Adderbury Sports & Community Centre – Building Project Report for parish council for meeting of 27 October 2020

At the parish council meeting of 8 September it was reported that progress with the Sports & Community Centre Building required approval from Cherwell District Council (CDC) for the council's plans to initially build only a part of the consented building. It has been frustrating to the project management team for progress to have been inhibited by CDC not engaging until 6 October and then only to ask for full details. These were submitted on 15 September.

Nevertheless, good use of the time has been made with some of the detail. The then current concept of the revised scheme has been developed in response to suggestions from members of the Working For Adderbury Community (WFAC) working group and a small group of potential users. The drawing which have now been presented to CDC are an improvement. They received general approbation at the WFAC meeting of 20 October.

Since 8 September other useful progress has been made with understanding the building requirements for services such as heating and ventilating. As is custom and practice, there had been no specialist professional input to such in the development of the consented scheme at that stage.

The team had a most useful Zoom meeting with a building services designer, who lives in the village, as a result of which they have enough understanding to manage the next stage of this aspect the cost of which will be a significant proportion of the total building cost.

Lathams terms of appointment calls for the appointment of a specialist designer for this, now referred to as Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing services (MEP). The team have now identified three possible suitable specialists. However, advice is also that a specialist appointment for production of the required Energy Statement, to demonstrate compliance with building regulations on building design performance for energy efficiency, would be appropriate. This will be investigated.

Tony Hartwell (member of WFAC and the working group) has joined the project management team to take the lead with MEP. Tony is appropriately qualified and experienced. Progress with this will be a top priority just as soon as the new detail for the building is consented.

A few possible contractors for giving advice as to the budget cost of the building shell have also either offered to be involved or been identified as having the competence to advise on this just as soon as, following consent, Lathams have produced the required drawings and specifications.

The opportunity had also been taken to review in more depth the needs, aspirations and relevant association regulations for sports use of the building, including with major sports users. Gareth Jones is the project team lead on this. This is an ongoing process to support development of an income and expenditure forecast.

The project team continues to make limited progress with preparations for the next steps. Because the scheme is believed to be important to CDC sports strategy, whilst further information and details may first be called for, it would be surprising were approval for the drawings not to be forthcoming.

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