

Council gives Costessey Community & Sports Centre the Orange Light

All being well, this July/August could see a start to building of the Community and Sports Hall on Longwater Recreation Ground.

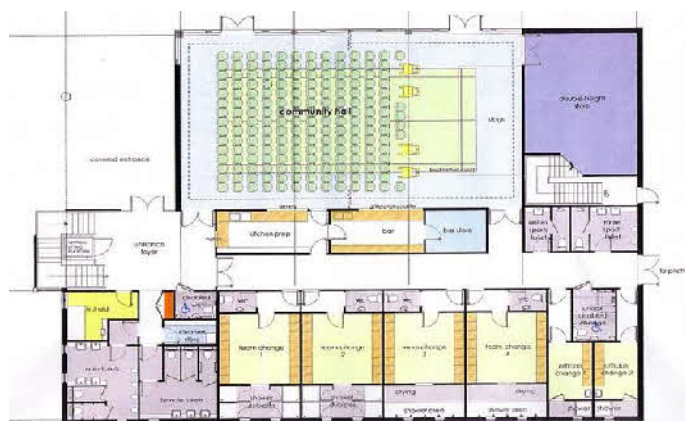
Barring unforeseen problems, this long standing project highlighted in 'Contact' since 1996, is poised to go ahead.

The Parish Council is keen to take advantage of the present economic climate as building costs are now relatively low. There is a real opportunity to maximise value for money.

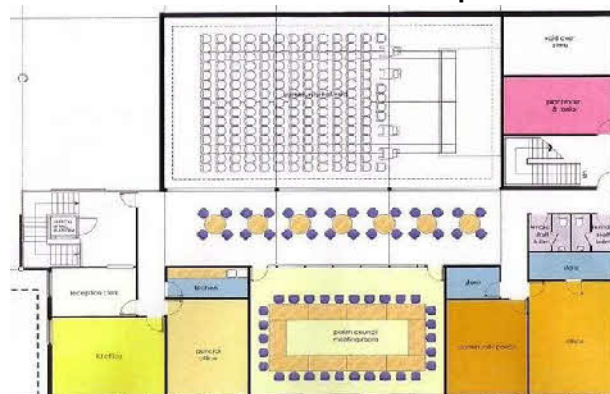
Tenders have been returned from 4 local contractors and are being carefully scrutinised by a professional Quantity Surveyor to ensure accuracy.

Contracts will be finalised when full funding has been confirmed. This cannot be concluded until late June when decisions concerning a series of grant aid applications will be known.

Look out for details in July's issue of 'Contact' when full details will be published. Alternatively, parishioners can be kept up to date with developments by logging on to the Council's web site: www.costessey.org.uk



Ground Floor - artist's impression



First Floor - artist's impression

Parish Council Open Day

Saturday 25th April 2009

10am - 4pm

Parish Rooms

Townhouse Rd - Old Costessey

Parish Councillors and Office Staff will be available to help and discuss issues around the parish

- Display of old minute books
- Joint Core Strategy (South Norfolk Council to attend)
- New Community & Sports Hall
- Public places in Costessey
- Traffic calming and new footways
- Anglian Water pipeline through Costessey
- Safer Neighbourhood Area panels
- Queens Hill & Lodge Farm - the story so far

Comment - From the Editor

Costessey Contact does occasionally moan and groans about all sorts of issues - and rightly so.

But this spring it has at least two good news stories to report:

The New Hall - much talked about and discussed looks as if it will be built. Thirty years of waiting and frustrated ambitions and it takes the 'credit crunch' to provide the right conditions to finally dig the first foundations - who said better late than never?

Litter is emotive.... Or do we really care? Some residents obviously feel strongly about plastic bags, crisp bags, coke tins, beer bottles - you name it you can find it in abundance. No condescension intended, but a big "hooray" for those who voluntarily pick up the rubbish especially in our parks and woods. Many thanks to them and to anyone else who chooses to muddy their hands.

Sadly, some really unfortunate news.

Queens Hill Hall on Hold

Building developers Cofton Land And Property (Norwich) L^{td} have been placed in administration leaving the residents without play areas, a new hall, playing field and bus access to Ringland Lane.

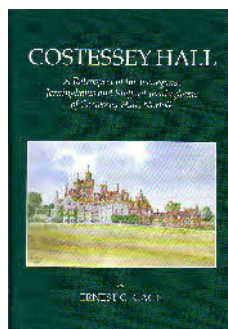
However, the funding for these facilities should still be available. The Parish Council has asked South Norfolk Council to take enforcement action to ensure these are provided. Any further unreasonable delay, and the Council will ask South Norfolk to take out an injunction preventing further building until these facilities are provided

It seems that talks are taking place with a director of Cofton Asset Management (a different company) to see if an alternative company can be created to complete the project.

'Contact' wishes him every success. All of us must want the best for our community.

**Still Available -
Costessey Hall - £7**
by Earnest Gage

Copies still available from
the Parish Office, Parish
Rooms, Old Costessey



Doggy Poo - update



There has been a positive reaction to the suggestion made in January's edition of Contact that the Parish Council **may** consider banning dogs on its parks and recreation areas because of dog fouling.

Some responsible dog owners have now joined the Council's efforts to improve the situation.

South Norfolk's Environmental Crime Team carried out a crackdown on dog fouling at Costessey several weeks ago, and as part of their work asked residents for help in reporting offenders. Recently, they received two witness reports from responsible dog owners who were fed up being tarred with the same brush as those offenders who do not clear up after their dogs. They were able to give descriptions of the culprits and details of vehicle registration numbers to follow up.

According to the Crime Team, someone will be receiving a visit from the an officer very soon!

Ever Considered Being a 'Master Composter'



Well you can be - and it's free. Garden Organic are asking for volunteers to become Master Composters to encourage their communities to get stuck into composting.

There is a free two day training course at the Ecotech Centre, Swaffham on Sat 9th and Sun 10th May 2009.

For more details ring David Hawkyard on 01603 223328 for more details or email david.hawkyard@norfolk.gov.uk

Community Groups - Corrections to Issue 49

The Carers Culture Club - Owen Barnes 1st
Wednesday in the month Lynda Thurtell 749264

Yoga - Breckland Hall - Wednesday 1.30pm
Mrs Margaret Jameson Tel: 881425

Costessey Drop in Club - Youth Centre every Tuesday
during term time - Kerry Johnson - Tel: 408678

Police Crackdown on anti-social behaviour in Bowthorpe and Costessey

Police in Bowthorpe and Costessey are taking a zero tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour and criminal damage leading up to spring.

Operation 'Battalion' will encompass extra high visibility patrols in hot-spot areas that suffer from an increase in crime.

Historically this time of year sees a rise in crime and anti-social behaviour in the area. The Bowthorpe and Costessey Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) will be combating these community issues with the assistance of local residents and partner agencies.

Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will be working with local householders and repeat victims of crime by offering support, crime prevention advice and reassurance.

The SNT will positively deal with the minority of the community who are causing problems that affect the quality of life of the neighbourhood.

The local policing team will also be visiting people who are either actively involved in crime or who have been identified as offenders during these months in the past. The reason for this attention is to ensure they are aware that the police are not tolerating irresponsible behaviour and to deter them from reoffending.

Bowthorpe and Costessey Inspector Kate Thacker said: "We hope that the operation will decrease crime in the area and increase public confidence in the local policing team.

We are encouraging the community to support their local SNT, who are seeking to work with residents to improve the neighbourhood for the benefit of all."

To contact Bowthorpe and Costessey SNT with any community issues such as criminal damage or anti-social behaviour please call 0845 456 4567 or email sntbowthorpeandcostessey@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.

"If we cannot help you, we will try and find someone who can."

Old Costessey - Traffic Calming and Footway Scheme



Any major scheme involving the local environment has to have full public consultation, be carefully planned, prudently budgeted and pass through a number of obligatory hurdles before it can even begin. The reworking of traffic calming and building of footways in Old Costessey is no exception.

Estimated Costs

- The Street - Calming measures = £13000
- Footway (both full and advisory) = £90000
- West End/Longwater - Calming measures = £27000
- Folgate Lane/ The Croft - Calming measures and waiting restrictions = £6000
- Traffic Regulation Order Costs = £3000
- Design fees = £6000 (in addition to £5000 already spent)

Hurdles

- Traffic Regulation Order and Transport Project Consultation Procedure,
- Environmental liaison (conservation area and trees roots to be affected),
- Presentation to Round Table (internal Norfolk CC project review board to assess the design and funding - scheduled for mid May 2009),
- Assessment by safety audit (to check there are no unforeseen risks being raised to the public),
- 15 week lead in for the construction/ road closure

Provisional Time Table

- Calming works - Feb/March 2010
- Footway - April 2010

Finally, all this depends on costs staying stable and Norfolk County Council's budget remaining unchanged.

COSTESSEY DAY CENTRE

Are you lonely or do you know someone who would benefit from a day at the centre?

A mini bus would pick you up

2 course lunch cooked on the premises

DAYS OUT (with lunch),
TALKS, BINGO
SLIDE SHOWS, TRIPS TO SHOPPING CENTRES, ETC.



For further information please contact
Doreen Steel on Norwich 744246

