

# MILESTONES

In 2004, Buxted Parish Council embarked upon the creation of a new parish plan to be linked to Wealden District Council's Local Framework plan. One item clearly identified by this exercise was the desire by local residents to have a new village hall, with up-to-date facilities, to replace the existing 1908 Parish Council Reading Room.

A steering group was formed in 2009 to take the matter forward and following a number of consultation exercises with current and potential users and local residents, the Buxted Parish Council appointed an architect and plans for a new hall were drawn up. An outline agreement for a suitable site on a piece of land in the heart of the village, owned by the Basil Ionides Memorial Centre (Registered Charity number 305192) was made and the steering committee formalised registration of the Buxted Community Hall Trust in 2011.

The Buxted Community Hall Trust was setup with the purpose of providing and maintaining a village hall within the village of Buxted, East Sussex.

Prior to the application being submitted an open session with the Architect commissioned by the Parish Council was held in January 2010 at which the community viewed the proposed plans. The Architect and a local artist held a workshop on creating a village hall with Buxted Church of England Primary School. In March 2012, the School was granted lottery funding to make a film about the need for a new village hall in Buxted, which was screened to the public in the school hall.

The intent to grant planning permission to build a new village hall within the village of Buxted was agreed by Wealden district Council in July 2014, subject to a number of conditions.

The first two ticketed fundraising functions were held in October (Quiz Night) and November (Talk by Vivienne Blandford on Buxted through the years 1835 – 1935). Both functions were sold out beforehand and proved to be very successful and enjoyable evenings. These events, together with the other functions organised in the 5 months since provisional planning permission was agreed have generated over £1700 towards the village hall funding requirements.

Wealden District Council formally granted planning consent on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014, now that Buxted Parish Council has accepted the conditions.