

## NEW VILLAGE HALL

The Planning Application for a new village hall made earlier this year which was featured in Newsletter 01, produced many objections and was accordingly withdrawn, but with the promise of a public meeting at which everyone could voice their opinions. This meeting was duly held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.

The Steering Group decided that the best way to reach a consensus at the meeting would be through the technique called "Planning for Real". This technique had been developed by the Neighbourhood Initiatives Foundation for community design of all types and their recent Head of Projects, Margaret Wilkinson, agreed to run the meeting.

Essentially, it was 'back to the drawing board', as everyone was asked to comment on what they considered they wanted from a village hall in respect of its internal layout, attributes and characteristics, materials and construction methods and, finally, their views on the recently proposed design.

Margaret's Report has now been received and includes details of all the comments made on the night at the various individual tables and an analysis on an Activity by Activity basis. It is clear that whilst there was overwhelming support for a new hall, it was equally clear that the recently proposed design was not universally liked.

As a result, The Steering Group has discussed the various findings with their architect who has agreed to produce another design which will be displayed at another consultation meeting, in due course.

The Steering Group are also pleased to confirm that the Charity Commissioners have, at last, agreed that they have NO objection to the Diocese of Hereford giving the Hall to the Village Hall Charity and that the legal process is now under way.

Clearly, the Report is too lengthy to be published here but the Steering Group is anxious that all residents should have access to it and, accordingly, copies will be placed in the following locations:

Wentnor Shop                      2 copies

The Crown, Wentnor              1 copy

Inn on the Green, Wentnor      1 copy

The 'Bridges', Ratlinghope      1 copy

A copy will also be available for loan from:

Trevor Sheard, Wentnor – 01588 650382

John Glover, Norbury – 01588 650427

Alan Brandon, Ratlinghope – 01588 650232

For anybody with access to a computer, a CD-Rom containing the full Report can also be obtained from: Alan Brandon, 01588 650232.