

Review of suggestions and other comments (in italics) received at Coffee Morning on 8th March 2025 for proposed new layout of Community Hall.

Option B1 was preferred by the majority of respondents (76%), many of whom felt that this layout would make a better use of space for overflow from the Main Hall for larger events. Option B2, with a separate café area/meeting room, was less popular. It was also noted that there was no space adjacent to the serving hatch for a table for plates of food for coffee mornings or other events.

Alternative layouts:

1. Put kitchen all the way across the north end of the Main Hall

This option would be complicated for the drainage from the kitchen as all drains are on the south side of the building, it would also result in significant loss of space in the Main Hall and was therefore not considered further.

2. Extend existing kitchen into WC area to make long narrow kitchen and relocate WC

Although this option would be better than the current kitchen, the option was not considered further as a long galley kitchen was considered to be difficult for several people to work in at the same time. Also, the WC would need to be relocated, which would take up space elsewhere.

Suggestions for Option B1:

3. Extend kitchen across whole width of Chapel

4. Proposed kitchen is too small to cater for 60 people

5. Do away with proposed new entrance

- Whilst extending the kitchen across the whole room would make a lovely big kitchen, it would not be possible to have the second entrance to the building off the Courtyard with the ramped access
- This would preclude the possibility of having 2 events at the same time, such as a café and a class or a meeting, or doing preparation for an event at the same time as another event
- A second entrance/exit is required for an emergency exit. Relocating the emergency exit elsewhere would be difficult due to the narrow passage around the building (not wide enough) and the steps down to Chapel Lane
- The proposed kitchen is substantially bigger than the existing kitchen
- Extending the kitchen towards the WC would result in a smaller space for the shop/café and for larger events, so there would be fewer people to cater for

The group felt that for the relatively few large catered events held in a year, the proposed kitchen was the best compromise within the scope of the building

6. *Concern was raised about being faced with the high kitchen wall at the new entrance.*

The suggested ways to assess/minimise the impact of this were:

- a. Use dwarf wall for kitchen at new entrance/all the way around (open plan)*
- b. Use 3-D architectural drawings to see the effect of high wall at new entrance*
- c. Use high level light box/windows in kitchen wall to maximise light in kitchen/entrance*
- d. Use mural (painted by local artists?) to draw eye away from high wall*

7. *Amount of light in the entrance and overflow area could be affected by new kitchen walls*

- Use of a dwarf wall around the kitchen was not considered to be appropriate as kitchen noises and smells need be kept in the kitchen
- An open plan kitchen was considered to increase the risk of fire spreading in the building
- Coat hooks are proposed on the entrance walls
- Light boxes could be used in the high walls between the entrance and the kitchen. However, due to the expected level of light from the high glazed door in the entrance, and a high window in each of the kitchen and Small Hall, as well as ceiling and wall lights for lower light situations, the level of lighting was not thought to be an issue
- When the wall positions were marked up on the floor, the distance from the proposed new entrance to the corner of the kitchen was found to be small. It was thought that people were more likely to be looking into the Small Hall to see what was happening/who was in the room rather than looking up at a wall.
- Given the above mitigation, it was agreed that 3-D imaging was an excessive and unnecessary cost for no significant benefit

Other comments:

8. *Use sliding door instead of folding partition for smaller meeting room for Option B2*

- Good idea, but not applicable to Option B1

9. *Any other option for main access as level external area could make a nice, covered external seating area?*

- An access ramp is required for the entrance to the Community Hall to make it accessible to everyone. Unfortunately, there is very little scope for external seating area.