

# Community News

Special Went's Meadow Barn Issue - December 2017

an information service from PAC - the Presteigne Area Community Development Group.

The Town Council would like your views on the proposal below. Please email your comments to [pntc@hotmail.com](mailto:pntc@hotmail.com) by 4th January

All comments received will be collated and presented to the Council meeting on 10th January

The full plans and designs can be seen on the Town Council News page on the website [www.presteigne.org.uk](http://www.presteigne.org.uk) and a model of the proposed Barn can be viewed in the Library.

## WENT'S MEADOW COMMUNITY BARN PROPOSAL

### OVERVIEW

This is a brief outline of what we are proposing as a possible Presteigne and Norton Town Council project with support from Sheep Music to build a permanent events venue on Went's Meadow.

For years Went's Meadow has been used as a location to hold community events such as Sheep Music and the Carnival as well as one off events and performances. On most occasions the group involved has had to rent marquees and other equipment such as staging and flooring to put on these events. Our proposal is to build a permanent structure to replace the need to rent some of this equipment and to encourage more community based events down on the field.

### THE BARN DESIGN

Since its inception, the design of the barn has been changed and refined based on speaking with events organisers, builders and community leaders. We have discussed extensively the location, orientation, construction and aesthetic of the building to come up with what we feel is a well considered plan.

The proposed barn is a 15m x 14m space comprising of a 15m x 8m main structure modelled after old fashioned dutch barns commonly seen in the surrounding area with a 3.5m wide lean-to at the rear and 2.5m cantilevered lean-to on the front. We have tried to maintain the appearance of a traditional barn on the outside of the building with more of a sense of a theatre on the inside.

The idea is to provide a structure that will be open and exposed when not in use so as not to create a hideaway for loitering trouble makers and will be able to be closed up for events to keep the weather out. This will be essentially possible because of the sliding doors which will be locked open when the barn is not in use and closed up when it is.

The vast majority of the structure stands over 12ft high on columns to keep it out of reach of vandals and the lower down walls will be very solidly built and not provide purchase to climb higher up the structure.

The barn is oriented towards the play park to strike a balance between maintaining a connection with the existing small barn which would likely be used for catering, bars etc. at events, keeping the open side of the barn out of the prevailing wind

from the west and pointing the event noise away from nearby houses I.E. aiming for a corridor between the houses on Wilson Terrace and the new development on Knighton Road.

We will also run a supply of electricity into the barn to power lights, sound systems and any other equipment needed for events.

There are more detailed drawings available if you would like to see them.

### **BUILDING THE BARN**

The plan is for the barn to be built by the community. We have talked to lots of people in the community willing to help, from experienced builders to enthusiastic amateurs.

We will organise a schedule of build days and rosters of volunteers to complete the project. We have already been offered some assistance with loans of tools and resources and will be able to get a better sense closer to the start of the build as to how much equipment we will need to rent or borrow.

### **FUNDING THE BARN**

This is still in its early stages but we are starting to put together a plan of how raise funds to pay for the barn. We will be asking local groups such as Sheep Music, The Carnival, Mid-Border Arts, Presteigne Festival, The Town Council Etc. for donations. We are also looking at grants and funding for this kind of project and are in the beginning stages of putting together a crowd funding scheme aimed at local people who will feel the community will benefit from the barn.

We would like to propose that funding for the barn is over seen by the Town Council as they seem to be the better equipped of the two organisations to deal with \_the budget.

Details of the cost break down as it currently stands are detailed later on in \_this document

### **USING THE BARN**

The primary aim of the barn is to make putting on community events on Went's Meadow easier. We have a lot of experience of putting on events down on the field and have a good sense of what could be improved and made easier.

The barn should be made available to anyone wanting to put appropriate events on for the community and should be available to use essentially for free but if an event is a success and makes enough money we would encourage the organisers to donate to a fund for the barn's upkeep.

### **ADOPTION OF THE BARN**

We would like to propose that the barn be adopted by The Town Council as part of the whole entity that is Went's Meadow. Again of the two organisations The Town Council seems better equipped, being the land owners and the more long running of the two organisations.

### **ANNOUNCING THE BARN PROPOSAL TO THE WIDER COMMUNITY**

The Barn proposal was announced on 25th October 2017.

The proposal was announced through the following channels

1. A promoted Facebook post on the Sheep Music Facebook page
2. On the Sheep Music website
3. Printed posters and architectural drawings put up at the proposed site
4. Direct email correspondence with local groups
5. The Community Groups Fair on 28th October

## **FACEBOOK**

Sheep Music paid for a promoted post on Facebook

Which means that Facebook promoted the post to lots of people in and around the area for 3 days

The post was also viewed by people already friends with Sheep Music on Facebook

All in all the post has reached 7881 people and has been liked by 210 people

It has been shared 28 times

And received one comment of 'This is such a fantastic idea!'

## **SHEEP MUSIC WEBSITE & PRINTED INFORMATION**

The detailed proposal and drawings are on the website and printed out and stuck up in the small existing barn.

## **RESPONSE FROM DIRECT EMAILS TO LOCAL GROUPS**

Presteigne Festival Producer - "We at Presteigne Festival keenly support the proposal for a Community Barn on Went's Meadow. This would be a completely new type of venue for the town and area, not replicating any other available. It would offer us the chance to extend the type of event we could programme. We are encouraged by funders such as the the Arts Council of Wales to broaden the range of the Festival's activities and our audience base. A new venue of the size and type proposed would enable us to do this. We are strong supporters of the project and would plan to use the Barn as a venue, and possibly as a centre for our annual education and outreach projects."

Presteigne Carnival Organiser - "We have our next Carnival meeting in January, and I will take the plans, etc to the meeting. In the meantime, without having yet discussed with the committee, I think this is something we should get involved with, and thank you for including us."

## **THE PACDG COMMUNITY GROUPS FAIR**

We took a model of the barn and a copy of the latest drawings to the Fair on the 28th October and talked to lots of people all day.

The response to the barn was almost universally good. Of the comments collected in the comments book they were all good.

Especially positive response from a local Tai Chi teacher and would love to have a place like the barn to go to to practice Tai Chi.

One person was worried about vagrancy but thought the design of very open sides worked well to mitigate those problems.

## **OTHER EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE**

Two people have contacted Sheep Music to discuss the barn proposal.

They have both expressed a positive response to the proposal but have reservations about what it will mean for the field moving forward.

The main reservation they both have is of more use of the field for amplified music concerts. Sheep Music's position on this is basically that we have no say about who gets to use the field and this is ultimately a Town Council issue so we would pass their concerns on. The question of how the maintenance of the barn will be funded was raised. We are proposing that any community group that uses the barn and makes a profit from their event donate money to a fund that will be held in trust until it is needed. It was also asked if there would be increased vehicle traffic on the field which we don't envision being significant in any way.

And will Sheep Music be responsible for the barn after it is built ? to which the answer is 'no'. This project was started by some members of Sheep Music but the ultimate plan is for the project to be adopted by the Town Council. Sheep Music are more of a support group for the project.

There has also been some email correspondence with organisers who have put on events on the field before as well.

They have all been very positive about the proposal but some people had concerns regarding the position of the barn and felt it was too close to existing barn and the landscaped stage. They felt it should be further down the field and pointing directly west to open up the field for larger events. At the moment the position of the barn is still proposed to stay where it is but the position will be discussed again at future meetings.

We have had corresponded and collaborated on the design with lots of people who run events in the area, and with local builders who will hopefully help to build the barn if it goes ahead.

**If you have any questions on what's happening - or not happening - in our community, do let us know and we'll do our best to provide an answer, or at least point you in the right direction - simply email [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com). We're happy to help publicise community and charity activities and events (but only for events in the immediate Presteigne area) - mail [pacdg@icloud.com](mailto:pacdg@icloud.com). Feel free to tweet or forward this to others. If you would prefer not to receive further issues of the News, please email us with REMOVE and we'll immediately take you off the the distribution list**