

Matterdale Education and Community Centre

information from the Matterdale Community Association (<https://www.matterdale.org/>)

Matterdale Community Association (MCA) is committed to supporting the Matterdale School Foundation (MSF) in its ongoing efforts to establish a replacement Education and Community Centre on the Recreation Field in Matterdale (drawings shown overleaf, from approved planning application 7/2024/3129).

The building would provide a facility that is available to everyone in the community. It is large enough to accommodate talks, keep-fit activities, table tennis, pop-up cafés, tasting events, parties, small weddings, etc. whilst feeling welcoming for meetings, discussion groups, craft workshops and the like. The building would have the facilities to allow the Recreation Field to be used more easily for future fairs, for fitness training or for camping for small groups of young people. Its car parking could also be used for church events.

MCA was established as a charity by Keith Clark in 2013. The Charity Commission requires trustees of all charities to “make sure the charity is carrying out the purpose for which it is set up, and no other purpose”¹. For the MCA this is:

- i) *To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Matterdale and adjacent parishes without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating together the said inhabitants and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations with the objects of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants*
- ii) *To establish or secure the establishment of a community centre (hereinafter called 'the centre') and to maintain and manage the same (whether alone or in co-operation with any local authority or person or body) in furtherance of these objects; and*
- iii) *To advance education for the benefit of the public through the provision of educational grants to young people under the age of 25 who are resident in Matterdale with any funds that are not required for the maintenance or development of the property.*

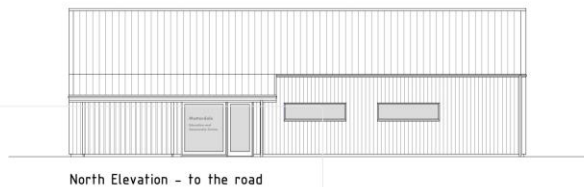
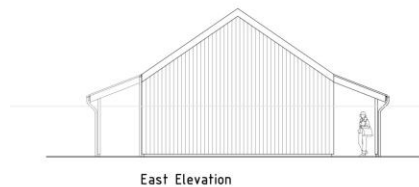
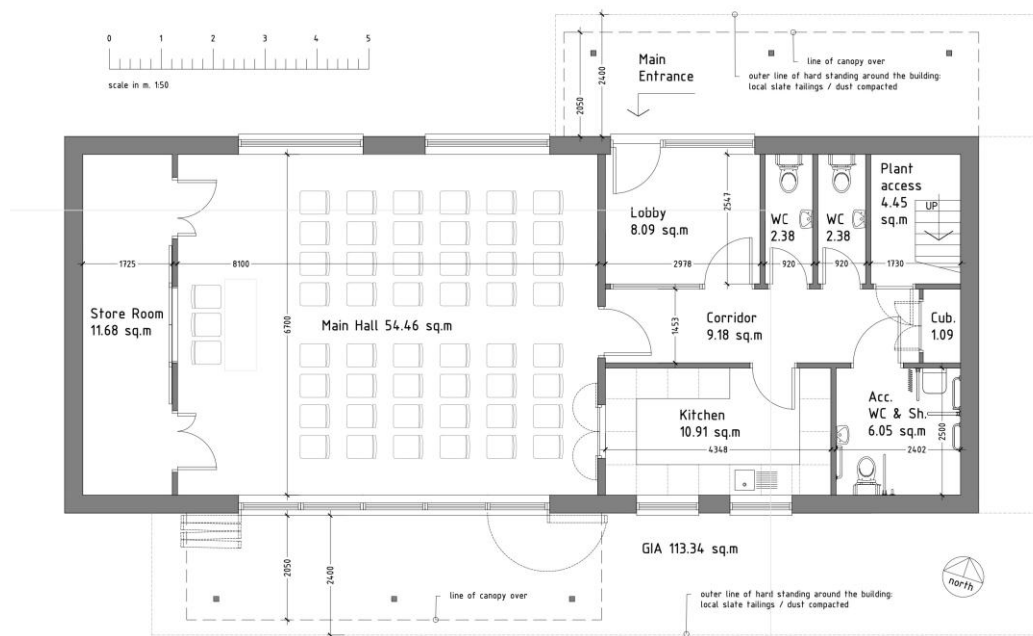
Since 2016 MCA has been running events in temporary or “borrowed” venues; Matterdale Church and its meeting room, marquees, The Royal Hotel, Watermillock Village Hall, the recreation field, and various private venues. Equipment is also stored in private sheds. The Studio at The Royal Hotel will only be available for the next few months and some of the private venues used previously have changed hands and are no longer available. Over the past decade MCA has organised a variety of successful activities including large community summer events and celebrations. MCA is well aware that the range of activities has been restricted by not having a dedicated building. If the plans for the Centre go ahead we look forward to working with all members of the community to plan and implement a more inclusive and varied range of activities to try to meet their needs and aspirations. The Centre would also be available for anyone to make a booking to use it for any appropriate use.

Although MCA has been set up to be ready to run the Centre, the funds are controlled by the Matterdale School Foundation (MSF) which is a charity for which the Matterdale Parish Council are sole trustees. Minutes of the meetings of the Matterdale School Foundation and a summary of the history can be found at <https://www.matterdaleparishcouncil.org/matterdale-school-foundation/>

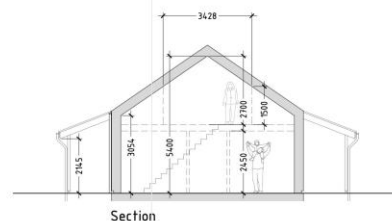
In March 2024 works were undertaken to avoid the expiration of the earlier planning approval, so that time and money invested to that point were not lost. A revised planning application for this more economical building were then submitted by MSF, and permission was granted in January 2025 (no objections were submitted to LDNPA). MCA has produced a Business Plan for the centre, which currently MSF is considering, and which will be made available once it has MSF's agreement.

Time is of the essence. At the moment (early August 2025) the Matterdale School Foundation has a unique opportunity. It has a scheme for a centre that has planning permission, that could be affordable, and an organisation, Matterdale Community Association, which is committed to run and manage it.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved#trustees-6-main-duties>



All elevation materials to be dark / neutral.
Final material samples to be submitted to
LONPA for prior approval.



0 1 2 3 4 5
scale in m. 1:100

