

Easton Village Hall & Recreation Ground
Response to Mr Beardow's Representations

Claim	Response
The new hall is much bigger than the old hall.	This is not true. The hall part of the new building is 128 square metres against 115 sq meters for the old hall. The whole new building (including the cricket pavilion) is 228 sq metres against 195 square metres for the old building, with the difference largely being accounted for by bigger changing rooms, a separate room for cricket umpires, a disabled toilet, a children's toilet and increased storage.
The new hall is close to neighbouring houses.	The hall is on approximately the same footprint as the old hall but, overall, is slightly further away from neighbouring residents than before.
The car park is close to neighbouring houses.	The car park is in the exactly the same location as before
There are additional doors.	The doors referred to are emergency fire doors. The main entrance will be at the front of the building facing the cricket pitch. This is arguably an improvement for neighbours, as the old entrance faced the lane and houses opposite.
The old hall had natural sound insulation.	This is very misleading. The bank referred to actually adjoined the cricket club changing rooms, showers, toilet and clubroom, not the main hall which was a separate largely stand-alone building. In any event, the retaining wall mentioned is maintained as a feature of the new development and the ground above it will be planted. In addition, as a modern building with double glazing, cavity walls, pitched roof etc, the new facility has significantly better acoustic attenuation properties than the old building.
We have built the hall on borrowed money and will need to raise considerable revenue to pay off the debt.	This is not true. We have already raised enough hard cash to cover all the building costs and professional fees. In future, we only need to raise sufficient money to cover running costs and maintenance.
Not simply a village hall but a community centre.	Not sure what the difference is but we have always maintained we were building a facility for the whole village community. However, we are definitely not intending to run a commercial social club and have no plans to increase the number of regulated events.
Hall not just for Easton	We have accepted a good deal of money from public funds and have, within reason, a moral and possibly a legal responsibility to make it available to groups and individuals from within The Itchen Valley and beyond, particularly as one village, Avington, in the Parish

	Council constituency does not have its own village hall. However all hirers, wherever they come from, will have to accept a standard hiring agreement with significant conditions relating to the minimising of noise nuisance.
The capacity of the new hall is higher.	This is not true. The numbers that can be accommodated in a theatre style fashion is the same as the old hall, at just under 100 people.