



VILLAGE HALL ROOF PROJECT TO GO AHEAD

With the help of several funding bodies, the project to renew the 100-year-old main roof of the Village Hall as well as installing a solar power system is finally reaching a conclusion.

The £125,000 project has been possible with the help of almost £90,000 from grant-giving bodies, a major donation of tiles from an international company with local connections, village fund-raising organised mainly by the Stewkley Players and individual donations from villagers.

Replacing the asbestos tiles that were put in place when the hall was built in 1925 is the first task, followed by the installation of new tiles provided as a donation by roofing company the BMI group. Villager and BMI employee Dean Millward worked with the Village Hall Committee to obtain the in-kind donation of Redwood Cambrian slate tiles from the company.

The part of the project that will see solar panels mounted on the roof and linked to an internal battery system is expected to help the Village Hall Committee cope with the increasing cost of providing power in the hall.

The biggest single grant, of £56,000, has come from the FCC Communities Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects with funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. FCC Environment itself is one of the UK's leading waste and resource management companies.

A second grant came from the ACRE Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund. This fund which has approved a contribution of £23,500 was set up by the Government's Department for the Environment to mark the late Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee.

The third grant of £10,000, comes from the Hearts of Bucks Community Fund. This organisation is a registered charity that works in partnership with individuals, businesses, and public sector organisations and as such is one of the largest funders in the county.

It is hoped that work on the project will commence in May or June, with the remainder of the monies coming from the Village Hall Committee's financial reserves.