

Friends of Burgh School Room



Iain Bell, Co-Chair, FOBS - 27th July 2009

History of the School Room

19th Century

20th Century

21st Century

- Built in 1835

?

- State school room for
Local children

- Open to all but mainly
Church use

- Closed in 1875

- Adopted by the Church

Burgh - the problem

Needs

- Greater social cohesion
- A communal space and meeting place
- A partnership of village representative bodies

Issues

- A scattered rural community
- Isolation and loneliness
- No public land/buildings available
- Low priority at District/County Council
- School Room
 - No modern facilities
 - Poor access for those with disabilities
 - Funding - owned by the Church
 - Resistance to change
 - Church use
 - a historic building
- Parish Meeting
- Parochial Church Council
- Some mindsets
 - Let's embrace the village - a church outreach programme?
 - Community doesn't mean organised religion/other groups

Burgh - the opportunity

Objectives

- ✓ To enliven the parish and encourage social cohesion
- ✓ Upgrade the School Room
- ✓ Sustainability
 - ✓ Exemplar green development
 - ✓ The right management
 - ✓ Viable - use and financially

_____ Just a good idea?

- ✓ Since late-2006, regular village and church events have taken place
- ✓ Over 1,000 people have used the School Room despite the lack of facilities
- ✓ Village Survey in 2007
 - 80% of households responded
 - 97% in favour of using the School Room and actively support the project
- ✓ FOBS founded 2008
 - Jointly run by Parish Meeting and PCC
 - To deliver the agreed objectives

Environmental objectives

- ✓ A 'show case' of good 'green' practice to the community, coupled with talks
- ✓ Lower running costs and create greater interest from potential funders
- ✓ Supports the C of E fifth mark of mission - "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth"

Some features of our plans:

The Church

- Photovoltaic panels on the tower roof
- Rainwater harvesting from church roof
- Trench-arch system for sewage

The School Room

- Greater use of natural light/skylight tubes
- Wood burning stove/air source heat pump
- Monitoring water/energy
- 'green' building materials

The Village

- "in kind" investment
- Reclaimed materials for the build

Issues/Barriers?

Hearts and minds

- Build
- Village "cross over"

Approvals

- Planning
- Diocese
- English Heritage etc.

Funding

- Higher build cost than conventional
- Just another village hall?