



The Old Village Hall/Equipment Store Project and the Molly Ritchie Fund

In order to give a fuller background to the project and prepare for the EGM on 11th June this paper gives a reminder of the main reasons and results of discussions that were held leading to the start of the project and why the DCA committee believe using these funds would be a benefit to the community.

Community Support

At the 2017 and 2022 community engagement, the top priorities were: Demolish the village hall: 102 votes. And replace it with a community equipment store: 65 votes.

Letters of support for the project have been received from:

- Fete and Games group
- Market on the Green group
- Dirleton Primary school
- Dirleton Good Neighbours
- The Bowling Club
- The North Berwick Coastal Area Partnership
- The Gullane Area Community Council
- The Council Resilience officer

Why does the village need a store?

- The community gazebos, generator, Christmas lights, watering bowser and other equipment are all stored in the homes of generous individuals. This is not a secure, permanent or convenient arrangement, as the situation can always change at short notice. Finding new homes for new equipment will be difficult.
- It would provide a central store for bags of grit and snow clearing equipment, allowing our winter resilience team to clear more paths and drives before the Council gritters can reach us after snowfalls - this would be particularly helpful for the elderly and vulnerable who are prone to falls.
- The school has no playing field for sports and school sports day, but has to use the main Green. That means carrying the goals and other equipment up and down the hill for every event. The store would be closer to the main Green. It would enable the school to better deliver the physical exercise aspects of the Scottish Curriculum. The school could also be involved in the landscaping. They could help with the planting, install insect hotels and perhaps bird nesting boxes with cameras.



Dirleton Community Association Briefing on Old Village Hall Project



What would the project give us?

- It would demolish the unsafe, derelict, ugly hall which contains asbestos.
- It would give us an equipment store for all to use.
- It would place the land in community ownership.

Funding and Grants

Applications have been submitted to the following funds:

- The East Lothian Council Community Intervention Fund
- The Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Fund
- The North Berwick Community Area Partnership Fund
- The Gullane Area Community Council Priority Fund

No other public funds are available at this time.

The proposal

The current proposal is to demolish the Old Village Hall and then site storage on the West end of the plot. It is proposed that this will be surrounded by screening and planting to give an aesthetic that both blends in with the environment and supports nature and ecology of the area. This leaves a section of the plot at the East end available for future ecology and horticulture at a later date.

With the pledges we have secured to date and if the bids we have made are fulfilled then we are only able to site one container on the land without any screening or immediate planting.

If the rest of the Molly Ritchie bequest is able to be used, then with slight funding changes we would be able to fulfil the original proposal and site two containers with screening and immediate planting.

Site as it exists



The Proposed Site

