

## **The Heart Beats On**

Since last August, we have been examining various options that might lead to a thriving, buzzing 'Heart Of The Village'. We have talked to people representing local businesses, organisations and of course residents. We held a well-attended workshop that helped us look for the best ways forward and now we are clear what we as a team want to achieve.

On the evening of Wednesday June 3rd and afternoon of Thursday June 4th our project, as well as other proposed schemes offering housing and community facilities, will be exhibited at Cradley Village Hall. The event has been arranged by the Parish Council and will be an excellent chance to take a good look at all the proposals.

We want to create a centrally located space to serve as a social and cultural heart of Cradley. We want it to nurture our community spirit, celebrate the natural beauty of our area and provide economic stimulus.

The Heart team firmly believes that Morgan's Field would be a beautiful site for a new café and community shop selling local produce. It would serve both sides of the village, as well as Mathon, and the setting, right by the brook, would give people of every age space to walk, exercise and socialise.

Of course, like all the other potential options the village could choose, it is not perfect. The lower parts of the site consist of flood plain and any changes would have to be sensitively and responsibly managed. There can be no increase in flood risk either up or downstream and we would need to make sure any new building is ecologically friendly and complements the beautiful surrounding countryside.

The exhibition on June 3 and 4 is a good opportunity for everyone to come and see our plans and weigh up all the pros and cons for yourselves. Because one thing is definitely clear – we need the community's support to make this project happen and succeed.

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