



Central Mead

A welcoming new heart for Godshill

5 October 2026

Godshill has been without a dedicated village hall for more than a decade. After the former School Road Hall fell into disrepair and was sold in 2017, plans for a replacement were delayed by Covid and changes to Lottery funding. Now, a practical new way forward is ready to bring community facilities back to the village.

The Children's and Young People's Playground and Parish Recreation Ground Charity (CYPP) has developed an alternative approach designed to have the first facilities open in around nine months.

In the 2025 Parish Survey, residents identified two clear priorities: tackling speeding traffic and creating a dedicated community space without delay.

Across the Island, traditional halls face rising costs and increasing pressure to secure bookings from a wide area. Godshill has the opportunity to take a different route: a right-sized, sustainable hub shaped around local people and local demand.

This will be more than a hall for occasional events. Our vision is a lively, welcoming place open throughout the day and evening, with activities, support and opportunities for every generation of the Godshill community.

The project will be delivered in two carefully planned phases, meeting urgent needs now while creating room to grow:

Phase One

Meeting today's needs — sooner

Phase Two

A bold, modern expansion for the future

Phase One

Phase One starts modestly and sensibly, giving residents useful facilities close to home with little or no travel. As participation grows and the programme widens, the case for a larger venue can be demonstrated with confidence.

With support from the Parish Council, Phase One can deliver valuable personal and community benefits while operating on a financially sustainable basis.

The immediate goal is an attractive, accessible indoor space: open daily, simple to manage and flexible enough for a wide variety of activities.

The underused cricket pavilion and meeting hall offers the ideal starting point. Thoughtful renovation will transform this overlooked asset into a place the whole village can enjoy.



The existing building needs structural repairs and significant improvement, but its footprint offers a practical and responsible way to create something new while protecting the surrounding recreation space. The target is to welcome the community through the doors by the end of July 2027.

The result will be a safe, accessible and sustainable hub, with dedicated support for children, young people and older residents, alongside compatible activities for local people and community organisations.



The proposed work will include structural stabilisation, weatherproofing, insulation and improvements to the roof, windows, doors, lighting, heating, electrics and internal facilities. The building will also be adapted to provide accessible entry, an accessible toilet, flexible activity space, plus suitable storage and facilities that support safeguarding and confidential conversations.

This additional resilience function will provide a safe and welcoming place for young people, older residents and others who may be particularly vulnerable to temperature extremes. Improved insulation, efficient systems and renewable energy will also help reduce running costs and the building's environmental impact.

Particular attention will be given to acoustics, controllable lighting, accessibility and sensory needs so that the hub can welcome people with physical disabilities, hearing difficulties and neurodiverse needs. Durable, energy-efficient and easy-to-maintain materials and systems will be used wherever practicable to extend the useful life of the building.

Once Phase One is completed, the hub will provide a secure base for youth support, clubs, workshops, advice sessions, meetings and community activities. Flexible community hire will help generate income towards utilities, insurance, cleaning, maintenance and future repairs



without displacing the building's principal youth-focused purpose.

The project is supported by community consultation, project plans, initial costings and a business plan. Its aim is not simply to repair an old pavilion, but to create a practical, inclusive and resilient community asset that can adapt to local needs and remain affordable to operate over the long term.

Phase Two

Once Phase One is meeting current needs and demonstrating demand, planning can begin for Phase Two. Expansion could follow within a few years, guided by community use, available funding and a clear business case.

Phase Two will be a major enhancement, building on — and making full use of — the investment already made in Phase One.

Using innovative construction suited to the site, the expansion is designed to be quick and efficient to build, connecting seamlessly to the front of the Phase One building.

The Phase One building will remain in place and will provide facilities and storage to support the new building.

The inspiration for this Phase Two structure is a small community centre built in 2011 in Ongawa, Japan following a devastating earthquake and tsunami. This design idea has been much used around the world since.

Shipping containers are used on either side of the building to provide a rigid single storey structure and individual, ready made, rooms. The space between the containers is covered with a gull wing wooden roof structure creating a large multi-function hall.



Energy efficiency and community resilience. Phase Two will explore solar panels and an energy-efficient ground or air-source heat pump, subject to technical assessment and available funding. The heating and cooling system will help maintain a safe temperature throughout the year and enable the hub to serve as both a warm space in cold weather and a cool space during periods of extreme heat. Having a range of independent spaces within the building will enable energy usage to be as efficient as possible.



The proposed design uses one 40-foot and four 20-foot shipping containers to frame a striking winged timber roof and a flexible hall of approximately 120 square metres. That means room for more than 150 guests at a standing reception, over 100 people at a film screening or 70 diners seated comfortably.



Phase One will become a much enlarged toilet facility, an office, medical room and store.

A new café will enjoy panoramic views across the park, with an outdoor counter serving the patio and indoor seating for up to 20 people.



The accompanying photographs show how a 40-foot container can be successfully transformed into an inviting café.

The south-east side of Phase Two could follow this model: a bright café serving both indoors and out, with wide sliding doors opening towards the Mead and internal windows giving visitors a clear view of activities in the hall.





The second phase is to be added to the front of phase one enabling the two to work together thus extending the use of Phase One.

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