

Braco Primary School Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 16th November 6.30pm

Braco Primary School

Present: Becca MacRae (Chair), Dominic Edward (Secretary), Adrian Davidson (Treasurer), Gillian Nixon (Committee Member), Rhona Nuttall (Committee Member), Kirsty Binnie (Acting Head Teacher), Keith Allan (Councillor), Steven Carr (Councillor), Louise Fridge (Early Childhood Practitioner - Nursery), Rachel Beaton, Dee Campbell, Jill Johnston (Parent & PSA).

Teams: Rhiannon Howie-Davies

Apologies: Fiona Kerr

1. Head Teacher Report

More work has been carried out to improve the school environment – new shelving has been installed in the container; another skip has been provided to sort resources; new noticeboards to share information with the wider community have been installed; and new signage. (DC & BM both reported having received positive feedback from community members about the new noticeboards.) PKC have agreed to refurbish the hub, for which finance has been agreed, although no timescale has yet been given. Promethean boards have now been installed in classrooms and are being used. All staff had training on using the Promethean boards at November Inset Days and further training shall be available through Teams with Perth and Kinross Council.

The school has had lots of interactions with local groups, for example 'Ardoch in Bloom' have been into the school to work with the children and nursery will be attending the senior citizen Christmas party this year.

KB was pleased to welcome Jill Johnston to the school staff as a Pupil Support Assistant. She has been welcomed by all the children and adults and has begun targeted reading and small group interventions.

P7 have successfully started their transition to high school, with those moving on to Crieff having attended a transition day this week.

KB was proud to inform the meeting that nursery was chosen to host a network meeting that showcased the learning environment at Braco and best practice. Particularly in their learning environment.

The Halloween disco was enjoyed by all children. KB thanked parent council for their continued support of whole school events.

Funding has been received from Ardoch Development Trust so that Mr Torrens can undertake approved forest school training and a grant of a further £500 for more forest school equipment has been applied for.

KB is keen to include parents in school activities. In January a questionnaire will be issued to help gather information on the variety of interests and skills among parents in preparation for lunchtime and after school clubs starting in the new year.

Rehearsals and song practices are underway for a nativity this year and classes have begun preparing their enterprise stalls for the Christmas fair.

A number of dates for upcoming events were provided to the meeting (Appendix 1). Class 'Get Togethers', to which parents will be invited, are to start again.

Parent contact meetings were successful this year and the school is pleased that these could now take place in person - thanks to all staff for attending. Parent feedback through questionnaires was positive - 97% of parents agree/strongly agree their child is happy at school; 100% agree/strongly agree their child is safe at school; 97% agree/strongly agree their child is well looked after; and 93% agree/strongly agree their child is taught well at school.

Some parental comments from the surveys;

"They are progressing academically and with their social skills. They enjoy school and have a variety of engaging activities and opportunities."

"We have no concerns about their wellbeing while they are at school. Their needs have been consistently met."

"They have had great teachers and we really appreciate this."

"Reports are pupil specific and meaningful. They show the school really knows our child(ren)"

The school is actively responding to feedback received from parents by making positive changes. During get togethers, a more individualised approach to awards will be taken by asking children whether they want these to be present in front of the whole school. It is also intended to remove food rewards at the headteachers tea party whilst still rewarding children who have gone above and beyond.

Parent feedback also requested that Parent Council organise another focus group, with greater notice and out with the school day.

2. School Estate Update

GN/RN reported that they had met with the project team and members of the Learning & Families Committee to discuss the new school estate. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain as much information as possible to update parents. The meeting was felt to be positive and relationships were built between parties. The project team provided a written statement following the meeting that sets out their official position, reiterating previous communications:

"Perth and Kinross Council continues to have advanced negotiations to purchase an area of land that will provide the location for a new primary school in Braco. Whilst the time taken for this type of negotiation can be frustrating the purchase of the land is necessary to provide the best long-term solution to serve the community and future pupils of Braco Primary School."

As the project moves forward a User Reference Group will be set up and we will ask for representatives from parents, local members, local community, and school staff to join the group.

Please find attached a site plan showing the proposed location for the new school for reference and information.

It should be noted that the land purchase and project will be subject to the appropriate committee approvals."

A block plan of the proposed site was also provided (Appendix 2). SC noted that the lack of detail in the drawings was not because these hadn't been considered, rather that the project team needs to remain flexible on the precise floor layout.

GN/RN added that, as previously communicated, the timescales remained a 12-18 month design phase followed by a 12-18 month on site build phase – once land negotiations are complete. However, it was acknowledged in the meeting that these timescales had the very real possibility of being extended/delayed as was typical of building projects. Currently the project team are working to an opening of the new school in 2025.

GN/RN confirmed that although the original plans did not include a hall, a request had been received from a councillor that consideration should be made to include a hall as part of the new build. This request had been viewed favourably, plans had been amended and the area of ground to be purchased was increased to accommodate this. The project team informed that the addition of a hall to the plans was not delaying progress. However, it was noted that PKC would not be able to maintain both a new school hall and a village hall for the community.

Given the challenging timescales, GN/RN had expressed parent council's concern to the project team that the current school buildings have previously been graded as of poor suitability for education (*For clarity this grading is defined as "Showing major problems and/or not operating optimally (the school building and grounds impede the delivery of activities that are needed for children and communities in the school.)"*) There are many children who have been educated in the current school buildings for their entire primary education and, if a new school is not built until beyond 2025, many more children who will do so. The project team had agreed to conduct a further suitability assessment of the school buildings. Further to the previous school walkaround (see minutes of 20/6/22 Parent Council Meeting), KB informed the meeting that she would be happy to facilitate this again for any parties interested in viewing the current school estate.

KB confirmed that she had received a copy of an assessment questionnaire to complete as part of the suitability assessment and that she anticipated a visit from members of the project team as part of that process. It is also understood that efforts will be made to find resources to invest in now that could be transferred to the new building once complete.

KA introduced himself as one of the councillors for the Strathallan ward, having been newly elected in May. He had been prompted to look into the Braco school estate project by his predecessor. KA was of the opinion that the council was slow at progressing this particular project. However, KA expressed his confidence that any issues surrounding the purchase of the land were not of significance. Nevertheless, a particular concern that KA felt needed to be addressed was the lack of a school hall in the design. KA expressed his opinion to the meeting that any new school building needed to incorporate a school hall for activities and

dining. He thought it was unfair to expect the children to have to walk to a separate building, in all weathers, and the associated time and staffing costs this incurred. KA informed the meeting that he had contacted the project team to this effect and had been adamant that he did not want a new school being built without consideration for a new school hall. As a result of his intervention the project team did amend the plans. KA informed the meeting that he was given assurances this would not delay the project. KA was confident that a new school would be built by 2025 and was happy to hear views from parents.

RB expressed her concern that KA had influenced the direction of the project and that he had done this without wider consultation of parent's views or the community. KA responded that he had spoken to some members of the community, and that this had included some parents.

(Contextual note: Parent council had not been contacted by KA about his proposal for a hall to be included in the plans and were not involved in that decision. Parent Council had been informed by PKC that the project is not at a stage where we can influence the design and that further community consultations will not take place until later. The original community consultation held in 2017 did not include the option of a new school building on a new site nor the building of a new school hall.)

SC commented that he was very much in favour of community involvement in the process and was supportive of the idea that a new hall be incorporated into the plans. He noted the increased floor area of the hall and substantial storage provision that would benefit the community.

AD felt that if the council were to no longer maintain the current village hall, this should only be done following community consultation.

DE expressed his opinion that debate over the merits of including a hall and the wider community impact meant it was more important than ever to establish a user reference group now and not wait until later in the process.

RHD expressed her appreciation of the work carried out by RN/GN and her sentiment that progress now appears to have been made.

KA/SC left the meeting. They are happy to be contacted by parents, contact details can be found on the internet or by contacting parent council.

3. Fundraising

AD asked for budget projections for school trips so that parent council can ensure we have funds available. KB to discuss this with AD. Fortunately, due to small class sizes this year, a lot of the trips can be done using a minibus and car, rather than hiring a coach – which had significant savings.

DE summarised plans for the upcoming Christmas Fair and Santa Dash that is being held on 4th of December. As well as a Santa Dash, the event will also include a number of Christmas stalls, including Parent Council and class enterprise stalls; festive football and netball; entertainment from Ardoch Strings/Brazen Feddals and the Braco Christmas lights switch on. DE was pleased to confirm a grant of £700 has been awarded from Ardoch Development Trust to support this event. There are plenty of opportunities for parents to get involved - helping out on the day as well as taking part. More information about the event will be available

shortly. Any parents wishing to help out on the day can contact bracoparentcouncil@hotmail.com or request to be added to the WhatsApp group if not already included.

General discussion over whether a hamper raffle would be done this year received broad support. This has historically be drawn immediately after the nativity, though KB noted that this should be avoided or kept to a minimum duration as it can understandably be difficult for the children to remain attentive at such a late hour following a tiring performance.

Other fundraising activities discussed for the new year were a bingo tea and raffle. These events have historically been great fun and raised significant funds for Braco Parent Council. There was general support for holding a bingo tea in the new year.

4. AOB

STEM Spending

AD and Miss Carey propose to establish an after-school STEM club in the new year. It was proposed that they spend up to £1,000 of funds in the STEM grant account. This funding request was approved.

Aldi voucher / teacher discretionary budget

There was discussion of how Parent Council can best support school staff to purchase low value discretionary resources for lessons, for example baking supplies. In the past this has been done through a single supermarket 'gift card' provided to the school. Parent Council have provided this support as the school is 'cashless' and the official procurement procedure can be cumbersome. There was discussion whether this support could be provided more flexibly so that staff could purchase resources they felt appropriate whenever and wherever is easiest for them. KB had discussed with staff the possibility of each class teacher having their own 'gift card'. DE suggested support could perhaps be provided as a direct transfer to teachers with a budget being set for each class, so that there were fewer limitations on where staff could shop. There was general support within the meeting that this financial assistance should continue. KB wanted to check with the necessary department whether proposed methods of providing this support would be compliant with council policies.

BM wished to highlight "The Hub" – a social club being held on Tuesdays in the Church Hall. Please see attached (Appendix 3).

Dates of future meetings were discussed, with a view to holding a further 3 parent council meetings this year. These would be around the w/c 23rd Jan; w/c 24th April; and in June.



Braco Primary School

Term 2

Dates for your Diary



Parents Evening – Our parents evening will return to being in person this year. They are on Tuesday 8th November (3.15 -5pm) and Wednesday 9th November (5-7pm) in your children's classrooms. Nursery's parents evening will be on the Tuesday only.

Inset Days -Thursday 10th November and Friday 11th November

Book Week: During the week beginning 13th December. Celebrating reading across the school. With mystery readers and dress as a word day on Friday 17th November.

Term 2 Parent Council: Wednesday 16th November, 6.30pm, in the school. All warmly welcome.

P1/2/3 Celebration Get Together—In the Village Hall, Friday 25th November, P1/2/3 parents and carers and the wider community invited. Find out about what P1/2/3 have been learning about.

P4/5 Trip: To Kelvingrove Art Gallery on Wednesday 30th November.

P6/7 Trip: To the Glasgow Science Centre on Thursday 1st December.

Braco Christmas Fair – On Sunday 4th December, kindly organised by Parent Council including santa dash, present hunt, Christmas lights switch on, refreshments, stalls and entertainment.

P6/7 Celebration Get Together—In the Village Hall, Friday 9th December, P6/7 parents and carers and the wider community invited. Find out about what P6/7 have been learning about.

Pantomime Trip – Our whole school trip to Perth Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk is on Tuesday 13th December during the school day.

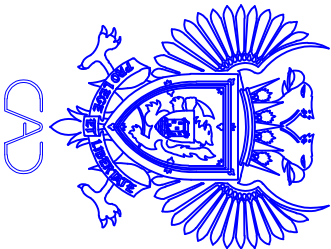
P4/5 Celebration Get Together—In the Village Hall, Friday 16th December, P4/5 parents and carers and the wider community invited. Find out about what P4/5 have been learning about.

The drawing is Copyright.
The contractor and any sub-contractors shall verify ALL dimensions on site
prior to making shop drawings or commencing manufacture.

NOTES:

F	10/11/22	School internal areas removed	PC
E	10/11/22	MUGA removed additional purchase area	PC
D	13/10/22	Path to west boundary removed	PC
C	29/09/22	Site extents increased down NW edge	PC
B	23/09/22	Building footprint updated	PC
A	23/09/22	Building footprint updated	PC

REVISIONS:



CA2

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Housing & Environment,
Property Division,
Pullar House,
35 Kinmoull Street, Perth
PH1 5GD
Tel: 01738 475815 - Fax: 01738 475810
Website: www.pkc.gov.uk

PROJECT

NEW BUILD SCHOOL
BRACO PRIMARY SCHOOL
BRACO, DUNBLANE, FK15 9QD

DRAWING:

PROPOSED SITE PLAN WITH KITCHEN
DINING AND GYM HALL - OPTION 2

SCALE: 1:500 @ A2

DATE: AUGUST 2021

DRAWN BY: PC

APPROVED BY:

E-MAIL:

Drawing Status.

SKETCH

Job No.

20-37129

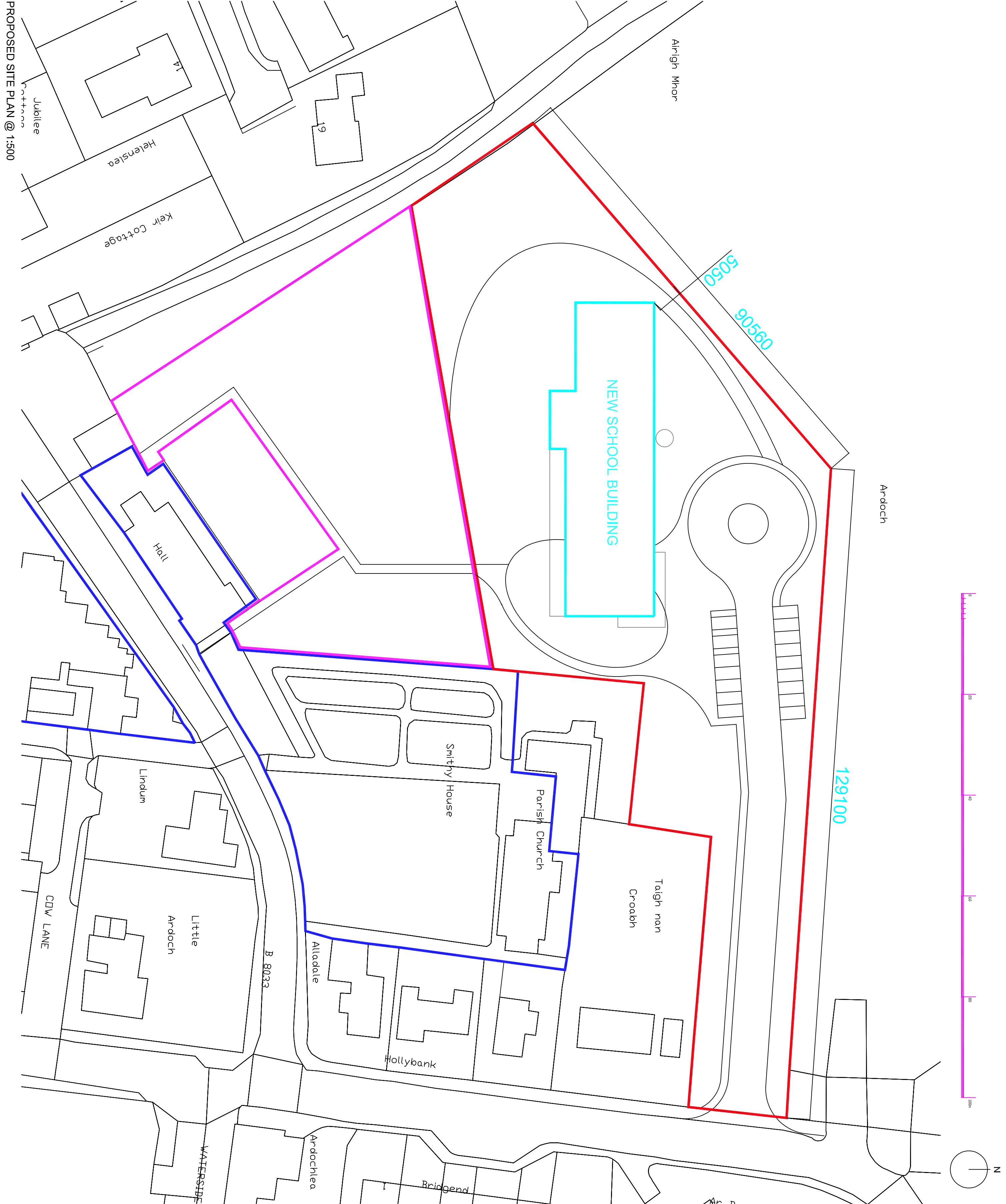
Drawing No.

0015

Rev.

F

PROPOSED SITE PLAN @ 1:500



A warm welcome awaits you at

The Hub

Tuesday Social Club

10am - 4pm

Ardoch Church Hall

Available: Newspapers, puzzles, crosswords, sudoku, books, jigsaws, games and Wi-Fi etc.

Tea, coffee and home baking.

Lunch for those staying into the afternoon.

An afternoon entertainment e.g. quiz, live music etc.

Come along and join in or do your own thing.

Starting: Tuesday 22nd November

More info?

Contact Pat Duncan 01786 880 877