



**C/o 5, Deynes Road
Debden
SAFFRON WALDEN
CB11 3LH**

08/10/2020

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter of the 30th September. It makes interesting reading and we as a Trust take on board your concerns with reference the generous grant offered by the MOD in 2015. We are in constant dialogue with the team responsible for the administration of the grant and working with them to make sure we keep and spend the money to build a new hall for the village of Debden and the surrounding area.

The village as a whole are behind the scheme we are promoting, as the alternative “Purkiss Plan” was rejected more than once by the Trust as not being viable and also more expensive to build and maintain than our existing plan for the new hall.

The Trust was not in favour of the current site as we wanted to build on the car park, which we and the experts considered was the best option. Unfortunately, the previous Parish Council and Recreation Ground Trust did not agree. The MOD and UDC intervened and through mediation it was agreed by all parties to build on the site of the pavilion.

A lot of time and money has been spent on the agreed site and changing our minds again at this late stage does not make economic sense and would certainly lose us all of the grant money, not just the MOD grant.

You state that the Trust has not been able to raise any significant funds to take the project forward, you are wrong.

If the “Purkiss Plan” has significant financial pledges from residents in the village, what information are they basing their pledges on? We have asked on numerous occasions for basic information on the “Purkiss Plan” and to date that information has not been forthcoming which is why the plan was rejected, several times.

I am very pleased to see that you are happy to work with the Trust to bring the building of a new hall to a satisfactory conclusion and hope that you will enjoy the new facility when completed next year.

If you want any further information please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Richard P Cawte, F IDM, FGPT
Chairman
Debden Village Hall Trust