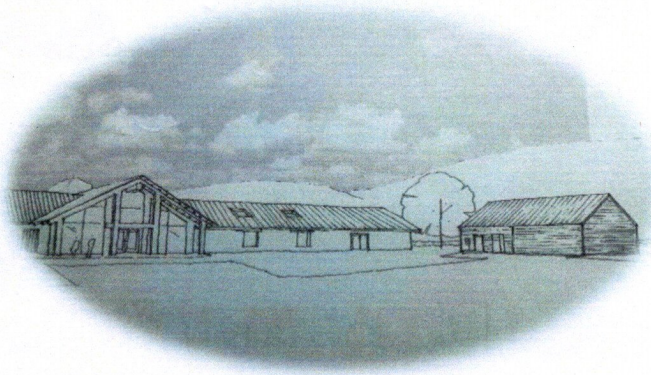




BUCKNELL NEW VILLAGE HALL

UPDATE DECEMBER 2023

The Memorial Hall Committee wish to make it clear that, contrary to rumours circulating in the Village, there are NO plans to “sell-off” parts of the Daffodil Lane playing field to fund the construction of a new Village Hall. Neither is there any truth in the rumour that the cost of construction will fall on the public purse or that of residents through taxes or levies of any kind. It is intended that the cost of this project will be mainly funded by grants and donations with proceeds of the Memorial Hall site in due course providing the Village contribution.

The Hall Committee also wish to make it clear that, when the New Hall is completed, the word “Memorial” will be included in its title and that a service of re-dedication will be held to mark the change and to honour the men from the Village who gave their lives in the two World Wars. However at this stage the title New Village Hall will be used to distinguish it from the existing Memorial Hall and to ensure clarity when dealing with Shropshire Council planners and when making funding applications in due course.

The Public Consultation Event held jointly by the Memorial Hall Committee and the Liverpool School of Architecture in the Memorial Hall on 14 October was well attended and more than 24 people left written comments in the suggestions box. These comments have been analysed by the University Team and will be taken into account as the design of the New Hall is developed.

At their meeting earlier this month the Memorial Hall Committee formally appointed Prince Architects of Liverpool to work in collaboration with Liverpool University School of Architecture to move the project forward to the next stage. The first task is to seek pre-planning advice from Shropshire Council based on the designs presented at the Consultation Event. This provides an opportunity to respond to community feedback and to discuss the proposals with Planning Officers prior to the submission of a full planning application next year. The Hall Committee have approved draft documents to be submitted to Shropshire Council later this week in connection with the pre-planning process.

Nicky Edwards

Chairman
Bucknell Memorial Hall Committee

Update 2023/4 issued 6 December 2023

I have penned a brief report for you for this evening, hope all goes well.

Nigel

Council Finances have been in the news again, with Council Leader Lezley Picton in the press very gloomy about the Council's ability to continue to fund the ever rising cost of Adult Social Care, currently taking up over 80% of its current budget. Looks as if she feels the Council is on course to find £47M of the £51M target in this financial year but rising costs mean that the Council will be faced with an extra bill for £20M just to meet its statutory duty delivering Social Care – This would mean as things stand that next year's budget is already looking at a £23M shortfall, so the Council will need to cut all but essential services to have a chance of keeping within its budgets. She does not want to issue a Section 114 notice (effective bankruptcy) although it's been considered by the Cabinet. This means that services like the £26M spent on libraries, to mention only one well regarded service, might have to go next year. All will be revealed when she publishes her forward budget plan in the next few days.

The South West Shropshire Area received another blow the other day when the new Portfolio holder for Highways, Cllr Dan Morris again refused to come down, with Snr Highways Officers, to a Joint Area meeting covering the Clun, Bishops Castle & Chirbury Divisions, planned to be held at Sparc Theatre in Bishops Castle, to tell us what Highways are doing or not doing to keep up with repairs on the roads. This was a bit of a shock, he had already refused to come out just to Clun Division, but there has never been an occasion I or my Council colleagues can recall when a Highways Portfolio holder has refused to engage with the wider community in this way. Cllr Morris says that "it's not a good use of resources". Neither I nor my colleagues feel like leaving it there, similarly the Mayor's of Bishops Castle & Clun. I understand the Mayor of Clun, Cllr Ryan Davies, is canvassing signatures amongst Parish & Town Councils for a letter of complaint to the Leader of Shropshire Council.

The Council's Tree team has been granted £12,531 for a community orchard project in Shropshire, any Parish or Town Council are now able to apply for fruit trees to create their own community orchard and further funding is available from DEFRA for landowners to plant more trees on their land (Over the last two years this scheme has supported 27 agroforestry schemes and planted a total of 14,410 trees across Shropshire).

Cllr Nigel Hartin

Clun Division