



Isleham Informer

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Isleham recreation ground with the architects illustration of the new Community Centre

Your new Community Centre:



we really need you...

More than 50 years ago residents were asked to help finance the building of the Village Hall – and they didn't disappoint. Crunch time has now arrived for the new Community Centre. Will you help the vision become a reality by making a generous donation?

Your much needed support is two-fold. Not only is the money vital, but equally we need to demonstrate such support to grant providers. Obtaining grants is highly competitive with many worthy causes fighting for limited pots of money. To be successful with our applications we have to be able to meet all providers criteria – six out of seven won't do.

I refer back to our Big Lottery application. Our case was sufficiently strong enough to reach the very last hurdle, but then it stumbled. Our Achilles heel was our failure to demonstrate strong

community support, as adjudged by the relatively poor attendance of public meetings and low returns of questionnaires distributed. Now is our/your chance to eradicate this possible only weakness in our case. Grant providers also insist upon evidence of matched funding, i.e. they will commit their money only if there is evidence that the beneficiaries of the project have committed some of theirs. We need to raise several thousands of pounds. Please donate the absolute maximum you can afford – don't assume that someone else will do it – we desperately need you to donate.

Please take my words in the spirit they are intended. Your support is so vital, and with it this superb asset for the community can become a reality. Without it we probably continue for the foreseeable future with our increasingly ageing Village Hall and our unfit-for-purpose sports pavilion.

Philip Aspland, Project Chairman

Community Centre is 'life-blood of village'

In so many rural villages the key to community cohesion is it's community building, and Isleham like many others has a village hall which no longer meets the requirements of its users, due to the growth of the village since the hall was built over 50 years ago and the expectation of today's society.

Isleham is very fortunate in that it has an ideal location to build a new Community Centre and it has a group of very proactive people who have the drive and passion to make this project a huge success; however, to make the dream become reality they do need your support and encouragement!

Philip Peacock, Community Facilities, Cambridgeshire ACRE

VIEW THE PLANS ON PAGE 2 AND 3 • ARCHITECT'S ILLUSTRATIONS PAGE 4

The planning and vision for the Centre

For planning, the experience of leaders of other regional projects was sought at an early stage. It was learned that the right balance has to be struck between overall costs and provision of sufficient/key facilities to ensure that the Centre will be self-financing.

For example, provision of only sports changing rooms could become a drain on resources whereas a large hall and bar both provide essential revenue. Our Centre ticks the boxes and, additionally, should ensure that letting rates for local interest groups can be reasonably low.

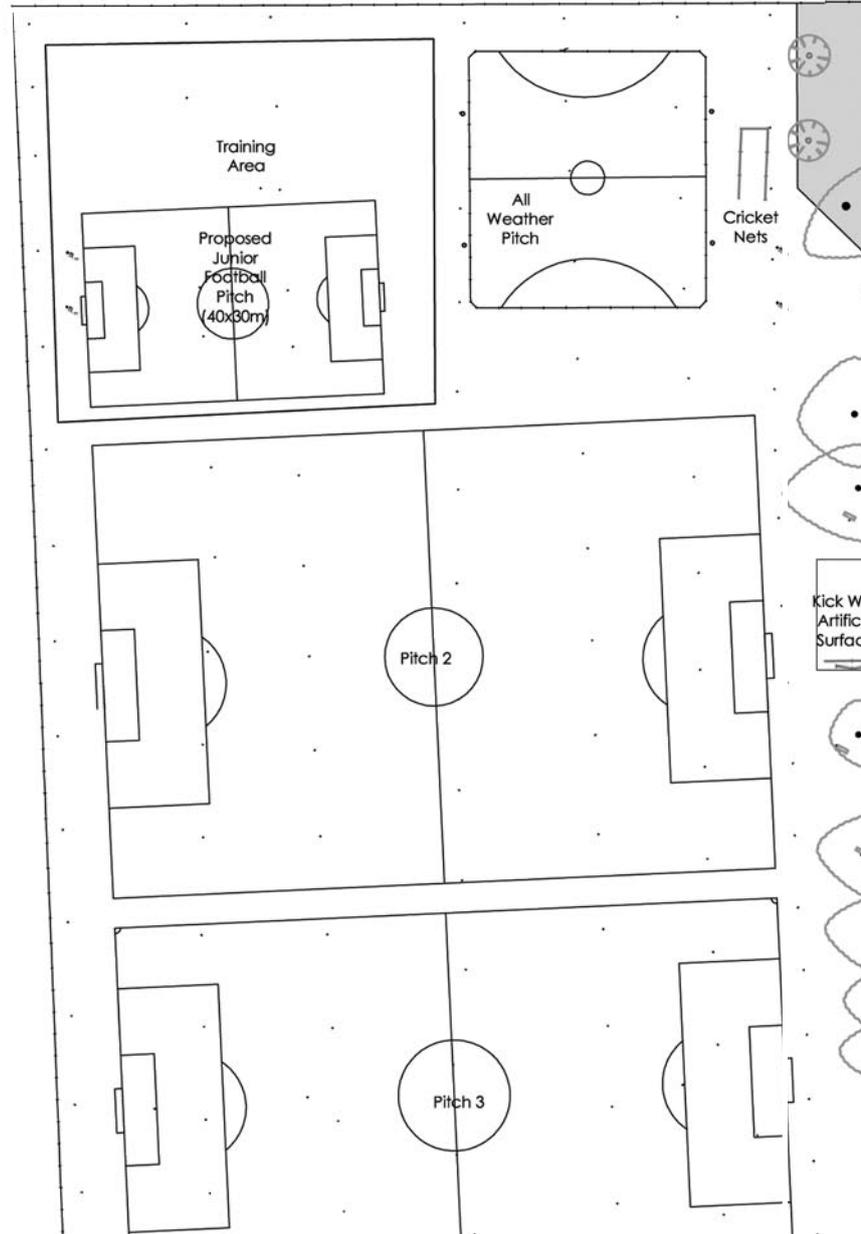
The planned facilities will cater for the young and their guardians, the youth, the able and disabled, sportsmen/women, families and businesses – in fact everyone of us. The Centre, which would be run by a management committee, should make Isleham an even more desirable village. It would also look superb in it's setting on what is already an impressive recreation ground.

It should become a popular venue for wedding receptions, concerts and other arts events, indoor sports, meetings etc, etc. It should also lead, not only to strengthening of our existing sports clubs and creation of new ones, but also staging of county sports events etc.

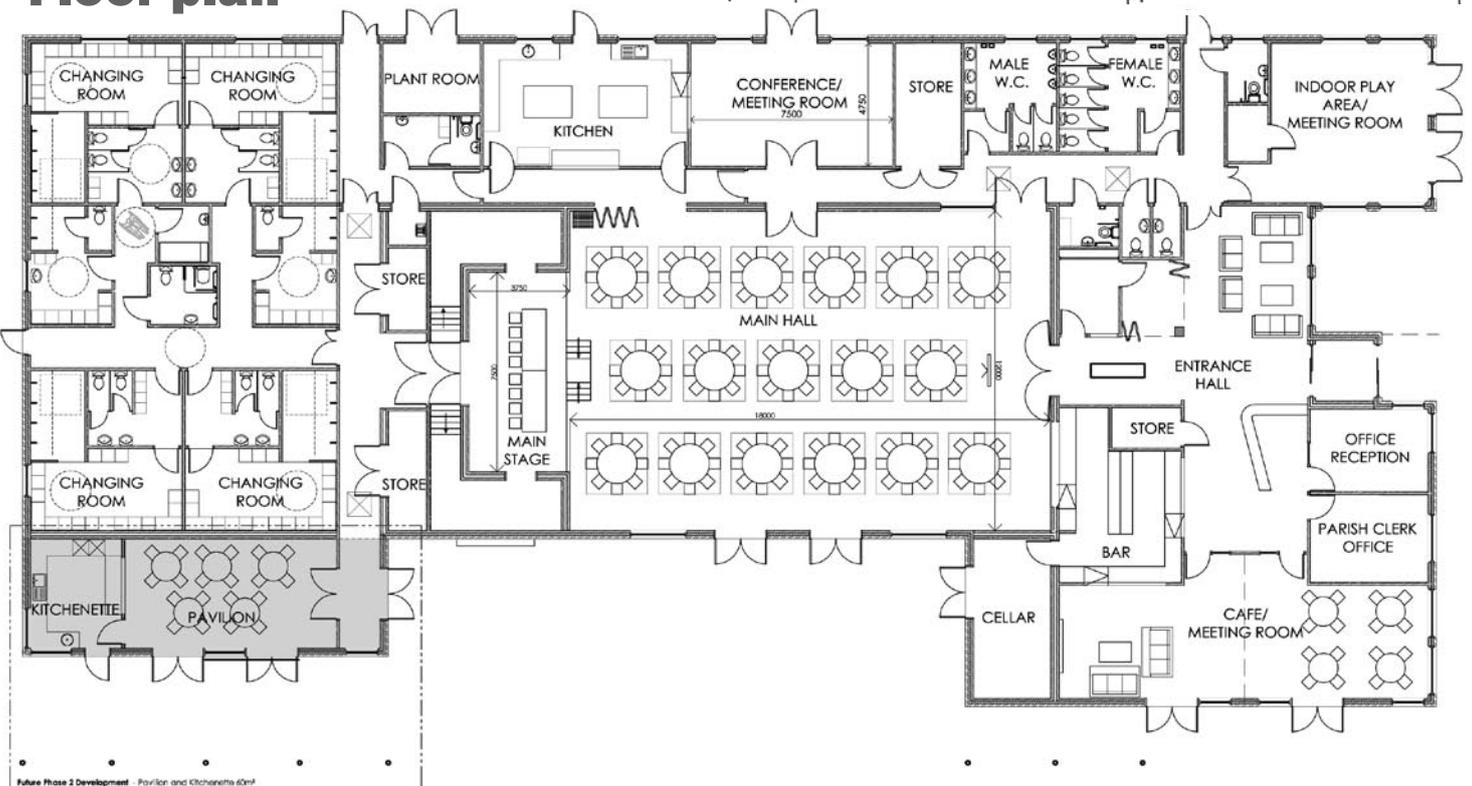
Please help what started as a wish become a reality – your donation would be an investment not just for you but for future generations.

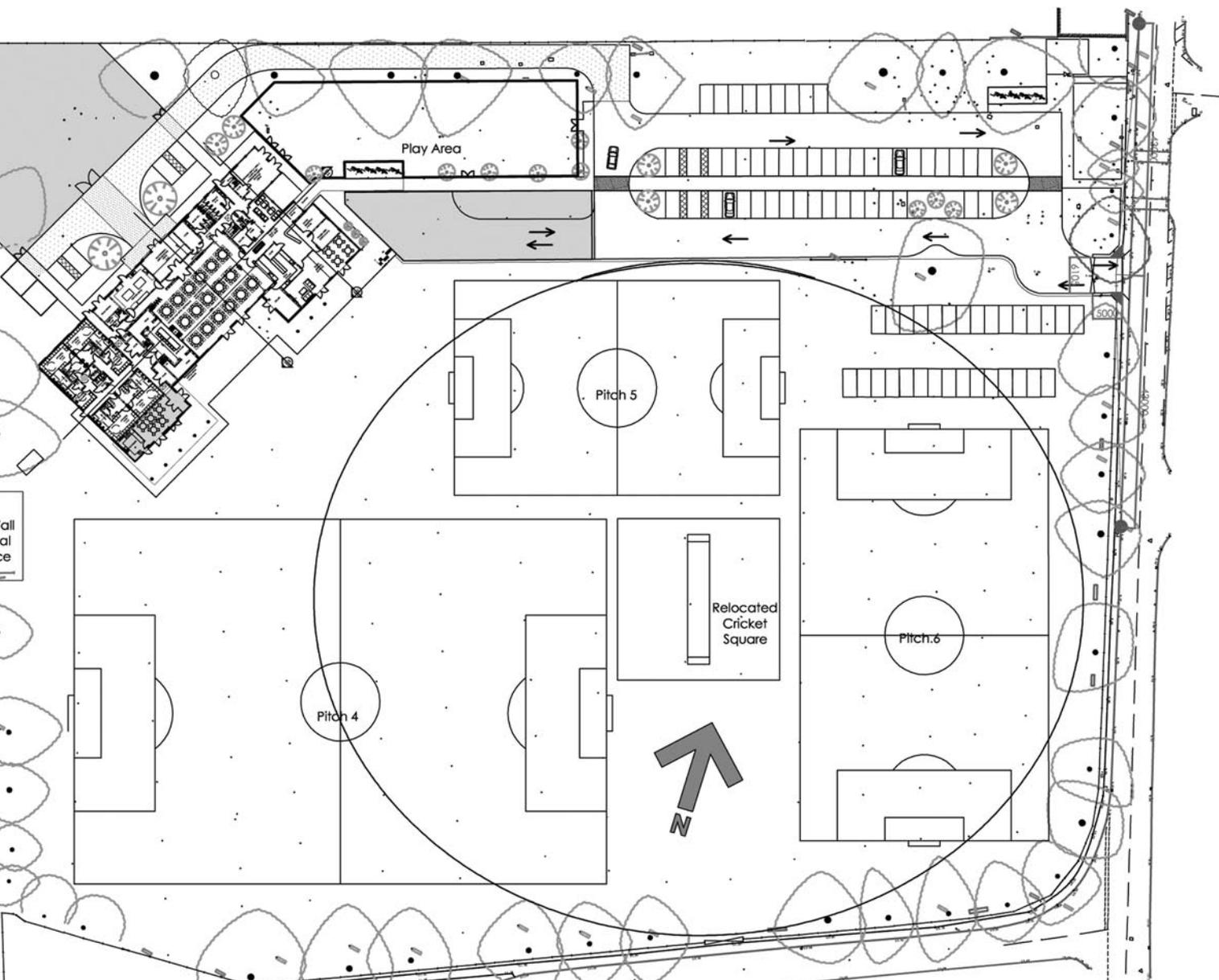
I.C.A Project Team

Siting on recreation ground



Floor plan





Private donations and fundraising

Donations

In the past two years many of you have participated in fundraising for the new Community Centre, whether by supporting duck races, W.I. events, sportsmans dinners or concerts at the Village Hall. To the organisers of these events and to the people who attended may I offer my grateful thanks. But, as said elsewhere in this special edition, crunch time has come, and we now need to step up our efforts if we are to be successful in obtaining our new Centre.

Several people have already inquired how they might donate to the project: one of the most important aspects of donating to a charity, if you are a taxpayer, is to fill in a Gift Aid Declaration form. The reason for this is that currently H.M. Revenue & Customs will donate an additional 28p for every pound that is donated to a nominated charity. Some of you may not be aware that the Isleham Community Association (ICA) is a charity and can therefore claim Gift Aid support. So: if we collect £10,000 locally, from taxpayers, we would be able to claim an additional £2,800!

We have put together a 'Buy a Brick' scheme – the bricks are of course 'virtual'. We are not asking you to buy real bricks, but we will keep a record of all donations in a book that will be available to view at the new Centre. (If anyone wishes to donate but remain anonymous, then that will be respected.)

On the form that comes with this special edition you will find all the details of the scheme and a Gift Aid Declaration form, which can be used or photocopied. Extra copies will be available in either the Co-op and the Post Office. Thank you for your support.

Fundraising

How about a method for fundraising which does NOT involve you spending any extra money – now that has to be a good idea!

In the last few years internet shopping has expanded at a huge rate. Many retailers actively encourage this as it dramatically reduces overheads. They are often prepared to give generous discounts to online customers and donations to charities that their customers nominate. The

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Elevations – West, East and North



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website where you can do this is easyfundraising.org.uk – just visit the site, choose Isleham Community Association as your nominated charity and then shop as normal. The list of retailers (currently around 600) is growing all the time, and includes many household names such as Amazon, Next, Argos, Comet, PC World, John Lewis, The Body Shop and HMV.

When you shop using this website to link to one of these retailers, up to 15% of every purchase you make can be donated to the ICA charity – and it doesn't cost you a penny extra to shop this way and raise funds for our project!

I've already kicked this off with some online purchases from Homebase, so if you already shop online, why not help our project, at no extra cost to yourself, with purchases you would make anyway!

*Tim Washtell,
Fundraising Chairman*

A letter from your District Councillor

I was pleased to be invited to Isleham recently, to view the plans for the new Community Centre. It is a very ambitious and exciting project and a massive one for a village the size of Isleham to undertake. I offer my wholehearted support to everyone concerned and, in particular, wish them every success in their fund raising efforts.

*Peter Cresswell, Chairman,
East Cambridgeshire
District Council*

Share the vision of the next fifty years

As Chairman of Isleham Parish Council it is my privilege to have an oversight of the breadth, depth and diversity of the people in the village where we live. I see people involved in fishing, country pursuits, allotments, many sports including football and cricket, dance, pantomime, theatre, keep fit, Women's Institute, Church activities, Scouts and many more. All these activities at some time or other require facilities for meetings.

As a village we have been blessed over the years by the generosity of the villagers who saved and worked to build the current Village Hall. It has served the village exceptionally well in many, many ways for weddings, parties, village activities, and as a theatre, dance hall and meeting place. However it has lately lost its appeal for weddings and parties as other newer and more eye-catching venues have become available locally.

About three years ago the point was raised at Isleham Parish Council that we needed a new sports changing facility due to the increase in sport, and it was suggested that maybe it was time to replace the Village Hall.

The Parish Council formed a working party to look into the possibility of providing a new hall which would include sports changing facilities, to replace the Village Hall and Pavilion, under the leadership of Philip Aspland.

What the Parish Council required was a building that would be an asset to the village without being a burden on the rates. And so it was with great excitement that the Council reviewed the plans for a building that would not only be a credit to the village but also to the surrounding district and provide the trade to make it self financing.

I personally believe that this is something that the village will be proud of, and which has the potential to enhance our beautiful recreation ground and make it an ideal setting for weddings, conferences, children's parties, pantomimes and all the other village activities for years to come. What we need now is for the people of the village to share this vision and help to raise money to make it happen. I believe that most families in the village would use this building and so it could affect everybody who lives in the village.

The Parish Council has asked that rates of hire be favourable to village residents, giving them access to quality premises for a reasonable price.

Would you please as villagers of Isleham join with us and share the vision of a community building to take us forward into the next fifty years, just as our forefathers did in the 1950s, and help to make Isleham a village to be proud to live, work and play in.

*Derrick Beckett, Chairman of
Isleham Parish Council*



Derrick Beckett, Peter Cresswell and Philip Aspland