

In our search for suitable architects we contacted a number of practices with a proven track record and outlined our needs. We were very pleased with the high level of interest shown and it's clear that our project represents an opportunity for the profession to demonstrate flair and innovation.

The interested contenders were reduced to a shortlist of 3 and they have agreed to participate - free of charge - in a design competition.

Batterham Matthews Design Ltd - A Bath practice with extensive experience of designing community buildings.

MAKE Architects - Founded by local resident Ken Shuttleworth, responsible for many famous and iconic buildings.

Stonewood Design - a young practice, based in Castle Combe, with proven expertise in sustainable design.

In asking these practices to progress their interest towards outline ideas and layouts we were very mindful of the sensitive nature of the site. In particular we wanted to give the architects maximum flexibility to create designs which respect the setting and minimise the impact on close neighbours. Consequently we agreed to consider designs based on the whole area indicated below, even if they would require a purchase to augment the donation.



Obviously we are very keen to see the ideas and we expect the architects to submit their outline plans by the end of July. After a period for assessment and clarification we plan to hold an Open Day on 5th September when the designs will be shared and views canvassed. Full details will be posted nearer the date.