

Opening Ceremony for the New Lowered Terrace at the Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall.

The New Lowered Terrace at the Chidham & Hambrook Village Hall was formally opened on Saturday 11th October by Cllr Mrs Eileen Lintill, Deputy Leader of the Chichester District Council. Constructed and landscaped by local run business, J&D Castle of Chidham Lodge Nursery, the lowered terrace provides 450 sq.ft of additional floor space at ground floor level. This gives increased capacity for major events and the future growth of the community.

The terrace provides the Community with a formal outside paved area which complements the use of the hall. It forms a secure area for children to play without the danger of them straying away from supervised events – it also provides a welcomed outside facility for food and drink in fine weather. For the more formal occasions such as village celebrations, weddings, anniversaries, parties etc., a modular marquee system can be hired to provide a temporary enclosed & covered area over the terrace. When used in conjunction with the ground floor hall, the terrace, when covered, will provide a greatly extended functions area. This, together with the new Kitchen facility which was designed with this in mind, will help to bring other events into the Village as well as enhancing community activities. This will support the local supply chain, enhance the rural development of the area and improve the future viability of the community-owned Hall. The lowered terrace will be accessible to everybody in the community using the hall irrespective of age or mobility. The £25,000 scheme has been primarily funded by a Chichester District Council New Homes Bonus Grant and a £1200 grant has been provided by the Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council for a low level lighting scheme. Some local contributions have also been made.

"The New Homes Bonus Grant is provided by the Government to authorities where new housing development has taken place in their district said Cllr Lintill. The Chichester District Council pass all this funding onto our local communities where it can do the most good. It is very rewarding that the money is spent on projects which can be used for multiple purposes and this is an example where it provides a great deal of benefit to the Community for many years to come".

The terrace project is part of the Village Hall programme of refurbishment and has been met with great public support. It takes into account the views expressed by the community during the preparation of 2005 Chidham & Hambrook Parish Plan. So far, works have been undertaken to provide disabled access to the lower hall, a new fully equipped semi-commercial kitchen, a new heating system, storage, new furnishing and the lowered terrace. This has encouraged many new regular functions to take place such as the community Film Club, Lunch Group and many other local activities. Further construction is hoped to start shortly on the new toilets and cloakroom.

"The programme of refurbishment works has been prepared to ensure that the Village Hall meets the future needs of this growing community" said Rod Isted, Chairman of the Management Committee. "We would like to give a very big "Thank You" to all those who have contributed over the past few years. In particular, to the Chichester District Council, Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council, West Sussex County Council, National Lottery, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, local community organisations and our community, for supporting the refurbishment works".

ENDS.