

Update on proposed village facility

July 2025

Reminder: Objectives of a village hall / facility:

- Promote activities in the village for all to ***engage, entertain and educate***
- Create a facility that is suitable for ***year-round use***
- A facility that can be ***managed realistically***, noting the size of our community and our experience of volunteer numbers. A facility to increase enjoyment – ***not become a millstone***.
- A facility that has ***a sustainable business plan***

Activity since last update

- **Legal:** Advice taken from new law firm familiar with Open Spaces. This confirms that our proposal to install a facility on the land is possible but would require a change in designation from 'Open Space' to 'Recreational Space'. Following what seems to be a reasonable process, an application would have to be made to the Secretary of State.
- **Planning:** A Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) Planning Officer has visited site and consulted with the TBC Conservation Officer (given proximity to church). Noting the history of the previous planning application approval, TBC is again supportive of the proposal, subject to usual conditions being met - including consideration about noise levels and screening.
- **Organisational proposal:** WPM owns the land and the structure with WVS responsible for organising events. Decision to go ahead, or not, rests with villagers voting at a Parish Meeting.

Reminder: There are 4 main alternative approaches:

1. Keep going with the existing Gala marquee (summer use only)
2. Build a permanent village hall (original plan / usable all year)
3. Wait until such time as the church usage changes (and run with 1. above until then)
4. Install a semi-permanent facility (usable all year)

It is felt that we can do better than alternatives 1 and that alternative 2 is no longer financially viable or necessarily appropriate for the village. Alternative 3 has an uncertain timeline and would require a very large budget to implement. Alternative 4 has the best chance of being implemented in a reasonable time period, at an affordable cost whilst still delivering a much improved facility for the village. We therefore recommend focusing on a semi-permanent facility.

Next Steps

Focusing on 2 semi -permanent facilities so we can present options

We have follow up visits planned to / from marquee companies

Attend the Showman exhibition in Autumn

Which will lead to presentation of options to the Village at WPM

Funding / current funds

Wormington Village Society already has funds available for the investment

Seek additional funding from TBC and other sources

And we have offer from Solar Farm developers (but not available until they go on stream

Timeline

We have the target of having a semi permanent facility in place by summer 2026