

Report from the Village Hall Management Committee Steering Group for the Parish Council Meeting on 8th July, 2019

Introduction

This latest report from the Steering group outlines where we are with various elements of the new village hall.

A copy of this report is also on the website: <https://www.grundisburghvillagehall.com/>

We are pleased to announce that Elaine Beckett has joined the Steering Group. Elaine's energy together with her specialist skills in PR, Marketing and Communications will be very valuable to us in the next stages of this project. Due to pressures on his time, David Scrivener has reluctantly advised that he is unable to provide regular assistance to the steering group at this time. He remains committed to the project as a member of the community and is happy to help on specific matters whenever he can. I would like to thank David for his support so far and we look forward to his input from time to time in the future.

Upgraded website and social media

The new website is up and running and we believe it has been a success so far. Its arrival was announced via a leaflet drop as part of the Grundisburgh News distribution.

Our Facebook page (Grundisburgh New Village Hall) now has 141 members and is linked to the website.

Big Lottery

I hope people will have seen that our application for £200,000 was given Stage 1 approval by the Big Lottery and we have now moved on to Stage 2 where we have some more detailed questions to answer. This is a huge leap forward for us and makes the prospect of a new hall something much more tangible and within our reach.

I am nervous to suggest that the first stage was the biggest hurdle, but certainly it was great to get the support in principle for a new hall.

Other Grants

We have set ourselves the increased target of raising £200,000 from various other grant applications. Gill Davies has kindly volunteered to work on this with us and has unearthed a further 20 or so entities to whom we can apply, taking our target to over 90 organisations.

This is a slow process as each application needs to be hand crafted and even with some standard documents, it takes a very long time to fill read each of the different instructions on each website and then fill out the various forms. If anyone would like to help with making these applications, the assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Match Funding

We have set ourselves the target of raising £100,000 from the match-funding initiative.

We have the match-funding programme up and running with the initial £50,000 of pledges and this is being used to encourage and match fund other donations made by other people. So far we believe we are close to £70,000 raised/pledged. This includes the two concerts by the Grundisburgh Symphony Orchestra as well as the Cake Stall on the Village Green on 16th March, which together raised almost £1,500 and will be match funded to almost £3,000. The GADS play "Mightier than the Sword" raised £500 and will be match funded to £1,000. Well done to everyone at GADS for their generous donation.

There are other events planned such as a cake stall and display at the Village Show on 13th July, a village Family Cycle event on 11th August (Will Barber and Richard Pepper are organising this) and a supporters evening at The Dog. The Family Cycle event will be a very visible event which is aimed to not only attract a lot of participants, but also keep the issue of the fund raising for the new village hall very visible for the whole community.

Gift Aid

We have applied to HMRC in order to benefit from Gift Aid on many of the donations we have collected and hope to collect in the future and we await the final documentation from them.

Community Consultation

There remains a commitment to consult as widely as possible with the village about the size, layout and cost of the new village hall.

This will be undertaken once we have a better idea of what funds are available to us for to build the new village hall. At the moment the size/cost of the new hall is a moving feast because it depends enormously on the grants we may get from the Big Lottery amongst others.

Demolition condition

The Big Lottery flagged this condition up as one which may cause us cashflow issues (although we were already aware of this, hence the application to East Suffolk). I have recently been back to East Suffolk and although the senior planning officer is supportive of a compromise, I have not managed to get a date from the case officer, despite numerous chases and attempts. I am determined to ensure that this will be resolved before too long.

Bryan Laxton

Steering Group Chair

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