

Norton Community Trust

Newsletter No1

October 2019

Hello everybody!

Welcome to our first newsletter since this summer's community survey asking for your views on the plans to adapt the St Andrews church building into a community facility. We hope this will give you a flavour of the results of the survey and information about what happens next.

Firstly, a huge thankyou to everyone who sent back our questionnaire with your views on the plans to adapt the Norton church building. Out of approximately 250 households in the village, 97 responded - that's an excellent rate of return for a questionnaire, so really many thanks to everyone. And an equally big thank you to everyone who came along to the open morning - we had about 60 visitors who came and scrutinized the plans and talked through their thoughts. **If you couldn't make it to the open morning, the plans together with some background information are still on display in the church porch and you're welcome to drop by anytime and have a look.**

Crucially, 76 households, which equates to about 113 individuals, have signed up to become members of the new Norton Community Trust - a really stunning number. Of the 21 households who preferred not to become members, almost all were nonetheless supportive of the Trust and the plans for the church building.

We're also really impressed that so many people gave such a lot of thought to the plans and offered further suggestions on how the adapted building could best be used. If we can adopt even half of the suggestions, the future community facility promises to be a vibrant hub with a huge variety of uses!

So, many thanks for an extremely positive and encouraging endorsement of the plans. The number of new members of the

Trust is a fabulous first step in demonstrating the level of support we have, especially important for future grant funding applications.

As you will know, this is a very ambitious project, and at this stage there remain some hurdles to clear before the project can move into action. These include:

- confirming a final redundancy/closure date for the church
- approval from the Charity Commission for charitable trust status
- listed building planning consent
- finalisation with the Church in Wales of the lease for the church building.

The existing community working group is addressing each of these issues and more - we hope to be able to start implementing the adaption plans by mid-2020. As many of you pointed out, one of the crucial issues for the new facility will be parking - we are working on this and have already come up with some short-term solutions.

We will keep you updated on progress via this email newsletter in the coming months. Everyone will have the opportunity to offer specific skills and experience to help the project, or you can simply volunteer for specific tasks. If you said you could not take an active part, we won't hassle you to change your mind - you'll simply get an update newsletter from time to time to let you know what's going on.

Meanwhile, our next community event will be a Coffee Morning in the church building on Saturday 12 October, 10 till 12.30 - all welcome. And any keen photographers - we'll be looking for pictures for our Norton 2021 calendar so please start snapping now!

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