



SCHOOL PROPOSAL

IN MEMORY OF MARTIN GILLOTT



THE PROPOSAL: SHREE BHAGWATI SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Gurkha Welfare Trust has been working in Nepal since 1969 to relieve poverty and distress among Gurkha veterans, their dependants and their communities. As the lead charity for Gurkha welfare, the GWT provides financial, medical and community aid, primarily in Nepal.

OUR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Our Schools Programme is part of our wider programme of supporting the development of infrastructure in Nepal. Our schools are built in the traditional Gurkha recruitment regions, including areas in the hills which are home to many villages with poor or no road access. The schools we build typically have a high percentage of children from Service families, families living in poverty, and marginalised castes. By building in rural communities, our schools reach the demographic that has been shown to be worst affected by illiteracy, where a significant positive impact can be made.

All school projects undertaken by the Trust have been requested by the local community via our Area Welfare Centres. The Trust funds, plans and supervises all school projects, with the local community contributing to the costs and construction. The Trust benefits from extensive experience, having completed nearly 2,000 school projects in the last 28 years. We utilise local labour and resources, and our structures demonstrate sound engineering and construction principles. After a build is completed, we conduct regular visits to monitor the state of the buildings and assess the quality and level of maintenance.

The Shree Bhagwati Secondary School is situated in the village of Manebhanjyang, Okhaldhunga, in the west of Nepal, and was first established in 1960.

- ✂ The school currently educates 623 children from the local area, being taught by 27 teachers in 22 teaching rooms, 11 of which are classed as unsafe.
- ✂ The non-earthquake resilient buildings in the school consist of mud mortar, timber and stone construct. The roofs of these buildings are made with heavy stone tiles, which could cause serious injury to staff and students in the event of another earthquake.
- ✂ The school suffers from being situated in a constrained area, surrounded by Roads and Farmland.
- ✂ Access to water is a very significant problem for this community, indeed there is no supply and the school has to purchase water in tankers.

The Shree Bhagwati Secondary School has been identified as a new 'model school' for the financial year July 2019/July 20 and July 2020/July 2021 consisting of:-

- ✂ Demolishing the unsafe classrooms and rebuilding 20 new classrooms.
 - ✂ A new toilet block with separate toilets for girls and boys.
 - ✂ Water storage tanks will be installed and water management training given.
Better class interiors and improved library facilities to support all year groups.
 - ✂ Better teacher training and teaching materials.
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- ✂ Better class interiors and improved library facilities to support all year groups.
- ✂ This site will have sufficient space to install a playground for students.
- ✂ Performance area built for student assemblies, performances and in extreme circumstances shelter in the event of an earthquake.

This is a two-year project due to the scale of work involved. Phase one has been completed and work began on phase two in December 2020. As at March 2021, the Phase 2 build is 17% complete. Delays to the on going build are possible as Nepal has entered another national lockdown due to rising Covid-19 cases.

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PHOTOS OF SHREE BHAGWATI SECONDARY SCHOOL



Condemned 2-storey classroom block.



Central "courtyard" of the school



Confgested nature of existing school buildings.



Nepal Army land that the school currently uses for agricultural training and can be used for estbalshing temporary classrooms.



Existing community library but not currently well stocked or managed.

A breakdown of the typical items for our various school builds is below.

Item
School building
Toilet block
Combo furniture
Incinerator
Library books and wooden racks
Toilet block for boys and girls
Playground levelling
Compound fencing - stone/barbed/chain link
Staff cost
Contingency + 10%

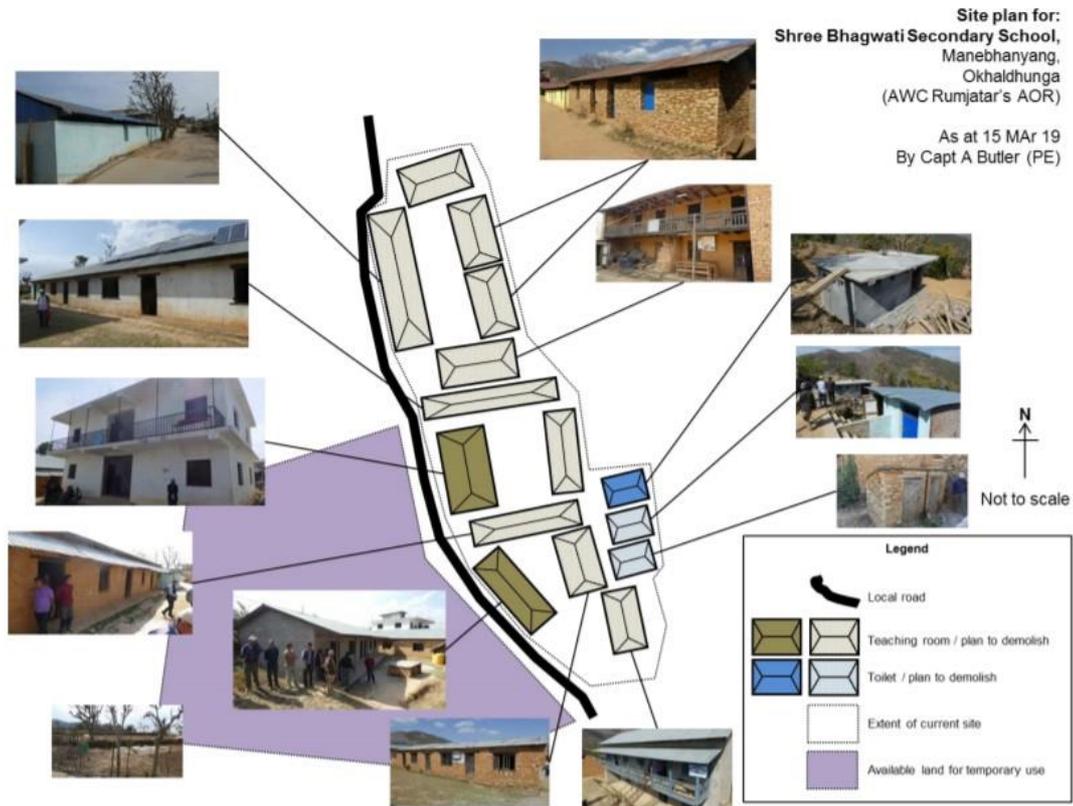
Following a detailed recce of the site, the current estimated cost* for the Shree Bhagwati Secondary Schoolbuilding project is £148,276*.

*All costs assume ROE of 140 NPR/£, and include local community contribution of 10%

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SITE LAYOUT OF SHREE BHAGWATI SECONDARY SCHOOL

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EXAMPLE OF FORMER SUCCESSFUL PROJECT: SHREE GAUNDA SECONDARY SCHOOL

PRE- EARTHQUAKE

Shree Gaunda Secondary School, situated in the village of Okhari, Lamjung district, began as a primary school in 1962, teaching years 1-3. By 1975, the school received lower secondary school status and began to teach up to year 7, expanding over time to include years 8-10 by the year 2000. The school sits atop a 1,500-metre hill and provides education to over 220 children across five villages, some of whom walk for three hours each day to attend their lessons.

THE EARTHQUAKE

In 2015, Shree Gaunda felt the full force of Nepal's devastating earthquakes, and its 11 classrooms, toilet blocks and water supply, library, computer room and science lab were all badly affected. Thankfully, the earthquake occurred when no children were at school, but they were left to continue their learning in basic, temporary shelters which - given the school's high altitude - offered little protection from the elements. Later that year, we agreed to rebuild the school as part of our earthquake response programme, providing 10 new classrooms, gender-separate toilet blocks, new furniture and storage units, and landscaping the school grounds.

THE REBUILD

Construction on the new school, comprising 10 furnished classrooms in four blocks, started in December 2015 and was completed in June 2016. The building was designed in compliance with the National Building Code of Nepal, and local labour and resources were used wherever appropriate to make the project cost-effective. As with all our building projects, Shree Gaunda has been built to a high, earthquake-resilient, standard and demonstrates sound engineering and construction principles.

THE IMPACT

The school is once again able to offer a suitable learning environment and the full range of curricular subjects, which are vital to preparing children for life after school.

Some months after completion of the project, the school's Head, Mr Uttam Man Gurung, was keen to emphasise the value of our support:

*"The children are much happier. We're on top of a hill so it's exposed to the weather, especially in winter. Now they don't have to worry about the heat, the cold, the rain, the wind. They're not exposed to so much dust. It allows them to concentrate on their studies. We've certainly seen a better attendance since the buildings went up. We've actually been **able to expand our capacity, so we hope to provide an education to even more children.**"*



Damage to the original school



Construction of the new school



The completed new school