

# SUPPORTING STATEMENT THE HAILEY DAY CENTRE, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, CM21 9AN

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## **1.00 Introduction.**

- 1.01 This design and access statement accompanies the planning application dealing with a single storey rear extension to the Hailey Centre, 18 Bell St, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9AN.
- 1.02 This extension will not alter the vehicular access to or from the main highway or car park, nor does it affect the pedestrian access. This is a simple extension aiding the increase in size of a community hall in Sawbridgeworth.
- 1.03 The Hailey Centre is a non-profit organisation which provides a meeting place for over 55's, offering regular activities and functions throughout the year.
- 1.04 Currently, the existing Hailey Centre does not have enough internal space to hold the large functions that they frequently do throughout the year. Which has been the case for a prolonged period of time. This is forcing them to hire out other venues, as well as provide the transport and assistance for their members to be able to attend. These are only being hired to enable the charity to accommodate all their current members. This is causing a frequent increase in costs for The Hailey Centre, as the venue and transport is extremely costly and is needed multiple times throughout the year. Therefore, the decision to extend has been seen as the only appropriate way to accommodate all attendees, decrease costs, and to keep the organisation operating in Sawbridgeworth. Sawbridgeworth has an increasing aged population and without the increase in capacity, the operation of the community asset becomes increasingly less feasible.

## **2.00 Site Description and the Surroundings.**

- 2.01 The application site is located on the northern side of Sawbridgeworth's main high street (Bell Street). The site of The Hailey Centre is neighbouring Bell Street Car Park.

2.02 Surrounding the property is a public car park, with a vast amount of spaces, exceeding the potential number needed for the users of The Hailey centre. Therefore, there will be no need to create additional car parking spaces.



2.03 Sawbridgeworth is known to have an ageing population and this is why The Hailey Centre's location is so important. Being situated just off of the main high street in Sawbridgeworth, means it's extremely convenient and accessible to the older generation within Sawbridgeworth. As there are good transport links, which creates an easy journey for attendees. Also, the proximity of the centre from the majority of attendees homes allows them to independently attend, by being close enough to walk or ride on their mobility scooter to the centre. Whereas the distance to the alternative venues is too far for members to confidently travel to without assistance from the centre.

### 3.00 The Proposal

3.01 The proposed single storey rear extension is keeping in character with the original building, in design, form and materials. The proposals include a number of external features which will provide a much needed refreshed look to the building which has fallen into disrepair.

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SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE

3.02 The mass of the proposed extension is much reduced from the previously approved scheme and would therefore be considered to be of appropriate size and scale.

3.03 The proposed rear extension falls within the current parameters of the site. Therefore, no parking or access will be affected by the proposed rear extension.

3.04 A new window is proposed on the side elevation facing the car park. This will have no overlooking issues for local residents and will be secured at night with a concealed roller shutter.

#### **4.00 Conclusion**

4.01 The proposal creates valuable, additional space, to allow The Hailey Centre to be able to consistently offer a permanent space to their members, without having to pay an excessive hire price for another venue, and transport to that venue.

4.02 As well as decreasing The Hailey Centre's outgoings, by having a space that accommodates their demand, it also creates opportunity for the centre to become a more attractive venue to hire by others. Due to the increase in floor area, as well as a more welcoming entrance and general uplift of the building.

4.03 One of the main reasons for this extension is to keep an accessible venue that meets the demand of the ageing population in Sawbridgeworth. If this extension isn't successful, there is potential that the organisation will be forced to find a larger venue, which may be outside of the Sawbridgeworth area, decreasing the accessibility to their current members. This extension is an attempt to maintain an appropriate and popular venue for Sawbridgeworth's population.

4.05 For all of these reasons, your support for the proposal is sought.