

Working Group Research

1. Results

- a. The school building is now in a very poor state of repair, and is not suitable for use as an infant school, due to the number of surplus places available locally.
- b. The building could be suitable for use as a nursery or pre-school if there is sufficient demand and someone willing to run it. Estimated refurbishment cost £700,000 + VAT.
- c. Current government funding for pre-school/nursery only provision is insufficient to cover staffing and running costs. (Detailed information see Document 6.)
- d. As current government policy is to extend provision in primary schools to include nursery provision, at this stage it is not possible to see what positive effect that would have on the availability of pre-school places.
- e. The building could also be used for a range of other educational activities but many of these could alternatively take place in either the KGV or the Winn Hall, which are currently considerably under-used.
- f. The working group felt that any proposed use of the former school building should not conflict with the Winn Hall's existing activities and income stream. They include Pilates, Forever Young, Upholstery, Café Church, Art Groups, Dunsfold Parish Council meetings, and many private bookings. Despite its central village location and parking facilities, it has over 50% empty periods.
- g. The KGV is currently under-used, but is under refurbishment, which should make it more desirable as a community venue. The outdoor play equipment has already been repaired, and the car park has been re-surfaced. Roofing and soffits have been repaired, and there are plans to improve the appearance of the exterior of the building. Internal decoration has been carried out, and the heating system has been upgraded. Currently, the KGV is only used by the tennis and football clubs.
- h. The Parish Council office is another under-used building, which has cost implications.

2. Points to consider

- a. Given the under-use of the KGV, the Winn Hall and the Parish Council Office, does the village need another building for community use?
- b. Would having the former classroom part of the building be sufficient?

3. The Working Group's conclusions are that the village has three alternatives

- a. To accept the proposal from the Diocese.
- b. To attempt to recommence the battle with the Diocese for the transfer of ownership.
- c. Do nothing and allow the buildings and grounds to fall into further disrepair.