

**Proposed Entrance Lobby and Porch,
Demolition of Storage Hut
Internal Alterations**

Applicant: Emsworth Community Centre

Design and Access Statement



Fig No.1 – Image of Existing Front Elevation & Entrance

1.0 Introduction Background

The Emsworth Community Centre is located behind the Fire Station in central Emsworth. It is accessed via the car parks. Currently the approach to the building is neither clear nor welcoming. The Management wish to improve the approach to promote the centre to a wider community and increase its usage. They also wish to improve the facilities within the centre to achieve the same.

The Emsworth Community Association (ECA) run the centre and was set up 25 years ago with the object of promoting the advance of education to the local community. The Association is non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

The ECA is responsible for the running of the Centre, and relies heavily on voluntary help both physical and financial. The site/building is owned by Hampshire County Council.

2.0 Site Analysis

The buildings surrounding the site offer an eclectic mixture of traditional and modern style buildings, from ornate Victorian to mid 20th Century blandness. The scale of the surrounding buildings range from single storey to three storey.

The palette of materials locally is also varied and consists of clay tiles, slate, brick, render and timber.

The community centre itself consists of 2 buildings, the old St James' school [built 1863] and the newer extension built approximately 11 years ago that replaced an old Horsa Hut that stood on the site previously. . The old school building is a Historic Building of merit but is not listed. It has an interesting roof form which creates its aesthetic of steep gabled roofs. The building also has some excellent large windows and interesting structural timber and brickwork internally. The extension is not of such high quality design and has a shallow hipped roof form and lacks decent windows.

The Community centre itself does not feel welcoming to visitors in terms of approach and clarity of plan once inside. It's approach is also partially concealed by the storage unit on the site.

The Community centre has a wide range of uses including; charity fund raising events, art classes, exhibitions, brownies, exercise classes, Ballet classes, community meetings, blood donations and Film events.

4.0 The Design Solution

Amount

Through the creation of an entrance lobby / porch, the dark recessed half hidden by parking entrance could be improved to provide a projecting welcoming light entrance. The added benefit would be joining the two parts of the building together so that security could be improved. The provision of a draught lobby would also help reduce heat loss from the buildings.

The entrance would be single storey and 16m.sq.

Layout

The site layout and conceptual layout of the building would be unchanged. The approach would be improved as discussed above. Once inside the building the office area will be moved to improve the cafe / seating/ waiting area. The existing storage shed would be removed to aid visibility of the entrance and again help improve footfall in the centre.

Scale

As existing.

Landscaping

The landscaping will not be altered.

Appearance

Materials

Clay tiled roof to match existing.

White soffits and fascia to match existing.

Grey aluminium glazed screens / doors/ windows.

Use

The use will remain as existing.

Access

The access to the site will not change - push button access for disabled.

Sustainability

The development will be built from sustainable sources. In line with current Building Regulations requirements.

Involvement of Local Interests.

The scheme has been discussed extensively with committees within the community centre and has been displayed within the centre for all users to comment. The design was developed following initial feedback.

The scheme as presented was displayed at the Emsworth Show on 26th August 2013 for consultation with the wider public. The proposals received favourable feedback. We have documentation of the feedback should the planning department wish to see it.



Images illustrating the view from across the carpark as existing and as proposed



Images illustrating the view of the entrance as existing and as proposed