

Staircase for access to first floor

Tony and I have discussed the business case for utilising the first-floor area and believe we cannot put a business proposal forward until we have consulted the people of Ettington to get their ideas on what it should be used for.

We believe we need to install a new, safe staircase before we do the above.

We have put together a few ideas of our own for its use and shown these on a drawing

- Additional meeting rooms
- Drama area
- Dance studio
- Rehearsal area for panto
- Small cinema -
 - Children's Film Club
 - Children's parties
 - Adult Film Club
 - Sports events - Football, rugby, tennis, F1
- Storage area (scouts already use an area for storage)
- Youth club area - table tennis, pool table
- Move snooker room upstairs. Present snooker room could become a meeting room and existing meeting room could become a bar for the large hall.
- Makerspace (There are approximately 100 makerspaces in the UK at the present time. SEE nesta.org.uk)

We can certainly put forward a Health and Safety case.

The stairs are presently used for access to the solar panel array control panels, the wi fi mast and associated control panel and by the scouts for storage of their gear.

The stairs as they are installed are dangerous for the following reasons:

- The rise and going of the existing stairs do not conform to building regulations for utility stairs.
- The rise of the bottom step is different from the rest of the steps
- The top two steps have a rise that is almost twice the rise of the rest of the steps
- There should be a landing built into these stairs and the stairs should have a change of direction. Our staircase has neither.
- The handrail is not permanent.

If someone was to fall down these stairs our insurance would not cover us. They would take one look at the stairs and walk away. Anyone who knew that these stairs were dangerous and that they do not conform to the regulations would be culpable. This would include the trustees, all members of the management committee and maybe even the parish councillors who knew about the stairs. This would include anyone who had served as a trustee or a management committee member since these stairs were installed over ten years ago.

I googled "how many accidents happen annually involving stairs in the UK". The answer for 2017 was over 100,000. That is an average of 275 accidents per day and three of those are fatal. I would guess that 99.99% of the stairs involved met the regulations when they were installed. The ones in the community centre don't.