

Report from the VHMC Steering Group for the PC Meeting on 13th May

7th May 2019

Introduction

There has a lot going on in the last few months. We are delighted that Will Barber has agreed to join the Steering Group and has already been a huge help in the new website (see below).

Upgraded website and social media

Will Barber has kindly been helping us create, what we believe is an exciting and valuable website for the new Village Hall. It will help us in our desire to engage with more people on the project and give people the opportunity to see all the relevant information and our progress.

The website will go live during May and we have planned a leaflet drop to every house in the village giving details of the website and encouraging people to visit the site.

The website contains a host of useful information including:

- Ways to donate,
- Fundraising plans and activities and how to get involved,
- A facebook link,
- 2019 Report & Accounts for the VHMC,
- A regularly updated news section,
- Contact details for the Steering Group,
- Plans of the hall and all public Reports explaining progress.

We have set up a Facebook page (Grundisburgh New Village Hall) and we have 128 members of this group. We would like other s to join and get involved in the chats and other discussions.

Big Lottery (now the Community Fund)

We have set ourselves the target of raising £100,000 from the Community Fund. We have had a number of email and phone discussions with the Community Fund and are awaiting the outcome of the first formal panel decision on our application. We are hoping to hear towards the end of May as to whether we have been successful. If we are, then we have two more panels to clear, but we are led to believe that the first hurdle is the biggest challenge and takes the most time.

Other Grants

We have set ourselves the target of raising £100,000 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.

We are now making those applications having needed to wait for the new report and accounts to be approved as these form an important part of our applications.

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 will be used to encourage and match fund other donations made by other people. So far (and without yet having the website up and running) 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.

There are other events planned such as a presentation on progress at the Village Meeting on 28th May, GADS have kindly offered to donate their profits from their "Mightier than the Sword" production on the 6th/7th/8th June, a display stand on the Village Green on the Hidden Gardens weekend of 8th/9th June, a cake stall and display at the Village Show on 13th July, a supporters evening at The Dog and lastly a Family Cycle event (dates for these last two to be announced in due course).

We believe the village is increasing its support for and engagement with this project as can be seen by these various events and interaction with people.

Gift Aid

We have started the process of registering with HMRC in order to benefit from Gift Aid on many of the donations we have collected and hope to collect in the future.

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.

Demolition condition

Our discussions continue with SCDC (now East Suffolk) to have the condition removed in the existing hall consent that requires the existing hall not to be demolished until the new hall is ready for occupation.

Bryan Laxton

Steering Group Chair

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