



In 1951 a significant plot of land, one rod and thirteen perches, was gifted to Worham Parish Council by Mr. Herbert Warren. Worham Village Hall was subsequently built on this site. The Hall has and continues to provide a facility that is well used for both regular and occasional village functions. After more than seventy years of service the building is tired and in need of major repair. Several years ago the question was raised by the then Village Hall committee as to whether it was cost effective to patch up the existing building or consider the alternative solution of a new build.

The village also benefits from the Sports Pavilion which was built in 2000 with the support of Sport England and local benefactors and is owned and run by WBPC. The Pavilion faces the playing fields providing a splendid vista across the common and has the benefit of a purpose laid car park to its rear.

For the last twenty six years it has been used by a variety of sports clubs. In 2026 Worham Tennis Club and Palgrave Football Club hold current user agreements of the Pavilion with the Parish Council. A digital community survey to gather the opinions of residents on replacing the existing village hall was carried out by the Parish Council in 2022. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive to that suggestion.

It has taken some time to move this forward. At the beginning of this year we engaged a firm of architects to design an extension to the Pavilion. The brief was straightforward to design an extension to the Pavilion which will create a low carbon versatile community hub that has as a minimum equivalent meeting, catering and storage space to the current village hall.

Another key consideration is the minimisation of present and future running costs of the building. To achieve this objective solar roof panels together with battery storage units will be installed to gather energy with heat will be provided by a ground source heat pump. The ultimate objective is to create a warm or cool welcoming space that meets both the current and future needs of the Worham and Burgate communities.

Next steps are to submit a preplanning application for the proposed extension to MSDC by the end of July. A full planning application will be made no later than the beginning of September.

The ultimate aspiration of the council is to subsequently demolish the village hall and build some affordable housing for rental on that site. The properties will not be available to buy and will remain in the ownership of the village.

