

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## A Feasibility study

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# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 1.0 Situation

Approval was gained in early 2004, from the Aston Abbotts Parish Council, to produce a study of the merits of developing a new Village Centre for Aston Abbotts, to supplement the meagre accommodation afforded by the current Church Room.

In a series of meetings and discussions information has been gathered to allow this feasibility study to be completed

## 2.0 Feasibility

In simple terms **this is a feasible project** because of the following 14 reasons, **and**, it is strongly suggested that the village **should go ahead** with the scheme.

- An ideal proposed site ,owned by the village
- A strong indicated underlying need.
- Proven village fund raising ability
- All agencies that have been approached have welcomed and supported the building of a new Village Centre
- The planning authorities have indicated that they would support this proposal
- There appears to be a strong consensus with Parishioners to move the village leisure facilities forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- This project would benefit the village for years to come
- This project would benefit and include a greater number of the villagers than the current facility
- It would reverse the trends of village amenities disappearing
- It would maximize the sociability of the village for all
- It would bring to the village for residents and newcomers, as growth is inevitable, ultimately reflected in property values.
- It would encourage more residents to get involved and organise their own activities.
- The project would create a Village Centre large enough to house over 1/3rd of the residents instead of under 1/6<sup>th</sup> at present
- All of the criteria needed to create a Village Centre are outlined in this document.

However, and critically, it does depend on the '**Village will**'

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## 3.0 Location

Although other sites have been investigated with the Planning authorities the only one suitable, and available, is the Recreation Ground. The proposal would be to use a small section in the far left corner when looked from the entrance gate; Standing where the utility shed is today.

The main hall would be approx. 22 m long and 10 m wide with a further area for toilets, reception and meeting room of approx. 10 m X 10 m. These estimates are based on the Quanton model. Copies of elevations are included in appendix 6 and 7.

It would be large enough to house 120 to 130 people.

The distance between the far hedge boundary and the nearest bungalow was estimated in excess of 90 m.

## 4.0 What criteria do we need to fulfil?

These are the typically the questions asked by fund giving agencies to establish credentials and commitments

### **4.1 Question**

- Does the project benefits and support the community:

### **4.1 Answers**

- By providing facilities which can be used by younger age groups
- Provides a sporting facility which would be used by newly created groups, teams and individuals
- Increasing the variety of events and activities
- Provide added facilities , such as a Doctor's surgery
- Provide for the future community since the current residential developments are targeting families.
- Provides a positive focus for children's activities and a distraction from less desirable pastimes.
- Provide a convivial daytime meeting place for the elder village residents.

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## 4.2 Question

- Does it have the support of the community

## 4.2 Answers

- Soundings in the village indicate large scale support
- Articles in the Chronicle ( the monthly village newspaper) have produced almost no negative comment and have produced positive reactions and a willingness to support and assist the new Village Centre development.
- It is proposed to hold an Open Meeting in January 2005 where the sole subject would be to confirm whether there is the 'Village will' and commitment to make this project happen.
- An open ended group of volunteers have so far indicated that they would be prepared to offer what input and support they can.

## 4.3 Question

- To what extent have we have consulted with our local community

## 4.3 Answers

- There have been regular updates at Parish Council meetings
- There was a presentation at the 2004 Village Meeting
- There have been frequent articles in the Chronicle
- It has been the subject of much group and one on one discussion
- Overall there is a clear intent to involve the village in an open decision process via the Chronicle, the open meeting and even house to house questionnaires for those that cannot attend.
- In December 2004 an information sheet detailing the project will be delivered to every household.

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## 4.4 Question

- What number of people will directly benefit from the project?

## 4.4 Answers

- A considerable proportion, since the current hall only is used , in the main, by the over 55 age group
- The village population is some 400 people and we estimate that at least 200 to 250 could be involved at some event or other
- The current hall is only mainly used by 3 groups and a very small number of people
- Other groups will form and other events will be created by the sheer presence of the facility.

## 5.0 Village commitment

5.1 We need to show to the funding agencies that

- The Village Centre is a viable project
- That it is well planned and well thought out
- Our group is capable of managing it successfully.
- There is financial sustainability of the project on an on-going basis

5.2 To do this we would need to :

- ✓ set up a series of management teams
  - Ø To guide the process
  - Ø To action the programme
  - Ø To act on the advice given
- ✓ To simply show that we do have the '**Village will**' to make it succeed.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 6.0 Funding

### 6.1 What funds do we need to raise

At today's prices the basic cost of construction, including all associated fees would be around £300,000. If the fund raising programme delayed the build by 4 to 5 years then this could be £ 400,000

This costing is based on a 'bells and whistles' specification and does not take into account any cost reduction effected by volunteer teams

### 6.2 How would we raise that?

Below, in the appendix is a list of many agencies that specialise in assisted fund raising for projects such as ours.

We would need to make a suitable application for funding. (Lottery funding advice in the appendix)

We would be expected to raise a proportion of the total sum. The best estimate at the moment would be some £60,000.

**We have a golden opportunity, in that the Czech Government could be approached to fund some or all of the cost as a mark of the 60 year anniversary and their association with the village.**

There are a variety of ways in which we could receive funding for sports clubs, sports activities and training. (These are shown in the appendix)

### 6.3 How long would it take to build?

This more depends on the speed of raising funds that the actual build time. The build phase would be 6 to 9 months; the planning procedure would take 2-3 months, so less than 1 year from the time we decide we are sufficiently funded.

A significant factor over other local schemes is that the village owns the land. This has been the cause of lengthy delays in other cases.

A covenant in favour of AVDC and the sporting use of the Recreation Ground would have to be modified. Bearing in mind the support we are receiving from AVDC for the venture then this is expected to be a formality.

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## 7.0 Specification and Detail

### 7.1 What is it we want to build?

Our basic model , for discussion only, is the Quainton Hall development. There are drawings of the Quainton Hall attached in both appendix 6 and 7. (Kind permission of George Stoby Associates)

For us to get the project to a drawing stage, as per Quainton, would cost £ 8000, therefore, for the moment we are using the Quainton model only as our discussion point. Consequently, we are not incurring the cost.

A further set of drawings of an initial scheme are being completed by a villager, Bill Mazzeta. These outline what such a scheme could incorporate. Andy Bystra is producing an 'Artist's impression' of the building in location so that Villagers can see and relate to the proposed addition to village facilities. These are expected to be available for the Village open meeting. The fundamental size of the main hall is a Badminton court.

In addition, there would be a demountable stage at one end and a mezzanine platform for a sound and lighting area at the other.

There would be a meeting room, which could double as a tea/ coffee lounge for daytime use. Toilet and cloakroom facilities would be installed, as well as a storage room. Heating would be by gas. The whole construction would be in tile and brick to fit in with the village-scape.

Some discussion has been had as to whether facilities for a day doctor's surgery could be built in for the 2 doctor's practices that service the village. Other ideas of extended use are being sought from Villagers

### 7.2 Parking and Access

Regulation say there should be a certain number of parking spaces in ratio to the maximum number of users. (Probably 30)

Access to the car park should be controlled to persons using the Centre for an event, thus avoiding the space being used for casual parking by village residents and others. This would also control any perceived nuisance factor of car access.

The Aylesbury Road's engineer has been involved in the discussion and foresees no problem with access

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## 7.3 Nuisance Factor

The site chosen is ideally screened on 2 sides and both the Planning authorities and the Architect consider that it is far enough away from the bungalows to cause little or no disturbance, Further screening could be put in place on the southern and western edge of the plot and the whole scheme should be landscaped to soften the visual impact.

Excavated soil could be used to form a bund or mound type landscaping, thus enhancing the screening.

However, it would only be fair to assume that on 1 or 2 nights per year some event may cause some form of nuisance.

## 8.0 Organisation

### 8.1 How would we organise ourselves to do this?

We would need to set the whole project up as a 'Not for Profit' trust, which is one of the requirements of the Funding providers

We would need 3 basic teams

1. Funding team
2. Building team
3. Activities team

We also need one further body that is responsible for the running of all the Leisure facilities in the village

We have held discussions with the Aston Abbotts Church Room Committee to ensure there is no conflict of interest and no misunderstanding which may lead to a competitive situation

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 9.0 Contact with Key Agencies

We have talked to a number of agencies that can and will help us. These agencies are key to making this project a success. Below are some extracts of the help and guidance that can be provided.

### 9.1 Planning

Discussions and site visits were held with Mark Auchterlony, the chief Planning Officer for AVDC. Of the sites he was shown the site on the Recreation Ground was thought by him to be the best and was mentioned as ideal

Mr Auchterlony would support a planning proposal based on the Recreation Ground. He would issue a letter of support to the whole Village Centre project when making a proposal for funding ahead a formal planning application.

He considered that the process of formal planning application would take 2-3 months only.

### 9.2 Roads Engineer

The AVDC Roads Engineer saw no problems with the Recreation Ground site or access to the site. He was specific about the number of car parking spaces and the type of surface to be used for car parks

### 9.3 Architect

One Architect has been seen so far (George Stobie). He has been responsible for the design of the Quainton project. On inspecting the Recreation Ground site he declared it to be ideal and was pleased that it was far enough away from the bungalows to minimise any disturbance.

Mr. Stobie assumed it would take at least 4 years to raise sufficient funds to start the build programme and therefore he was forecasting a build cost of £400,000 at 2009/10 prices

He also quoted that to bring this project to a working drawing stage would cost £8000

Currently we are talking to other architects to get a competitive position

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## 9.4 Aylesbury Leisure (AL)

Aylesbury Leisure are an AVDC unit responsible for providing facilities to population groups. As such Aston Abbotts is grouped with Wingrave and Cublington in what is termed as a 'Cluster'

Each cluster is assigned a wish list of facilities including a fixed football field (Wingrave) and a cricket pitch (Cublington)

Missing from the current list for our 'cluster' is a Badminton hall, as well as other such desirables as a swimming pool.

AL will support the build of hall that could be used for badminton, both with funds and by positive use in terms of creating tournaments or ladders

Equally, any external sports surfaces such as that of the car park could be used for Netball or handball and these would be supported as well

## 9.4 Bucks Community Action (BCA)

BCA support the building of new Village Centres. They advise on how such a building should look to fit in with the village environment.

They also will write the official proposal in 'lottery speak' which goes to the National Lottery to gain the necessary funds.

They will also supply advice on many other aspects such as

- Loan Schemes
- Rate relief and VAT
- Hiring agreements
- Designing and Building
- Funding
- Licensing

Managing a village hall or community centre demands a wide range of skills and information to meet the ever-changing requirements set by local authority and national legislation.

BCA can provide village hall and community centre management teams throughout Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes with advice and guidance on all aspects of management, maintenance and usage.

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BCA has a Village Halls Adviser who can support and guide hall management teams through complex issues such as refurbishment projects, trustee's responsibilities, charity registration or funding applications. Their Village Halls Adviser also provides general up-to-date information through newsletters, information booklets and local meetings, keeping management committees in touch with the very latest developments in hall management.

Whether we are seeking to raise money for an extension, require a new constitution or need to clarify recent legislation affecting halls, the Village Halls Adviser at Buckinghamshire Community Action can help us.

### 10.0 Suggested Phase 1 Action Plan and TimeLine

	Event	Expected result
Date	Presentation of Feasibility Study to Parish Council meeting	Outline approval and acceptance
December 2004	Provide outline of the scheme to every household by providing a 1 page synopsis Publish a more detailed article in the Chronicle	Increased awareness
January 2005	Open meeting in Church Room	Decision as to whether there is a 'Village Will' Commitment to Project
Jan thro	Inform the village of the outcome	
March 2005	Lobby villagers to be involved	
	Set up Management teams	
	Brief Planning authorities	
	Brief fund raising agencies	
	Brief Architect and obtain competitive quotes	
	Advise AVDC of change of terms of Covenant	
	Produce a detailed planning document	

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## 11.0 Other Villages

Other villages have experienced the same issues and problems that we would have to face in the construction of a Village Centre

There is experience and knowledge that we can use to make our project that little bit easier.

Once our management teams are in place then visits to these sites and their teams can be arranged.

### 11.1 Quinton

The experience here is to get the organisation and commitment right in the first place

They have 2 teams

- ✓ A build team
- ✓ A fund raising team

They have a Building Project manager within the village so his experience has been used to good use.

Proposals for funding failed initially because they were not written in 'Lottery Speak'. Bucks Community Action will undertake the writing of such proposals.

They are happy to supply us with further advice and insight.

Other Villages with new halls

**11.2 Lacy Green**

**11.3 Marsworth**

**11.4 Cublington**

**11.5 Great Brickhill**

Contact : David Middleton Phone 01525 261024

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix : 1 Grants

### **Minor Grants**

AL has a funding scheme available to constituted sport and recreational clubs in Aylesbury Vale to assist with equipment and facilities. Projects for grants should cost between £500 - £2000 with applicants showing some additional fundraising efforts.

### Grants Aylesbury Vale District Council

If we require help to apply for a grant call (01296) 585221 or email: [sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk).

#### **What projects will be funded?**

Any application is assessed on its merits but projects should come within the following categories:

- New Leisure Initiatives in the Community - Grants for community based activities as well as first-time grants for new applicants.
- Established Organisation + Activity - Grants to well established.

They will consider our application taking into account activities that are already available in Aylesbury Vale and where gaps in provision can be met by imaginative and flexible projects.

Their grant programmes operate on a discretionary basis and are therefore dependant on levels of available finance.

#### **Who can apply?**

Any group or Organisation can apply provided that:

- The group is fully constituted and holds a bank account requiring at least two signatories. Help is available to any group who may need advice on constitutional matters.
- It is non profit making and operates with no undue restrictions on membership (or, in the case of specific events, that such events are open to the whole community).
- It operates within the District of Aylesbury Vale and for the benefit of either residents or visitors to the area.
- It can show the need for financial assistance.
- You can provide at least 50% of the total cost of the project, either from other grants or from your own resources.

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## How much you can apply for

The maximum grant is usually no more than 50% of the total project cost. We must provide the rest from our own funds and from other sources. They do not operate a system of minimum and maximum amounts.

As well as providing finance, they also offer an advisory service about other sources of funding. Because they are unlikely to exceed 50% of any project's cost, this service can often be as valuable as our grant. They are happy to talk through our project with us in its entirety and we are urged to make use of this service.

## How to apply

We can make an application by contacting the grants officer.

**Write to:** Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Exchange Street Offices  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UB

**Telephone:** 01296 585186

**Email:** [grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

## Typical Grants that have been made 2004

ORGANISATION	LEVEL OF GRANT
Age Concern Bucks	£18,370
Aylesbury & District Citizens Advice Bureau	£74,800
Aylesbury Women's Aid	£24,586
Aylesbury Vale Multi Cultural Centre	£13,400
Aylesbury Vale Arts Council	£25,000
Aylesbury Vale Joint Sports Council	£23,650
Aylesbury Vale Play Association	£27,750
Aylesbury Youth Concern (The Uptown Coffee Bar)	£13,800
Aylesbury Youth Action	£10,877
Aylesbury Vale Racial Equality Council	£31,436
Aylesbury Dial a Ride	£61,759

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Bucks Association for Mental Health (The Dover Centre)	£8,478
Buckinghamshire Community Action (BCA)	£8,000
Buckingham, Winslow & District Citizen's Advice Bureau	£56,159
Maxwell Swimming Club	£8,000
Meals on Wheels/Elderly Persons Luncheon Clubs	£10,200
The Guttman Centre (Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium)	£38,000
Queens Park Arts Centre	£21,120
Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Association	£19,900
Southcourt & Walton Court Community Project	£11,850
Relate, Mid-Thames & Buckinghamshire	£12,051
Vale of Aylesbury Athletics Club	£8,000
Vale Volunteers	£7,962
Walton Court Community Association	£13,150

### **Always speak to the grants officer**

Initially we should discuss our application with their grants officer or a relevant officer from Leisure, who will help with our application so that our project moves along as quickly and as smoothly as possible. Capital projects often require planning permission so we will need to contact Planning (as we have already)

### **How our project will be assessed**

Our application will be considered by a panel of councilors who will make a recommendation to the relevant cabinet member. Decisions will be based on a range of criteria, the main items of which are;

- The need for AL support: how vital AL support is to the success of the project? Is the project likely to proceed without AL involvement? If there appears to be other ways in which the necessary monies can be raised, we are unlikely to give a grant.
- Contributing to their strategic objectives; their strategic objectives are outlined on the application form and we are asked to identify how our project assists in the delivery of these aims. This is a key part of the panel's deliberations and we are advised to reflect carefully over this.
- Benefits to, and support of, the community: We will need to show the extent to which we have consulted with your local community and the support that exists for the project. This also includes the number of people who will directly benefit from the project.

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- Project viability: Our application is more likely to win support if we can show that it is well planned and that our group is capable of managing it successfully. This includes the financial sustainability of the project on an on-going basis (i.e. provision for maintenance of a capital item).
- Evidence of 'self-help': The panel will look more favourably on those organisations who display evidence of fund-raising in the community. This can also include the provision of labour and other 'in-kind' support.

### When a Grant is approved

Once a grant is approved there are some important points to note:

- We will be asked to sign an 'acceptance of grant' form which outlines the purposes for which money is awarded. Projects will then be monitored by setting some basic targets following negotiation with us, prior to the project taking place. This may be followed by regular reports and meetings to enable these targets to be met. Targets and monitoring are not set by a single standard but by a set of varied standards which reflect the appropriate aims and objectives of the applicant and of the council.
- Under normal circumstances, any offer of a grant needs to be claimed within six months of confirmation. If circumstances occur that may unduly delay our project, contact them and they will negotiate as to the best way to proceed.
- We may be expected to participate in schemes that they operate, particularly their 'Passport to Leisure' and young people's holiday activities programmes. Any such conditions will be agreed with us in advance and built into the 'acceptance of grant' form that we will be expected to sign.
- The grants officer should be informed continually of the progress of our project. Other officers may be consulted freely at any time.
- Their support should be recognised by our organisation by the inclusion of their logo on any publicity material.
- They aim to ensure quality of service through all activities and grant aided organisations are expected to reflect this.
- The purpose for which a grant has been awarded can't be changed without prior approval from them.
- All projects should be completed and grant aid paid by the last day of the financial year of the approval. Stage payments can be arranged if agreed with the grants officer prior to the commencement of the scheme.

### Grants deadlines for 2004

They offer a range of grants to support community projects across the Vale. The following deadlines for applications have been confirmed for this year and are used here as an example of what has happened in 2004

<b>Date of grants panel meeting</b>	<b>Deadline for applications</b>	<b>Anticipated decision date</b>
Thursday 6 May	Friday 23 April	Monday 7 June

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Monday 12 July	Friday 25 June	Monday 9 August
Monday 13 September	Friday 27 August	Monday 11 October
Monday 8 November	Friday 22 October	Monday 6 December

The Grants Panel makes a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community Matters who then makes the decision.

Once the decision has been made, it is subject to standard Scrutiny procedures which take approximately 5 weeks, hence the period between the Grants Panel meeting and the confirmed decision. Applicants can, however, ask to be advised of the provisional decision after the Panel meeting.

The Scrutiny process also acts as the appeals procedure for any applicant

### **Other Grant Providers**

A Villager has reported that Shanks, the Landfill Operator, is offering financial support to projects such as this as part of their "Goodwill in the Community " ( My words)

It is thought they are obliged by the terms of their landfill licence to seek such community projects.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix : 2 Funding Advice Service

### Introduction

The aim of the Funding Advice Service is to help charitable and voluntary organisations to raise funds more effectively by giving them information and practical guidance.

Buckinghamshire Community Action has a Funding Advice Officer who provides advice for organisations seeking grants and funds.

There are numerous sources of funds available to voluntary and community groups. The aim of the Funding Advice Service is to match sources of funds to potential recipients in the County.

*"Until a year or so ago, I had never heard of 'FunderFinder', computerised information on grant making trusts."*

*"Working as adult facilitator for the Chesham Youth Council and with BCA's help, we were able to identify a number of organisations whose aims and objectives matched the criteria for the provision of a multi-play facility for young people in Chesham."*

*"While no system has yet been written capable of completing a grant application form FunderFinder narrows down the field."*

*Clerk of the Council, Chesham Town Council*

### BCA Resources

- A computer database called FunderFinder and the Trusts Guide with detailed information about grant making trusts.
- Information on applications for Lottery Funding.
- Information about other locally available funding sources.
- Details of 'one-off' grant schemes.
- A library of reference books on funding sources, application techniques and other related subjects. Some of these books may be borrowed for a short time.
- Training events and seminars.

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## Appendix 3 : Sites of Related Interest and Funding Opportunities

### Sport England

This is another body which will support such development action when associated with a recognised sporting activity

Sport England is an organisation committed to creating opportunities for people to start in sport, stay in sport and succeed in sport.

They provide the strategic lead for sport in England and are responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives.

They believe sport has the power to change people's lives

### **Criteria**

Priority for funding will be given to projects that

- Increase participation for priority groups (older people, those on a low income, those with a disability, girls and women, black and minority ethnic groups and young people)
- Make the greatest contribution towards regional priority policies
- It is unlikely that large requests for a single grant award over £400,000 will be funded
- It is unlikely that projects requesting less than £50,000 for capital and £30,000 for revenue will be funded
- Revenue projects will normally receive a maximum of three years phased funding and must be supported by a robust business plan that includes provision for sustainability
- All projects should demonstrate how sustainability has been addressed both from a project development and business-planning viewpoint as well as an environmental impact
- It is unlikely that projects that have received previous funding will be considered again for an award, however revenue support may be considered for a previously funded project that can demonstrate sufficient need

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- Capital projects must demonstrate security of tenure as freehold (registered title to the property) or leasehold with a minimum period of 21 years
- Projects must demonstrate they have a developed active child protection policy in place and this applies also to any other clubs/organisations/coaches anticipated or likely to use the facility being funded
- Projects will be encouraged to work towards achieving good practice accreditation such as Clubmark, Quest, and Investors in People
- All projects must be innovative in their approach including for example multi-purpose use or multi-activity and produce solutions that increase participation among all sections of society, in particular reaching those who don't normally take part
- It is unlikely that projects with Football as the primary activity will be considered. Applications for Football will be directed to the Football Foundation

### **Who can apply?**

Requests from community organisations or charities and not-for-profit trusts that are properly constituted in accordance with Sport England guidance will be considered.

Requests from local authorities and other statutory agencies will also be considered providing there is robust evidence of partnership working and they are able to demonstrate the fund is not replacing existing or statutory funding.

### **South east funding rounds**

You can make initial enquiries about funding at any time and we can help you decide whether or not it is worth making a full application.

The regional sports board will manage the award process and meet on a quarterly basis to assess full applications in the following months:

March, June, September, December

It is unlikely that applications received less than 12 weeks prior to a

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Regional Sports Board meeting date will be considered at that meeting.

We recommend that you consider the extent to which your project will help achieve our Regional Policy Priorities before applying.

Applicants are reminded that the outcomes are as follows:

- Improving levels of performance
- Increasing participation in sport and active recreation
- Widening access
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Creating stronger and safer communities
- Improving education
- Benefiting the economy

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## Appendix 4 : Other web sites

This is a collection of web sites that can be of great use to the management teams whenever they are set up to develop the Aston Abbotts Village Centre

<http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/>

[www.bucks-comm-action.org.uk/](http://www.bucks-comm-action.org.uk/)

[http://www.acre.org.uk/Member\\_Services.htm](http://www.acre.org.uk/Member_Services.htm)

<http://www.sportengland.org/>

<http://www.fundinginformation.org/>

<http://www.funderfinder.org.uk/>

<http://www.grantfinder.co.uk/>

<http://www.fundraising.co.uk/>

<http://www.sbbc.co.uk/>

<http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/>

<http://www.community-fund.org.uk/>

<http://www.community-fund.org.uk/>

<http://www.fundersonline.org/>

[sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

<http://www.activesportsbucks.co.uk/sports/netball/index.cfm>

[sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

[grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

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## Appendix 5 : Original Thought Process and justification for the Project

The following is the presentation made to justify the start of the Aston Abbotts Village Centre project

### Existing Church Room

What we have now

- Currently have a Church room
- Built in 1898 for a rural population
- Owned by the Church Commissioners
- Difficulties transferring lease
- Licensed for 60 people
- Decrepit and unwelcoming, in spite of a new paint job
- 1 toilet, no handicapped entrance
- No one wants to take 'personal liability' for the conditions of the lease
- In danger of being closed because of failure to meet legal requirements

Who uses the Church Room?

- Used mostly by 55 plus years group
- No Young groups
- No sporting context
- 65% used by
  - Ladies Group
  - Parish Council
  - Bingo/Whist

There is no proactive use of the facilities

The conclusion here can only be that the current facilities are failing the community

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Our conclusion

- New facility needed
- More involvement of a higher portion of the village
- Wider event type
- Some sporting context
- Greater frequency of use
- More regular users
- Find other uses such as a part time doctor's surgery

What are the basic needs of a Village Centre?

- Something modern, clean and welcoming
- Needs to be as central as possible
- Sporting facility
- Hold up to 120 people
- Dismountable stage with lights and sound
- Fully equipped kitchen and bar area
- Car parking /outside hard surface sports area
- Ancillary rooms as well as main hall

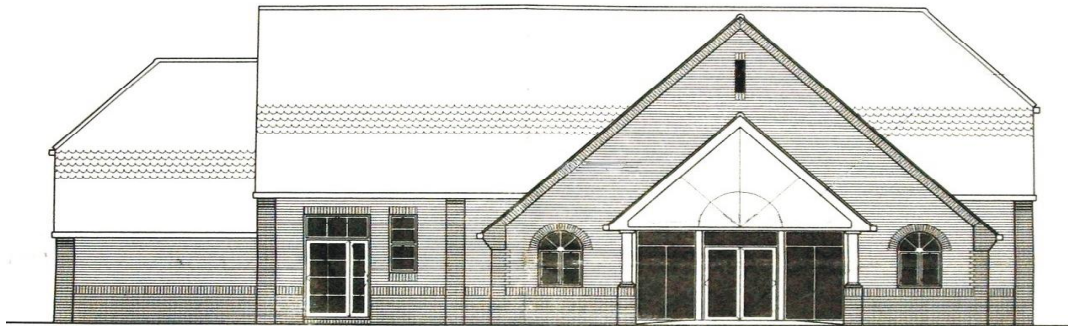
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# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

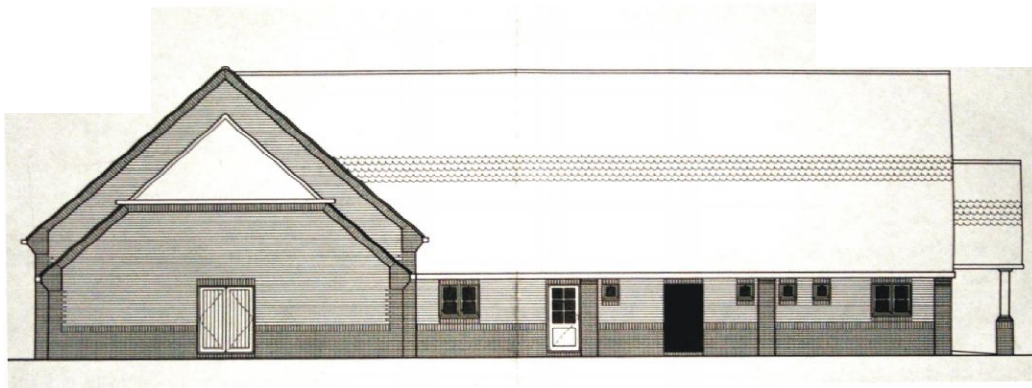
## Appendix 6

(Thanks to George Stobie Associates)

## The New Quanton Memorial Hall



3 Elevations



11  
1.

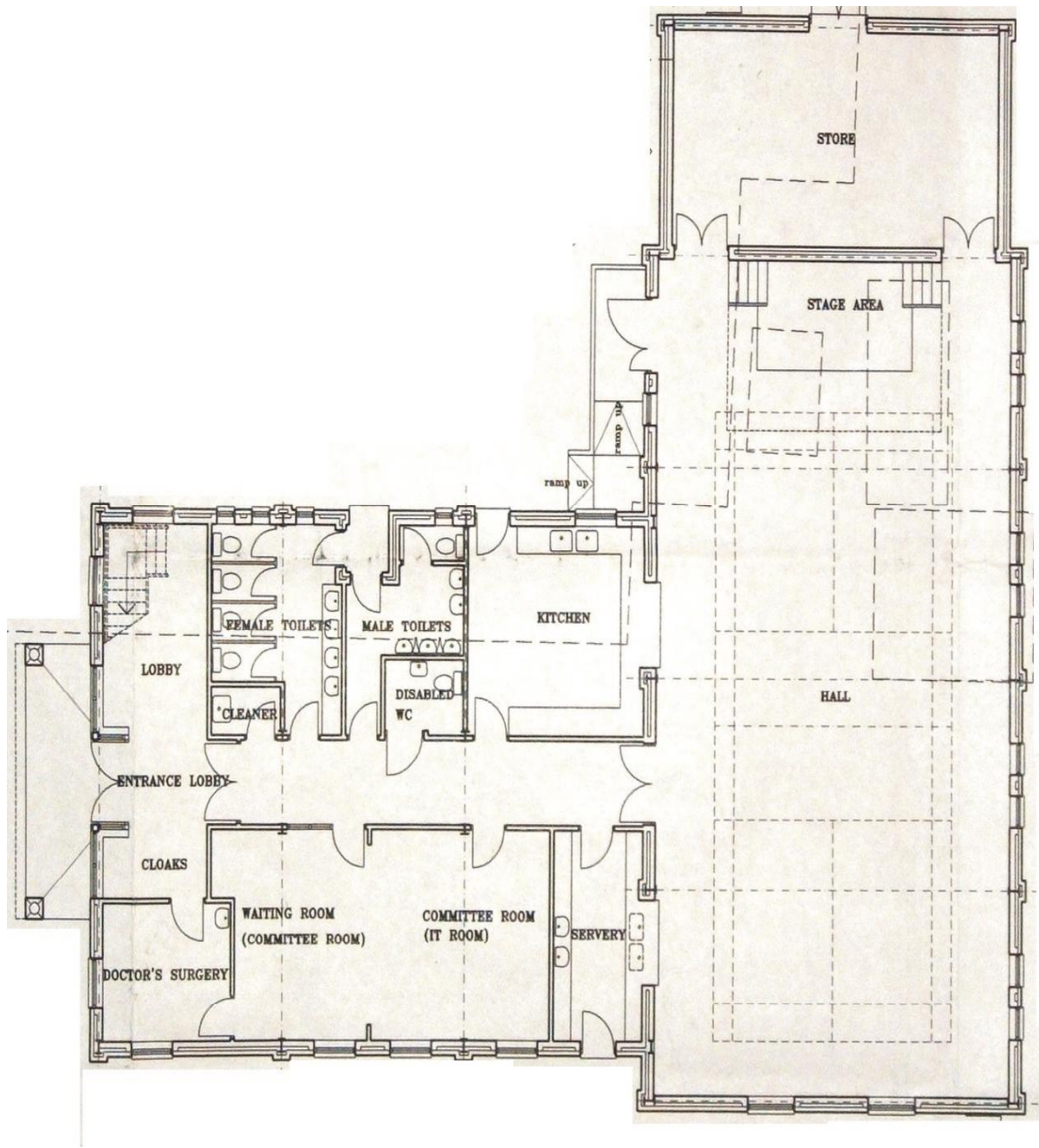


# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix 7

### Floor layout - Quinton Project

(Thanks to George Stobie Associates)



# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## A Feasibility study

By Neil Chesher and Simon Gresswell

November 2004

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# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 1.0 Situation

Approval was gained in early 2004, from the Aston Abbotts Parish Council, to produce a study of the merits of developing a new Village Centre for Aston Abbotts, to supplement the meagre accommodation afforded by the current Church Room.

In a series of meetings and discussions information has been gathered to allow this feasibility study to be completed

## 2.0 Feasibility

In simple terms **this is a feasible project** because of the following 14 reasons, **and**, it is strongly suggested that the village **should go ahead** with the scheme.

- An ideal proposed site ,owned by the village
- A strong indicated underlying need.
- Proven village fund raising ability
- All agencies that have been approached have welcomed and supported the building of a new Village Centre
- The planning authorities have indicated that they would support this proposal
- There appears to be a strong consensus with Parishioners to move the village leisure facilities forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- This project would benefit the village for years to come
- This project would benefit and include a greater number of the villagers than the current facility
- It would reverse the trends of village amenities disappearing
- It would maximize the sociability of the village for all
- It would bring to the village for residents and newcomers, as growth is inevitable, ultimately reflected in property values.
- It would encourage more residents to get involved and organise their own activities.
- The project would create a Village Centre large enough to house over 1/3rd of the residents instead of under 1/6<sup>th</sup> at present
- All of the criteria needed to create a Village Centre are outlined in this document.

However, and critically, it does depend on the '**Village will**'

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 3.0 Location

Although other sites have been investigated with the Planning authorities the only one suitable, and available, is the Recreation Ground. The proposal would be to use a small section in the far left corner when looked from the entrance gate; Standing where the utility shed is today.

The main hall would be approx. 22 m long and 10 m wide with a further area for toilets, reception and meeting room of approx. 10 m X 10 m. These estimates are based on the Quanton model. Copies of elevations are included in appendix 6 and 7.

It would be large enough to house 120 to 130 people.

The distance between the far hedge boundary and the nearest bungalow was estimated in excess of 90 m.

## 4.0 What criteria do we need to fulfil?

These are the typically the questions asked by fund giving agencies to establish credentials and commitments

### **4.1 Question**

- Does the project benefits and support the community:

### **4.1 Answers**

- By providing facilities which can be used by younger age groups
- Provides a sporting facility which would be used by newly created groups, teams and individuals
- Increasing the variety of events and activities
- Provide added facilities , such as a Doctor's surgery
- Provide for the future community since the current residential developments are targeting families.
- Provides a positive focus for children's activities and a distraction from less desirable pastimes.
- Provide a convivial daytime meeting place for the elder village residents.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 4.2 Question

- Does it have the support of the community

## 4.2 Answers

- Soundings in the village indicate large scale support
- Articles in the Chronicle ( the monthly village newspaper) have produced almost no negative comment and have produced positive reactions and a willingness to support and assist the new Village Centre development.
- It is proposed to hold an Open Meeting in January 2005 where the sole subject would be to confirm whether there is the 'Village will' and commitment to make this project happen.
- An open ended group of volunteers have so far indicated that they would be prepared to offer what input and support they can.

## 4.3 Question

- To what extent have we have consulted with our local community

## 4.3 Answers

- There have been regular updates at Parish Council meetings
- There was a presentation at the 2004 Village Meeting
- There have been frequent articles in the Chronicle
- It has been the subject of much group and one on one discussion
- Overall there is a clear intent to involve the village in an open decision process via the Chronicle, the open meeting and even house to house questionnaires for those that cannot attend.
- In December 2004 an information sheet detailing the project will be delivered to every household.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 4.4 Question

- What number of people will directly benefit from the project?

## 4.4 Answers

- A considerable proportion, since the current hall only is used , in the main, by the over 55 age group
- The village population is some 400 people and we estimate that at least 200 to 250 could be involved at some event or other
- The current hall is only mainly used by 3 groups and a very small number of people
- Other groups will form and other events will be created by the sheer presence of the facility.

## 5.0 Village commitment

5.1 We need to show to the funding agencies that

- The Village Centre is a viable project
- That it is well planned and well thought out
- Our group is capable of managing it successfully.
- There is financial sustainability of the project on an on-going basis

5.2 To do this we would need to :

- ✓ set up a series of management teams
  - Ø To guide the process
  - Ø To action the programme
  - Ø To act on the advice given
- ✓ To simply show that we do have the '**Village will**' to make it succeed.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 6.0 Funding

### 6.1 What funds do we need to raise

At today's prices the basic cost of construction, including all associated fees would be around £300,000. If the fund raising programme delayed the build by 4 to 5 years then this could be £ 400,000

This costing is based on a 'bells and whistles' specification and does not take into account any cost reduction effected by volunteer teams

### 6.2 How would we raise that?

Below, in the appendix is a list of many agencies that specialise in assisted fund raising for projects such as ours.

We would need to make a suitable application for funding. (Lottery funding advice in the appendix)

We would be expected to raise a proportion of the total sum. The best estimate at the moment would be some £60,000.

There are a variety of ways in which we could receive funding for sports clubs, sports activities and training. (These are shown in the appendix)

### 6.3 How long would it take to build?

This more depends on the speed of raising funds that the actual build time. The build phase would be 6 to 9 months; the planning procedure would take 2-3 months, so less than 1 year from the time we decide we are sufficiently funded.

A significant factor over other local schemes is that the village owns the land. This has been the cause of lengthy delays in other cases.

A covenant in favour of AVDC and the sporting use of the Recreation Ground would have to be modified. Bearing in mind the support we are receiving from AVDC for the venture then this is expected to be a formality.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 7.0 Specification and Detail

### 7.1 What is it we want to build?

Our basic model , for discussion only, is the Quainton Hall development. There are drawings of the Quainton Hall attached in both appendix 6 and 7. (Kind permission of George Stoby Associates)

For us to get the project to a drawing stage, as per Quainton, would cost £ 8000, therefore, for the moment we are using the Quainton model only as our discussion point. Consequently, we are not incurring the cost.

A further set of drawings of an initial scheme are being completed by a villager, Bill Mazzeta. These outline what such a scheme could incorporate. Andy Bystra is producing an 'Artist's impression' of the building in location so that Villagers can see and relate to the proposed addition to village facilities. These are expected to be available for the Village open meeting. The fundamental size of the main hall is a Badminton court.

In addition, there would be a demountable stage at one end and a mezzanine platform for a sound and lighting area at the other.

There would be a meeting room, which could double as a tea/ coffee lounge for daytime use. Toilet and cloakroom facilities would be installed, as well as a storage room. Heating would be by gas. The whole construction would be in tile and brick to fit in with the village-scape.

Some discussion has been had as to whether facilities for a day doctor's surgery could be built in for the 2 doctor's practices that service the village. Other ideas of extended use are being sought from Villagers

### 7.2 Parking and Access

Regulation say there should be a certain number of parking spaces in ratio to the maximum number of users. (Probably 30)

Access to the car park should be controlled to persons using the Centre for an event, thus avoiding the space being used for casual parking by village residents and others. This would also control any perceived nuisance factor of car access.

The Aylesbury Road's engineer has been involved in the discussion and foresees no problem with access

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 7.3 Nuisance Factor

The site chosen is ideally screened on 2 sides and both the Planning authorities and the Architect consider that it is far enough away from the bungalows to cause little or no disturbance, Further screening could be put in place on the southern and western edge of the plot and the whole scheme should be landscaped to soften the visual impact.

Excavated soil could be used to form a bund or mound type landscaping, thus enhancing the screening.

However, it would only be fair to assume that on 1 or 2 nights per year some event may cause some form of nuisance.

## 8.0 Organisation

### 8.1 How would we organise ourselves to do this?

We would need to set the whole project up as a 'Not for Profit' trust, which is one of the requirements of the Funding providers

We would need 3 basic teams

1. Funding team
2. Building team
3. Activities team

We also need one further body that is responsible for the running of all the Leisure facilities in the village

We have held discussions with the Aston Abbotts Church Room Committee to ensure there is no conflict of interest and no misunderstanding which may lead to a competitive situation

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 9.0 Contact with Key Agencies

We have talked to a number of agencies that can and will help us. These agencies are key to making this project a success. Below are some extracts of the help and guidance that can be provided.

### 9.1 Planning

Discussions and site visits were held with Mark Auchterlony, the chief Planning Officer for AVDC. Of the sites he was shown the site on the Recreation Ground was thought by him to be the best and was mentioned as ideal

Mr Auchterlony would support a planning proposal based on the Recreation Ground. He would issue a letter of support to the whole Village Centre project when making a proposal for funding ahead a formal planning application.

He considered that the process of formal planning application would take 2-3 months only.

### 9.2 Roads Engineer

The AVDC Roads Engineer saw no problems with the Recreation Ground site or access to the site. He was specific about the number of car parking spaces and the type of surface to be used for car parks

### 9.3 Architect

One Architect has been seen so far (George Stobie). He has been responsible for the design of the Quainton project. On inspecting the Recreation Ground site he declared it to be ideal and was pleased that it was far enough away from the bungalows to minimise any disturbance.

Mr. Stobie assumed it would take at least 4 years to raise sufficient funds to start the build programme and therefore he was forecasting a build cost of £400,000 at 2009/10 prices

He also quoted that to bring this project to a working drawing stage would cost £8000

Currently we are talking to other architects to get a competitive position

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 9.4 Aylesbury Leisure (AL)

Aylesbury Leisure are an AVDC unit responsible for providing facilities to population groups. As such Aston Abbotts is grouped with Wingrave and Cublington in what is termed as a 'Cluster'

Each cluster is assigned a wish list of facilities including a fixed football field (Wingrave) and a cricket pitch (Cublington)

Missing from the current list for our 'cluster' is a Badminton hall, as well as other such desirables as a swimming pool.

AL will support the build of hall that could be used for badminton, both with funds and by positive use in terms of creating tournaments or ladders

Equally, any external sports surfaces such as that of the car park could be used for Netball or handball and these would be supported as well

## 9.4 Bucks Community Action (BCA)

BCA support the building of new Village Centres. They advise on how such a building should look to fit in with the village environment.

They also will write the official proposal in 'lottery speak' which goes to the National Lottery to gain the necessary funds.

They will also supply advice on many other aspects such as

- Loan Schemes
- Rate relief and VAT
- Hiring agreements
- Designing and Building
- Funding
- Licensing

Managing a village hall or community centre demands a wide range of skills and information to meet the ever-changing requirements set by local authority and national legislation.

BCA can provide village hall and community centre management teams throughout Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes with advice and guidance on all aspects of management, maintenance and usage.

## The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

BCA has a Village Halls Adviser who can support and guide hall management teams through complex issues such as refurbishment projects, trustee's responsibilities, charity registration or funding applications. Their Village Halls Adviser also provides general up-to-date information through newsletters, information booklets and local meetings, keeping management committees in touch with the very latest developments in hall management.

Whether we are seeking to raise money for an extension, require a new constitution or need to clarify recent legislation affecting halls, the Village Halls Adviser at Buckinghamshire Community Action can help us.

### 10.0 Suggested Phase 1 Action Plan and TimeLine

	Event	Expected result
Date	Presentation of Feasibility Study to Parish Council meeting	Outline approval and acceptance
December 2004	Provide outline of the scheme to every household by providing a 1 page synopsis Publish a more detailed article in the Chronicle	Increased awareness
January 2005	Open meeting in Church Room	Decision as to whether there is a 'Village Will' Commitment to Project
Jan thro	Inform the village of the outcome	
March 2005	Lobby villagers to be involved	
	Set up Management teams	
	Brief Planning authorities	
	Brief fund raising agencies	
	Brief Architect and obtain competitive quotes	
	Advise AVDC of change of terms of Covenant	
	Produce a detailed planning document	

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## 11.0 Other Villages

Other villages have experienced the same issues and problems that we would have to face in the construction of a Village Centre

There is experience and knowledge that we can use to make our project that little bit easier.

Once our management teams are in place then visits to these sites and their teams can be arranged.

### 11.1 Quainton

The experience here is to get the organisation and commitment right in the first place

They have 2 teams

- ✓ A build team
- ✓ A fund raising team

They have a Building Project manager within the village so his experience has been used to good use.

Proposals for funding failed initially because they were not written in 'Lottery Speak'. Bucks Community Action will undertake the writing of such proposals.

They are happy to supply us with further advice and insight.

Other Villages with new halls

**11.2 Lacy Green**

**11.3 Marsworth**

**11.4 Cublington**

**11.5 Great Brickhill**

Contact : David Middleton Phone 01525 261024

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix : 1 Grants

### **Minor Grants**

AL has a funding scheme available to constituted sport and recreational clubs in Aylesbury Vale to assist with equipment and facilities. Projects for grants should cost between £500 - £2000 with applicants showing some additional fundraising efforts.

### Grants Aylesbury Vale District Council

If we require help to apply for a grant call (01296) 585221 or email: [sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk).

#### **What projects will be funded?**

Any application is assessed on its merits but projects should come within the following categories:

- New Leisure Initiatives in the Community - Grants for community based activities as well as first-time grants for new applicants.
- Established Organisation + Activity - Grants to well established.

They will consider our application taking into account activities that are already available in Aylesbury Vale and where gaps in provision can be met by imaginative and flexible projects.

Their grant programmes operate on a discretionary basis and are therefore dependant on levels of available finance.

#### **Who can apply?**

Any group or Organisation can apply provided that:

- The group is fully constituted and holds a bank account requiring at least two signatories. Help is available to any group who may need advice on constitutional matters.
- It is non profit making and operates with no undue restrictions on membership (or, in the case of specific events, that such events are open to the whole community).
- It operates within the District of Aylesbury Vale and for the benefit of either residents or visitors to the area.
- It can show the need for financial assistance.
- You can provide at least 50% of the total cost of the project, either from other grants or from your own resources.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## How much you can apply for

The maximum grant is usually no more than 50% of the total project cost. We must provide the rest from our own funds and from other sources. They do not operate a system of minimum and maximum amounts.

As well as providing finance, they also offer an advisory service about other sources of funding. Because they are unlikely to exceed 50% of any project's cost, this service can often be as valuable as our grant. They are happy to talk through our project with us in its entirety and we are urged to make use of this service.

## How to apply

We can make an application by contacting the grants officer.

**Write to:** Aylesbury Vale District Council  
Exchange Street Offices  
Aylesbury  
HP20 1UB

**Telephone:** 01296 585186

**Email:** [grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

## Typical Grants that have been made 2004

ORGANISATION	LEVEL OF GRANT
Age Concern Bucks	£18,370
Aylesbury & District Citizens Advice Bureau	£74,800
Aylesbury Women's Aid	£24,586
Aylesbury Vale Multi Cultural Centre	£13,400
Aylesbury Vale Arts Council	£25,000
Aylesbury Vale Joint Sports Council	£23,650
Aylesbury Vale Play Association	£27,750
Aylesbury Youth Concern (The Uptown Coffee Bar)	£13,800
Aylesbury Youth Action	£10,877
Aylesbury Vale Racial Equality Council	£31,436
Aylesbury Dial a Ride	£61,759

## The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

Bucks Association for Mental Health (The Dover Centre)	£8,478
Buckinghamshire Community Action (BCA)	£8,000
Buckingham, Winslow & District Citizen's Advice Bureau	£56,159
Maxwell Swimming Club	£8,000
Meals on Wheels/Elderly Persons Luncheon Clubs	£10,200
The Guttman Centre (Stoke Mandeville Sports Stadium)	£38,000
Queens Park Arts Centre	£21,120
Quarrendon & Meadowcroft Community Association	£19,900
Southcourt & Walton Court Community Project	£11,850
Relate, Mid-Thames & Buckinghamshire	£12,051
Vale of Aylesbury Athletics Club	£8,000
Vale Volunteers	£7,962
Walton Court Community Association	£13,150

### **Always speak to the grants officer**

Initially we should discuss our application with their grants officer or a relevant officer from Leisure, who will help with our application so that our project moves along as quickly and as smoothly as possible. Capital projects often require planning permission so we will need to contact Planning (as we have already)

### **How our project will be assessed**

Our application will be considered by a panel of councilors who will make a recommendation to the relevant cabinet member. Decisions will be based on a range of criteria, the main items of which are;

- The need for AL support: how vital AL support is to the success of the project? Is the project likely to proceed without AL involvement? If there appears to be other ways in which the necessary monies can be raised, we are unlikely to give a grant.
- Contributing to their strategic objectives; their strategic objectives are outlined on the application form and we are asked to identify how our project assists in the delivery of these aims. This is a key part of the panel's deliberations and we are advised to reflect carefully over this.
- Benefits to, and support of, the community: We will need to show the extent to which we have consulted with your local community and the support that exists for the project. This also includes the number of people who will directly benefit from the project.

## The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

- Project viability: Our application is more likely to win support if we can show that it is well planned and that our group is capable of managing it successfully. This includes the financial sustainability of the project on an on-going basis (i.e. provision for maintenance of a capital item).
- Evidence of 'self-help': The panel will look more favourably on those organisations who display evidence of fund-raising in the community. This can also include the provision of labour and other 'in-kind' support.

### When a Grant is approved

Once a grant is approved there are some important points to note:

- We will be asked to sign an 'acceptance of grant' form which outlines the purposes for which money is awarded. Projects will then be monitored by setting some basic targets following negotiation with us, prior to the project taking place. This may be followed by regular reports and meetings to enable these targets to be met. Targets and monitoring are not set by a single standard but by a set of varied standards which reflect the appropriate aims and objectives of the applicant and of the council.
- Under normal circumstances, any offer of a grant needs to be claimed within six months of confirmation. If circumstances occur that may unduly delay our project, contact them and they will negotiate as to the best way to proceed.
- We may be expected to participate in schemes that they operate, particularly their 'Passport to Leisure' and young people's holiday activities programmes. Any such conditions will be agreed with us in advance and built into the 'acceptance of grant' form that we will be expected to sign.
- The grants officer should be informed continually of the progress of our project. Other officers may be consulted freely at any time.
- Their support should be recognised by our organisation by the inclusion of their logo on any publicity material.
- They aim to ensure quality of service through all activities and grant aided organisations are expected to reflect this.
- The purpose for which a grant has been awarded can't be changed without prior approval from them.
- All projects should be completed and grant aid paid by the last day of the financial year of the approval. Stage payments can be arranged if agreed with the grants officer prior to the commencement of the scheme.

### Grants deadlines for 2004

They offer a range of grants to support community projects across the Vale. The following deadlines for applications have been confirmed for this year and are used here as an example of what has happened in 2004

<b>Date of grants panel meeting</b>	<b>Deadline for applications</b>	<b>Anticipated decision date</b>
Thursday 6 May	Friday 23 April	Monday 7 June

## The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

Monday 12 July	Friday 25 June	Monday 9 August
Monday 13 September	Friday 27 August	Monday 11 October
Monday 8 November	Friday 22 October	Monday 6 December

The Grants Panel makes a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Community Matters who then makes the decision.

Once the decision has been made, it is subject to standard Scrutiny procedures which take approximately 5 weeks, hence the period between the Grants Panel meeting and the confirmed decision. Applicants can, however, ask to be advised of the provisional decision after the Panel meeting.

The Scrutiny process also acts as the appeals procedure for any applicant

### **Other Grant Providers**

A Villager has reported that Shanks, the Landfill Operator, is offering financial support to projects such as this as part of their "Goodwill in the Community " ( My words)

It is thought they are obliged by the terms of their landfill licence to seek such community projects.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix : 2 Funding Advice Service

### Introduction

The aim of the Funding Advice Service is to help charitable and voluntary organisations to raise funds more effectively by giving them information and practical guidance.

Buckinghamshire Community Action has a Funding Advice Officer who provides advice for organisations seeking grants and funds.

There are numerous sources of funds available to voluntary and community groups. The aim of the Funding Advice Service is to match sources of funds to potential recipients in the County.

*"Until a year or so ago, I had never heard of 'FunderFinder', computerised information on grant making trusts."*

*"Working as adult facilitator for the Chesham Youth Council and with BCA's help, we were able to identify a number of organisations whose aims and objectives matched the criteria for the provision of a multi-play facility for young people in Chesham."*

*"While no system has yet been written capable of completing a grant application form FunderFinder narrows down the field."*

*Clerk of the Council, Chesham Town Council*

### BCA Resources

- A computer database called FunderFinder and the Trusts Guide with detailed information about grant making trusts.
- Information on applications for Lottery Funding.
- Information about other locally available funding sources.
- Details of 'one-off' grant schemes.
- A library of reference books on funding sources, application techniques and other related subjects. Some of these books may be borrowed for a short time.
- Training events and seminars.

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix 3 : Sites of Related Interest and Funding Opportunities

### Sport England

This is another body which will support such development action when associated with a recognised sporting activity

Sport England is an organisation committed to creating opportunities for people to start in sport, stay in sport and succeed in sport.

They provide the strategic lead for sport in England and are responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives.

They believe sport has the power to change people's lives

### **Criteria**

Priority for funding will be given to projects that

- Increase participation for priority groups (older people, those on a low income, those with a disability, girls and women, black and minority ethnic groups and young people)
- Make the greatest contribution towards regional priority policies
- It is unlikely that large requests for a single grant award over £400,000 will be funded
- It is unlikely that projects requesting less than £50,000 for capital and £30,000 for revenue will be funded
- Revenue projects will normally receive a maximum of three years phased funding and must be supported by a robust business plan that includes provision for sustainability
- All projects should demonstrate how sustainability has been addressed both from a project development and business-planning viewpoint as well as an environmental impact
- It is unlikely that projects that have received previous funding will be considered again for an award, however revenue support may be considered for a previously funded project that can demonstrate sufficient need

## **The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre**

- Capital projects must demonstrate security of tenure as freehold (registered title to the property) or leasehold with a minimum period of 21 years
- Projects must demonstrate they have a developed active child protection policy in place and this applies also to any other clubs/organisations/coaches anticipated or likely to use the facility being funded
- Projects will be encouraged to work towards achieving good practice accreditation such as Clubmark, Quest, and Investors in People
- All projects must be innovative in their approach including for example multi-purpose use or multi-activity and produce solutions that increase participation among all sections of society, in particular reaching those who don't normally take part
- It is unlikely that projects with Football as the primary activity will be considered. Applications for Football will be directed to the Football Foundation

### **Who can apply?**

Requests from community organisations or charities and not-for-profit trusts that are properly constituted in accordance with Sport England guidance will be considered.

Requests from local authorities and other statutory agencies will also be considered providing there is robust evidence of partnership working and they are able to demonstrate the fund is not replacing existing or statutory funding.

### **South east funding rounds**

You can make initial enquiries about funding at any time and we can help you decide whether or not it is worth making a full application.

The regional sports board will manage the award process and meet on a quarterly basis to assess full applications in the following months:

March, June, September, December

It is unlikely that applications received less than 12 weeks prior to a

## **The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre**

Regional Sports Board meeting date will be considered at that meeting.

We recommend that you consider the extent to which your project will help achieve our Regional Policy Priorities before applying.

Applicants are reminded that the outcomes are as follows:

- Improving levels of performance
- Increasing participation in sport and active recreation
- Widening access
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Creating stronger and safer communities
- Improving education
- Benefiting the economy

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix 4 : Other web sites

This is a collection of web sites that can be of great use to the management teams whenever they are set up to develop the Aston Abbotts Village Centre

<http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/>

[www.bucks-comm-action.org.uk/](http://www.bucks-comm-action.org.uk/)

[http://www.acre.org.uk/Member\\_Services.htm](http://www.acre.org.uk/Member_Services.htm)

<http://www.sportengland.org/>

<http://www.fundinginformation.org/>

<http://www.funderfinder.org.uk/>

<http://www.grantfinder.co.uk/>

<http://www.fundraising.co.uk/>

<http://www.sbbc.co.uk/>

<http://www.lloydstsbfoundations.org.uk/>

<http://www.community-fund.org.uk/>

<http://www.community-fund.org.uk/>

<http://www.fundersonline.org/>

[sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

<http://www.activesportsbucks.co.uk/sports/netball/index.cfm>

[sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:sports@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

[grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:grants@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix 5 : Original Thought Process and justification for the Project

The following is the presentation made to justify the start of the Aston Abbotts Village Centre project

### Existing Church Room

What we have now

- Currently have a Church room
- Built in 1898 for a rural population
- Owned by the Church Commissioners
- Difficulties transferring lease
- Licensed for 60 people
- Decrepit and unwelcoming, in spite of a new paint job
- 1 toilet, no handicapped entrance
- No one wants to take 'personal liability' for the conditions of the lease
- In danger of being closed because of failure to meet legal requirements

Who uses the Church Room?

- Used mostly by 55 plus years group
- No Young groups
- No sporting context
- 65% used by
  - Ladies Group
  - Parish Council
  - Bingo/Whist

There is no proactive use of the facilities

The conclusion here can only be that the current facilities are failing the community

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

Our conclusion

- New facility needed
- More involvement of a higher portion of the village
- Wider event type
- Some sporting context
- Greater frequency of use
- More regular users
- Find other uses such as a part time doctor's surgery

What are the basic needs of a Village Centre?

- Something modern, clean and welcoming
- Needs to be as central as possible
- Sporting facility
- Hold up to 120 people
- Dismountable stage with lights and sound
- Fully equipped kitchen and bar area
- Car parking /outside hard surface sports area
- Ancillary rooms as well as main hall

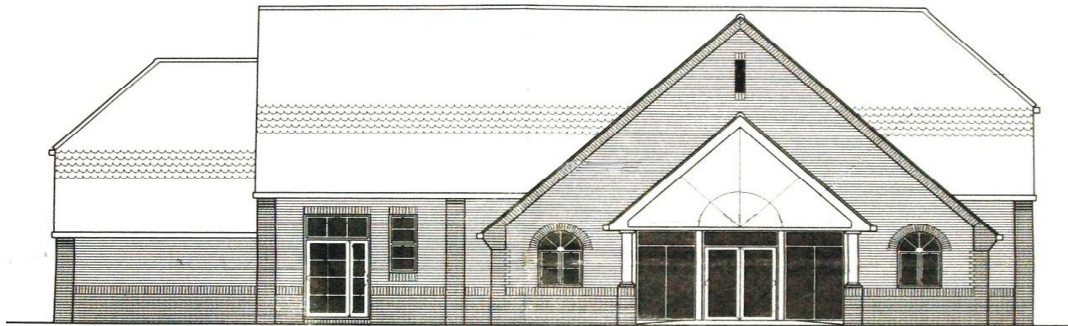
End

# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

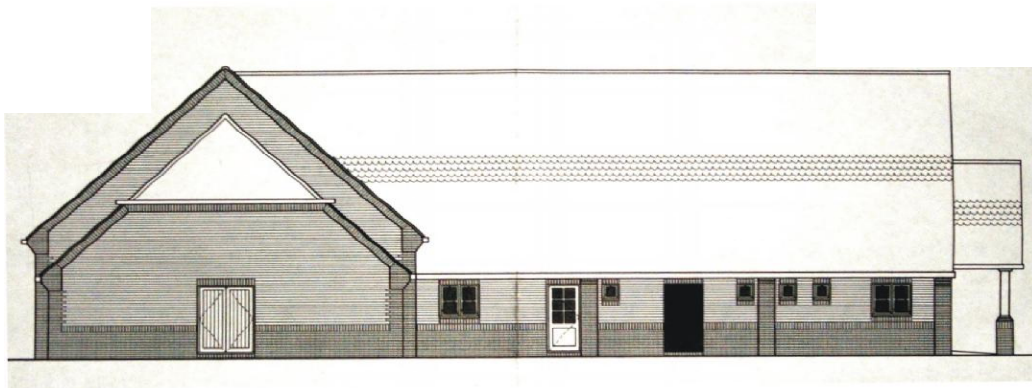
## Appendix 6

(Thanks to George Stobie Associates)

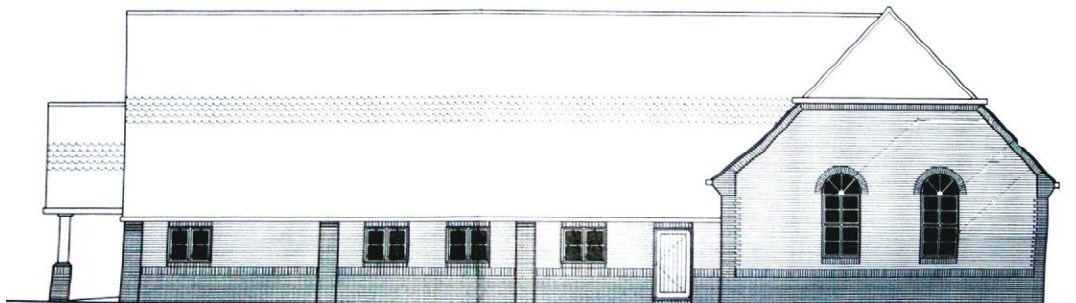
## The New Quanton Memorial Hall



3 Elevations



11



# The New Aston Abbotts Village Centre

## Appendix 7

### Floor layout - Quinton Project

(Thanks to George Stobie Associates)

