

# The WiNSpace News

Issue 1 September 2020



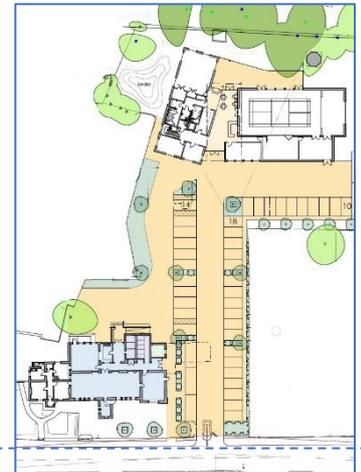
## What's this all about

Seven years ago the WCA trustees agreed to set up a development committee to look at ways to modernise the current facilities, this project was named WiNSpace (short for Winscombe New Space). The purpose of this newsletter is our way to start communicating what has and could be happening very soon. We have already created a design proposals, drafted a business plan and earmarked 25% of the likely costs

The WiNSpace project's goal is to significantly upgrade the present buildings especially the separate pre-fabricated outbuildings. These have served the Parish well for the past 40 years but no longer meet our aspirations for a modern community hub set within a Parish looking set to increase its population significantly.

### So what are the high level proposals:

- To remove all three outbuildings and replace with a new welcoming L-shaped centre that comprises two main halls as well as smaller rooms
- To retain the existing Main Building but with a focus on provision for the younger groups.
- To have flexibility in the design for future expansion (utilising additional upstairs space in the new building)



## Latest News

In early summer our Architects (B2 Architecture) produced set of proposed building and site designs including initial build costs. This allowed us to send a pack of information out to a focus group and neighbours to get early feedback. before further design refinement.



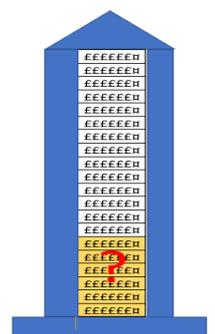
Over the summer we have been reviewing the results and are now feeding this back to the Architects.

The Trustees have recently agreed to fund an initial Bat survey this Autumn. The results from this and already completed survey work (Tree and initial ecological), will inform the next design stage.

The Trustees are now considering whether they will fund a full planning application. A major part of the decision process is studying the business plan and what is going on locally with housing developments. This will inform us what size the centre should be along with it's facilities such as hall sizes, number of halls, kitchens and storage.

## The Funding dilemma

Creating a new centre doesn't come cheap, especially if we are wanting to create something that will serve Parish generations to come and with Covid it's that little bit harder. Currently key funding sources such as Lottery and Sports England are, quite reasonably, focusing on Covid relief. We are also mindful that without a project with planning permission, funding bodies don't give out their cash easily. Disappointedly the Hinkley Point Community fund only supports projects in Somerset but we have requested funds from the National Grid. On the positive side we don't have empty pockets, already £300,000 has been allocated from the Woodborough Farm Developers and we'll obtain additional funds when we sell the headmaster house and garage. The WCA have also built up a 'sinking fund' over the years, thanks to our fund-raising team. That means we have over 25% of the project funded already but we know we have a long way to go.



**Help Needed:** Are you good at managing projects, have ideas on raising money or can help with communication, just get in touch

## In the next Issue

We want to send this newsletter out on a regular basis and with each one we hope to provide new information. In the next issue we will go into more detail about our business plans and maybe we'll have news about the next design stage.

Issued by the WiNSpace committee and WCA Trustees  
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