

Williton Pavilion Project

Project Update.

July has seen the building start to take shape. The upper and lower level roof sections are complete and the top windows have been installed. The Pavilion clock is in place and the ceilings, wiring and plumbing are well under way. The stone wall along the access road is now finished, though the replacement hedge will not be planted until later this year. The project remains on schedule to complete on 16th November. At the Village Fete we displayed a number of drawings including the floor plans and kitchen layout. The tent was well attended and a lot of interest shown in using the facility.

What has been encouraging is that the project is now being talked about on social media, Williton Community Group has been active on Facebook, in particular one individual who stimulated a lively debate when they queried, why do we continue to raise funds for the Pavilion, when we have secured the budget through grants and why are we not raising funds to provide more for the children, not unreasonable questions and I believe they deserve an answer. The charity fund raising activities are targeted towards the cost of the Pavilion as although we secured the capital grant, we still need to equip the building. Fund raising in general enables us to offset the running cost of the Recreation Ground which is currently funded via the parish precept. The Pavilion will be self-funding and as its usage increases, the charity should become less dependent on the parish precept. The scope of our fund raising activities are limited to the number of volunteers we have available.

The building has been designed and equipped to cater for children. Ranging from dual height hand rails on the stairs, lowered ceramics within the wash rooms, a baby changing room, children's tables and chairs, including highchairs, not to mention that on the ground, we have an under twelve children's play area and a junior football team. All of the design and equipment requirements for children resulted from the village survey. The large meeting room with its own kitchenette can be used for children's parties as well as the main hall where you can open the doors onto the ground. As we use the building we will have in place an evaluation process, whereby we can measure if the building is meeting all our needs or if further investment becomes necessary.

On a final note, once we take ownership of the building we plan to hold an open day for residents to come along and have a look around, this will be towards the end of November, exact date and times to be confirmed.

Councillor Bill Vaughan