

finalthoughts...

I hope you enjoyed reading this first edition of 'the Village' Newsletter. There are numerous ways that you can keep up to date with progress as we enter the building stage of the project. Regular updates will be posted in the Wensum Diary and on our website (www.gwvh.org.uk). We even have our own *Facebook* page that you can access through the website. You may also like to receive information by email - over 60 people are currently receiving updates via this medium. Please send me an email if you would like to be added to the GWVH Supporters Distribution List and you can begin to receive updates as and when significant news arises. Email - chris.cate70@gmail.com.



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Feedback >>>

Please let us know if you have enjoyed this edition of *The Village* Newsletter and whether you'd like to receive further information about the Village Hall Project in this format in the future

the Newsletter

Issue 1.



Aiming High! Encouraging a new perspective on community life

There are currently 5 Trustees on the Great Witchingham Management Committee – from left to right: Chris Cate, Liz Wright, Kerry Burchinshaw, Heidi Cate and Norman Wright.



Bird's eye view: aerial perspective of the site that will become the home of Great Witchingham's new Village Hall and playground facility.



Public Notice:

Annual General Meeting

at
7.30pm
on

Thursday 6th
June 2013

at
Gt. Witchingham
Primary School,
The Street, Lenwade

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Full steam ahead!

I am delighted to inform you that on 22nd April the Village Hall Project finally received all the agreements and contracts required to start the building project! At times over the past year it has felt like we've been wading through treacle in our attempt to reach a point where each of the project stakeholders (Broadland District Council (BDC), Lovell Partnerships, Victory Housing, the Village Hall Trust and the Parish Council) can feel satisfied that their interests and obligations have been met. Anyone who has experienced moving house will appreciate how frustrating and painstakingly slow the process of signing contracts can be. Thus, reaching this stage with such a complex project is an admirable triumph for all involved! Thank you for your patience throughout the process!

It has taken the Trustees 5 years to reach today's significant milestone, however the opportunity to deliver a new community facility for our village would not have been possible without the contribution of BDC who have gifted the land to the village for the purpose of establishing the new village hall and play area. Lovell Partnerships have also contributed £500,000 to build the new modern facility which was part of the Section 106 agreement; a S106

This milestone is an admirable triumph for all involved! Agreement is a legally binding obligation for a developer (in this case Lovell's) to provide funding towards local infrastructure and is managed by the local planning authority, in our case Broadland District Council. Building work can now begin on site, commencing with the affordable housing adjacent to the existing houses in Hubbards Loke. >>>Continues page 2

the Jubilee Wood

*A project for our future,
and generations to come!*

Thanks to a lot of volunteers, including all the children and teachers at Great Witchingham Primary School, we now have a new wood registered in the Woodland Trust's Royal Record. The wood, which is on privately owned land behind the site of the

new village hall, consists of saplings of rowan, silver birch, dogwood, hazel, wild cherry and hawthorn from the Woodland Trust's Jubilee Wood project intermingled with self-sown seedlings of oak, blackthorn and wild rose.



Tree planting volunteers led by Jacky Pett (front left)

Planting started on 12th November and was completed in just six days. Around 450 trees now occupy the site, which strengthens the wildlife corridor between the Marriott's Way and Great Witchingham Common. We are extremely grateful to the landowner for enabling this project to leave a legacy for wildlife and for the community for generations to come.

Pride of place goes to an oak sapling grown on the Royal Estate at Sandringham, which is our own new Royal Oak. It will take many years to grow, as will the wild cherry trees, but the silver birch, dogwood and hazel should be standing tall within ten years.

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Once the affordable houses have been completed the focus will move towards the Open Market housing and the eagerly awaited Village Hall.

Over the next 12 months the Village Hall Trustees will concentrate our efforts on applying for funding to fully kit out the new facility. Our second objective is to attract and establish a solid base of user groups to utilize the hall upon its completion. Much progress has already been made in this respect with numerous people voicing an interest in the facility.



Architect's drawing of the new village hall.

the Playground

Children's Playground Project

Throughout the summer months of 2012 the Playground Committee asked adults, grandparents, parents of pre-school children, high school children and primary school children to complete consultation questionnaires that were designed to address the concerns of each particular group. In total 145 people completed the questionnaires. To support this evidence we also asked children attending the primary school Summer Fayre to place a sticker against their favourite item of play equipment. In total 76 children participated in the activity. The full results of our consultation have been prepared for future funding applications and are available to view.



This is a small section of the proposed new playground facility... come along to the AGM to see the full plans!

The Playground Committee invited Playdale and Wicksteed Playscapes to provide designs and quotations based on our design brief. After much deliberation the playground committee unanimously chose to progress with the Wicksteed Playscapes design which we will be unveiling to the public for the first time at the Village Hall AGM to be held at Great Witchingham

Primary School on Thursday 6th June. The children, who were so instrumental in our consultation, will get the opportunity to see the designs the following morning during the Friday assembly and during the Playgroup session that follows. We would love you to attend our AGM to see the designs first hand and to hear news of the wider Village Hall project.

*ask the playground
committee >>>*

We will be unveiling the playground design at our AGM to be held at the School on Thursday 6th June



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All residents are warmly invited to attend the AGM at which the Annual Report and Accounts will be presented and the Election of Officers will take place. Nominations for those who wish to stand for Election may be delivered to the Chairman of the Gt. Witchingham Village Hall Management Committee, 8 The Street, Lenwade, prior to the AGM.