

SMILE

Proposal to Stoney Middleton Parish Council

For the removal of the existing structure and the laying of a concrete base in anticipation of the erection of the community building.

April 2022

Stoney Middleton Interest and Leisure Enterprise (SMILE) would like to put before Stoney Middleton Parish Council (SMPC) a proposal which we think will be beneficial for the village, the Parish Council and SMILE.

Current Situation:

The current structure on the playing field is an eyesore and is well beyond economic repair. One area of the roof has now collapsed into the right-hand side storeroom. This not only renders the current structure unfit for purpose, but it also poses a safety risk for users such as Stoney Middleton Football Club (SMFC), visiting clubs and the public who use the playing field.

SMILE is also thinking of the various large-scale events that are planned such as SMILE Village Day and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June, Well-Dressing Events such as the Fell Race, and anything that the Entertainment committee may be planning during July and the charity walk and SMFC 5-a-side tournament in August.

With warmer weather and longer days, we are aware that teenagers have previously accessed the roof of the existing structure and we cannot run the risk of an injury occurring by them falling through the very weak roof.

Our Proposal:

Our proposal, therefore, is to demolish the existing structure in a safe and controlled way. We would safely cap the existing utilities such as the electrical, mains water and mains drainage supply. This would be done by professionals and the debris will be removed according to law and seek to recycle/reuse where possible.

This would however result in not having storage for the items that are currently stored in the structure such as the SMFC equipment and SMILE marquees and gazebo.

For this reason, we propose that we take the opportunity to lay the foundations for the entire community building since by removing the current structure we would have the space to do this and we would have equipment on site which could be adapted to dig the foundations.

During this time we would ensure that the necessary waste pipes and utilities were in the right place, that the radon barrier and sump were installed.

Benefits:

The benefits of this approach would be that

The area would be rendered safe.

The foundations for the community building would be in place.

The flat and level surface would not present any trip hazards to users.

There would not be any unsightly or unsafe unfinished structures.

Until such time as construction of the community building starts, the area would accommodate new storage unit(s) such as shipping containers or similar (subject to necessary permissions from Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and from SMPC

The container(s) will be for the items mentioned above which are stored in the current structure and could also possibly, accommodate Well Dressing equipment.

Until such time as work to the community building starts, the base could be used for village events to erect marquees, for a stage, for catering stands and would provide a level base for those with mobility issues which has been an issue we have encountered previously during village days with grass.

What if?

Should the community building never go ahead the concrete base will not be a financial burden to SMPC.

It will not need any maintenance and could be overlaid with turf if necessary.

It could be rented out to a mobile catering unit to bring income which could pay for the upkeep of the playing field.

It could be used as a safe base for the installation of adult gym equipment,

It could continue to house the containers.

There would be no need to dig out the foundations if the project did not go ahead.

In conclusion:

We believe that the laying of the foundations will give new impetus to the community building project as it would give villagers confidence to come forward to help push the project towards completion.

By laying the foundations, using professionals where necessary and local volunteer labour we are seeking to stretch our money to minimise the amount we would need to ask to finish the build in due course.

The current volatile market for building materials and increasing inflation is cutting the buying power of the money we have collected so far so we believe it is wise to start this project and with careful budgetary planning and manpower resourcing by the project team we believe that an agreed phased construction plan is the way forward.

We hope that the councillors will vote to accept the proposal for SMILE to start with the laying of the foundations.

Thank you

Allen Hodgkinson

Chair Stoney Middleton Interest and Leisure Enterprise.