Neighbourhood Plan Team
Welford on Avon
Email: info@welforward.org.uk

Mr A Smart
Briar Cottage
Chapel Street
Welford on Avon
CV37 8PX

Dear Mr Smart,

Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire

Thank you for your letter of the 16th April. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the concerns of your Trustees and Committee of which several of us were made aware last week.

The Neighbourhood Plan Committee (NPC) of course recognises both the sterling work that the Welford and Weston on Avon Memorial Hall Committee has done over the years to maintain and improve the Memorial Hall and also the Hall's significance to both villages' memory of those who sacrificed their lives in conflict for this country.

Question 16 of the questionnaire is based on NPC's understanding of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) currently being introduced under the planning system changes, this provides funds from the developers of new housing to support local priority infrastructure projects. The Q16 list also has a second purpose to help the Parish Council understand current village funding priorities when setting the precept or applying for grants from other sources. The maintenance of the Memorial Hall is not on the list as fundraising for this has historically been dealt with by your committee rather than the Parish Council.

Our current understanding is that CIL can provide funds for infrastructure projects identified as a priority by the Parish Council, but not for their ongoing maintenance nor repair. Our latest information suggests Stratford District Council plans to introduce CIL in the district by November 2014.

We have received some informal feedback from a number of villagers that the current Memorial Hall may be at, or indeed beyond, its useful life. It is part of the remit of the NPC to consider what developments will be required by the community in the fifteen years to 2028 and hence the inclusion of Village Hall (new) line item in Q16.

The NPC is not party to any proposals presented by the Sports Club to the Parish Council. Indeed we would like to quote a sentence from a flyer from the NPC currently being circulated in Welford: ' ***The Welforward Neighbourhood Plan Team DO NOT condone or support any particular village organisation. Any lobbying you may have received during***

the survey response window, whilst perfectly legitimate, DOES NOT represent the opinion of the team as a whole.'

We hope that this letter addresses any concerns that the Welford and Weston Memorial Hall Committee may have and we look forward to our two Committees working together for the common good of Welford and Weston (although Weston is outside our defined Neighbourhood Plan Area as defined and communicated in the Questionnaire).

In the interest of openness and transparency, we propose to publish our correspondence on the NPC website (www.welforward.org.uk). Please confirm that you are agreeable to this action.

Yours sincerely,

Peter White

For and on behalf of Welford on Avon Neighbourhood Planning Committee.

CC: Welford Parish Council