?

Thank you completing the survey. Please post it through the door at 32 High Street or Hazeltree Farm. All paper and electronic responses will be put into a hat, and the first one drawn out will receive a £5 Marks & Spencer voucher. Closing date Monday June 8th.

(Members of the Management Committee and their immediate families are not eligible for the draw)



## Newsletter

Special Extra, May 09

### Memorial Hall Renewal — a change of direction?

This occasional Newsletter started to appear some 18 months ago in order to keep Moorsholm villagers up to date with the progress of the Renewal Fund. This special issue is to outline a change of direction that the Memorial Hall Management Committee unfortunately feels to be necessary.

No one can fail to be aware that the country has entered a period of financial depression — this is biting in many areas, and nowhere more than in grant funding. Even without that, the 'goalposts' are continually moving, and it now seems clear that we must reconsider our plans to rebuild the Hall completely.

Advice we have taken from funding consultants shows quite clearly that a combination of various factors (the most obvious being the Credit Crunch and the slewing of Lottery funding towards 2012 Olympics-related matters) means it is becoming increasingly unlikely that we will be able to achieve the high level of funding that we will require for the complete new Memorial Hall proposed 18 months ago. Obviously this is extremely disappointing, but as custodians of a community asset we have a responsibility to be realistic and act sensibly, in the circumstances that applied both then and now.

Therefore at a Committee Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> it was formally proposed and accepted that we put the Rebuild proposals on hold, and seek instead as a matter of urgency (before the LEADER-funding and other coffers are emptied) to Refurbish the existing building as necessary so that it may continue to be a viable asset.

There are advantages to this approach — for instance, a Rebuild could not commence until all finance has been assured. This could take many years yet, and in the meantime the present structure could deteriorate further, as it would not be financially viable to undertake much remedial work in the meantime.

As ever, the Committee are keen that we should reflect the desires of the community. We don't need a formal mandate as such, being authorised to manage the Hall as we see fit, but it's always important to know we are receiving the community's support. We are aware that after the public meeting of June 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 the preference of those who attended was for Rebuilding on a new footprint. That was followed by Rebuilding on the same footprint, Rebuilding elsewhere, and finally Refurbishment (with and without extending the current footprint).

This put Refurbishment well below rebuilding, but it's important to point out that at the time there were clear signs that Refurbishment would not be looked upon favourably by the grant funders, and that the only realistic way forward financially was to Rebuild. Therefore this was stressed in good faith throughout the presentation, and so quite understandably Refurbishment received low support. Times have most definitely changed, with the Government's LEADER-funding proposals in particular emphasising refurbishment of facilities. LEADER-funding has only now become available in this area, and so has become an important factor in our plans.

Refurbishment of the existing structure could be undertaken in stages — eg fitting double-glazed windows, replacing the roof, or installing more energy-efficient heating and insulation. Each of these smaller projects could become an identifiable (and achievable) step-by-step target in its own right. The possible timetable for this has yet to be worked out.

Does this mean that the MMH Committee has wasted money on architect's designs and planning permission? No — in order to seek any grant funding and advice we had first to get planning permission. The only way that this could be achieved was by getting a proper set of architect's proposals drawn up. The drawings will always be available, and planning permission can be renewed, so the Rebuild proposal could always be there as a future goal — but not in the short or even medium term.

The MMH Committee would very much appreciate your views on this change of tack. We also need ideas — ideas for projects and activities that could take place in the Hall, and especially those which would attract the favour of the funders, who have a clear enthusiasm for the new. Perhaps Moorsholm has been too cautious in the past — people have said (as an example) "We would love to have a Youth Club", but the problem has been finding a

volunteer to run it. Maybe what we need to think of now is not a bog-standard Youth Club, but a Youth Music Workshop or Video Club, that would attract young people, not only from Moorsholm, but also from the surrounding area. Such an ambitious scheme can have more appeal to funders, who would help us to achieve it — not only providing the necessary building improvements (better heating, soundproof double glazing etc), but also the organisers to run it. There seems to be an emphasis now on "What do you want to do? — we'll help you to achieve it."

You could speak to or telephone one of the Committee Officers (Ken Richardson 660653, Graeme Aldous 660515, Sheena Smith 660839 or Ellen Boyes 660482), but it would be better if you comment in writing, by returning the tear-off slip on the back page to Hazeltree Farm or 32 High Street; filling in our online form at [www.teeafit.co.uk/mmh/survey.htm](http://www.teeafit.co.uk/mmh/survey.htm), or sending a simple email to [mmh@teeafit.co.uk](mailto:mmh@teeafit.co.uk).

To encourage this, there will be a prize draw. All submitted paper and electronic responses will be put into a hat, and the first one drawn out will receive a £5 Marks & Spencer voucher. (Members of the Management Committee and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the draw.)

The Committee has taken this decision very reluctantly, having been overwhelmed by the great enthusiasm and support shown by the village since the Renewal Fund was launched. The response has been magnificent, but regrettably times have changed since then. We will continue to try to provide a useful and versatile community facility for Moorsholm and the surrounding area, and hope that we can continue to receive your support — after all, even if we are Refurbishing rather than Rebuilding, we will still need a lot of money and enthusiasm!

Issue 12 of the regular Newsletter will be published shortly, with news of past and future events, the 200 Club winners, and a new 'Spot the Sheepdog' competition. We also hope that there will be a very welcome piece of news to report regarding a Moorsholm personality. In the meantime, we look forward to hearing your views about the future of the Memorial Hall.