

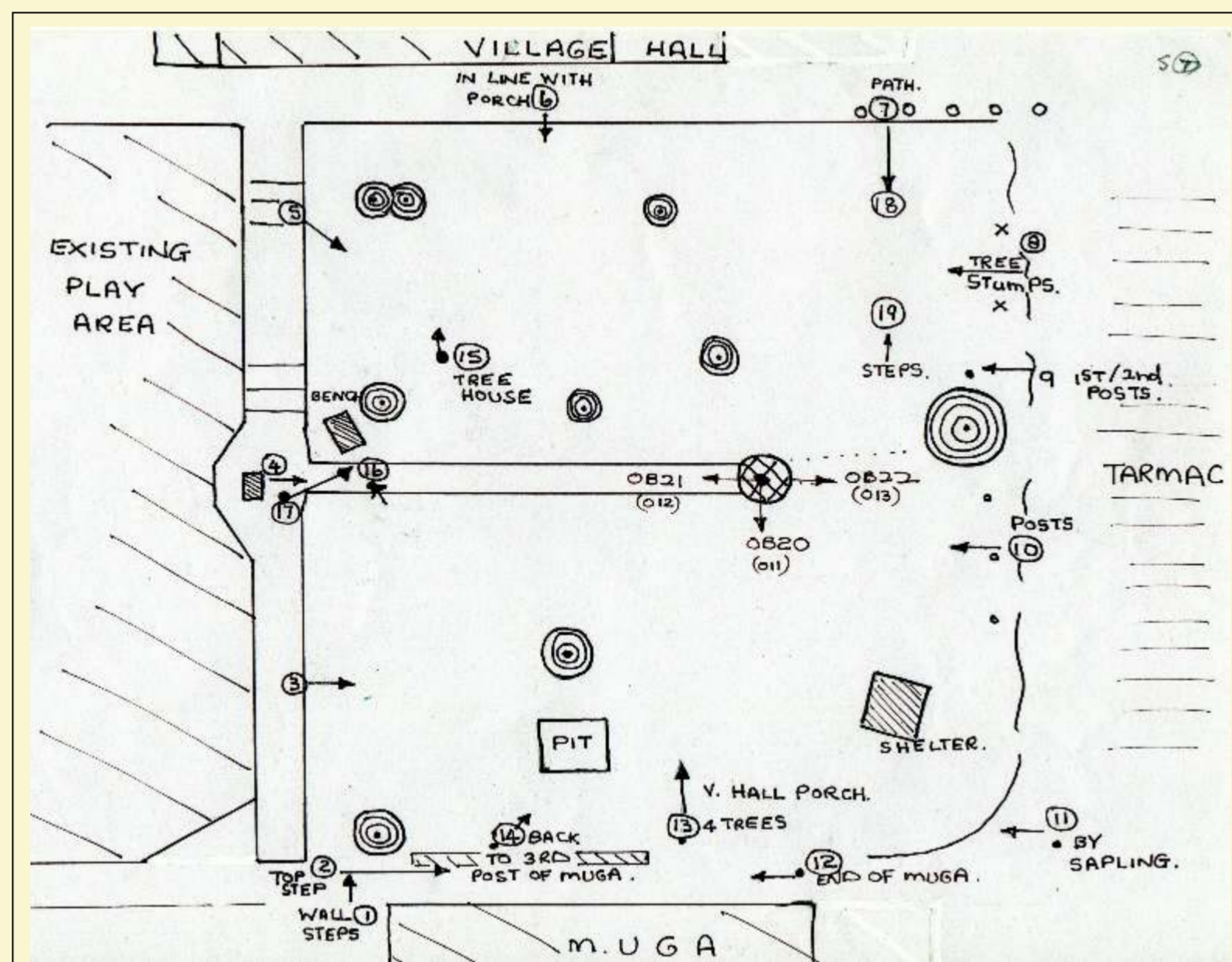
DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGE: 6



THE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Plans for this new facility next to the Village Hall were first discussed in 1986, but for a variety of reasons were not brought to fruition till the summer of 1995. The parish council secured a lease from Dr Radcliffe's School Foundation for the site and raised in excess of £30,000 for the project. All pictures are from the opening event.

More recently, in 2010, the playground was extended and other facilities were created to make the Millennium Park. Nearly £100,000 was raised for what is now one of the best-used children's facilities in North Oxfordshire.



THE VILLAGE HALL and THE MILLENNIUM

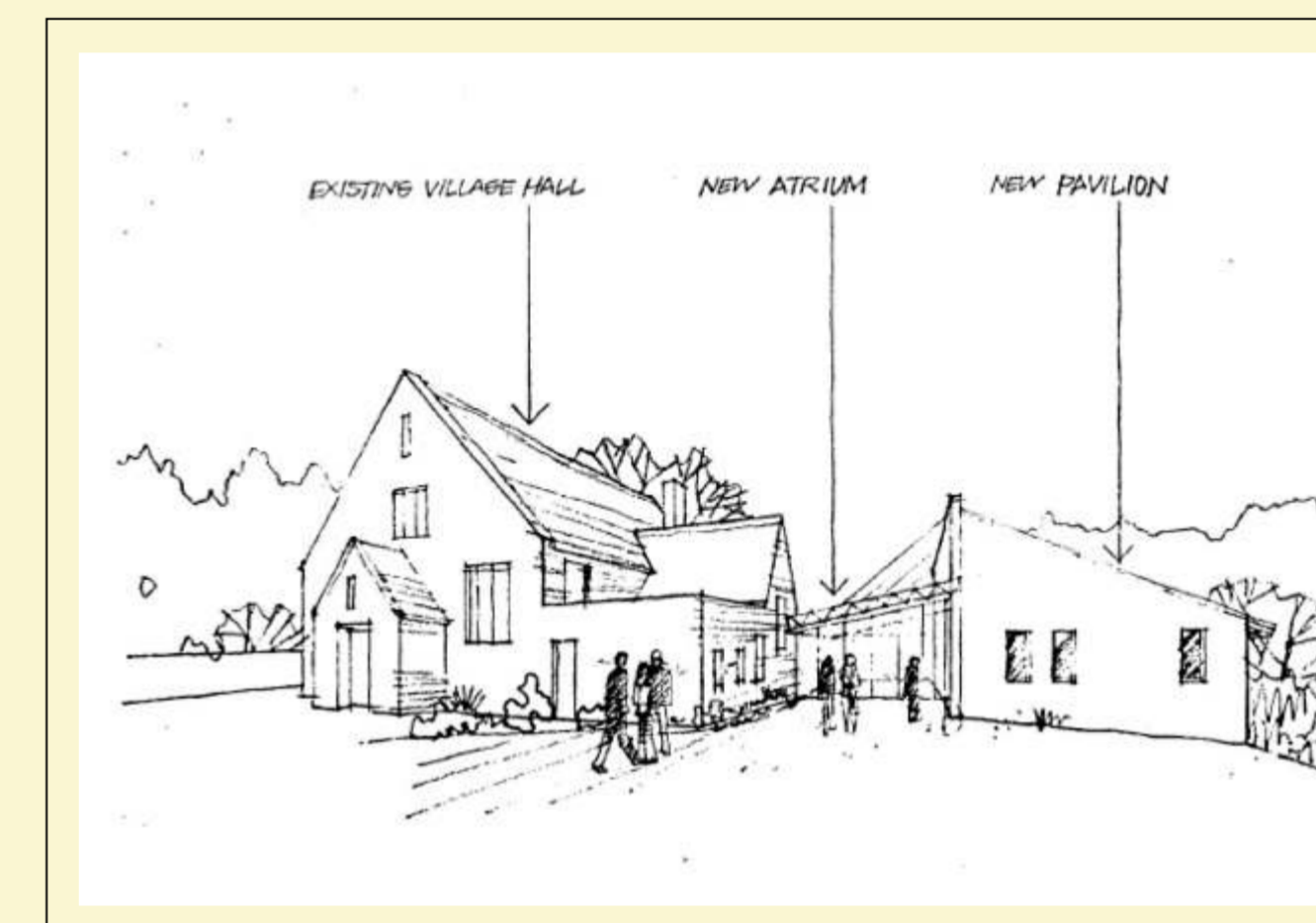
In November 1984, SAL reported the results of a village Referendum on proposals to improve the Village Hall. There were 164 for and 151 against. The project was then deferred while lease issues were lengthily debated.

In December 1996, SAL reported as follows:

Imagine a community area which incorporates a large communal hall and a smaller hall for meetings of up to forty people. PLUS an entrance foyer which connects to either or both halls at any time, with modern and disabled toilet facilities and a bar. PLUS a recreation ground for football etc with purpose built changing and shower rooms adjacent. PLUS a building for use by youth organisations with refurbished toilets, new decor and better storage areas. PLUS a hard play area incorporating a ball wall, a basketball court, five-a-side football, tennis court and a safe place to roller skate. PLUS a first class play-area for younger children which we have already. PLUS landscaping of the whole area. Can you imagine that?

Twelve months ago it would have been a pipe dream, but with a successful millennium bid which can finance 50% of the total cost it could be reality within 18 months. As explained in last month's Life, by building a pavilion to the east of the Village Hall to incorporate both changing facilities and a new meeting room, which would be linked by an entrance foyer, we aim to provide a village hall complex second to none (see drawing on the right). It has become very obvious that the youth organisations of the village need their own space and as it would not be financially possible to build a new youth building, it is intended to refurbish the present youth building. The old Horsa building below the youth club is to be demolished and if finances allow that would provide the site for a hard play area.

Unfortunately, the Millennium Commission did not select the project for funding, and some aspects of the project were subsequently abandoned. The Millennium Park (see left) achieved some years later, however, fulfilled many of the outdoor ambitions.



ROBINSON'S CLOSE

In July 1976 the future of the school playing field was raised in the pages of SAL. A lease was offered by the owners, Dr. Radcliffe's Trust, to the Parish Council in December 1976, so that this important open space could be made more widely available to the village. Negotiations however became very protracted. After a public meeting in October 1979, which apparently only 10 people attended, the Parish Council formally brought a close to the negotiations with the Trustees.

Nearly three years later, a letter was published in SAL expressing surprise that there was still no public playing field in the village. In May 1982 the Trustees agreed to the Football Club levelling the field, now known as Robinson's Close, which had hitherto had a pronounced slope making it unsuitable for serious sport. In 2002 the Football Club were faced with exclusion from league status and asked the parish council for assistance to provide changing facilities. The outcome some two years later was the provision of a top quality sports surface following an extension of the field to the north by moving 3,000 cubic metres of soil from across the road on the primary school site. This allowed for an improved and level grassed area for the school and the required extension that can potentially accommodate two football pitches on Robinson's Close.

Along with the groundworks came the total refurbishment of what is now known as The Sport and Recreation Centre providing the changing facilities required to allow the continuation of league football for the village. This £350,000 project was completed in September 2004, and the village has had great use out of the field ever since (photo, left).

