

Norton Community Trust

Newsletter No 8

July 2021

Hello all. Well, we knew the project to adapt the former church would be a long drawn-out one, and so it is proving. However, the good news is that over the past few months we have made several more little steps forward, some of them really important ones. Here's the latest news for you.

Back in March in the last Newsletter we reported that we had submitted our improved planning application to Powys County Council. Thanks to everyone who contacted Powys to express their support for the application - showing community support for the project is vital. Although the revised plans were still not quite to their satisfaction, the good news is that members of our Community Trust working group and our architect were able to have a very constructive meeting with the Powys planning team, and as a result we are now close to agreement on the outstanding issues. We have to submit further revised plans early next month. So, although it has been a frustrating and at times dispiriting process, we now genuinely feel able to look ahead with increased confidence about getting the adaption project work under way later this year. We're not quite counting our chickens yet, but - tentatively - "phew"!

As we hopefully approach the end of this stage of the planning process, we are able to increasingly turn our attention to the just-as-important subject of fundraising for the project proper. We are aiming at a notional revised project budget of £120,000 (yes really!), in addition to around £20,000 in pre-project start-up costs, and then ongoing building maintenance costs of around £400 per month (the lease to transfer the building to the community will be ready for signature as soon as planning permissions have been received).

These are challenging fundraising targets, and of course no-one is going to give us these amounts straight off, so we had already

started to scope out possible sources of funding that might contribute both major grants and smaller amounts for specific sub-projects. We recently had a visit to the former church building from the Development Manager of the Architectural Heritage Fund in Wales. The AHF specialises in helping communities across the UK to fund enterprising new ways to revitalise old buildings - sounds spot on for us! Work to do yet, but we were really encouraged by their response at our meeting and are optimistic that they will be able to help us with sufficient financial support to enable the commencement of work on the project - covering things like professional and specialist consultancy fees, administrative costs, etc - things that may not sound very exciting but are an absolute must for a major project like this to have a chance of success. And more good news - we've also recently received a small grant from the Welsh Water Community Fund, and a further annual grant of £2000 from our Town Council towards start-up costs - our huge thanks to both of those for their support.

And now an important date for your diary. Subject to any new pandemic restrictions imposed by the Welsh government, we plan to hold a fundraising event in support of the Community Hub in the Barn and Wents Meadow on **Bank Holiday Monday 30th August, 12 noon to 5 pm. PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE OF DATE TO THE ONE MENTIONED LAST TIME** - so please cross out of your diaries the previous one and put this in instead! This is going to be a really good fun day and entry to the event is FREE! So please come along with your family and friends to enjoy some fantastic attractions including:

- * Craft Fair with a range of stalls featuring local artisans - contact Chris Price 01544 267898
- * Car boot sale, £5 per car payable on site for pitches
- * Cake and produce stall (contributions to Tracey McAdam 01544 598251, tmcadam01@gmail.com)
- * Tombola (contributions to Vicky Barnett vicky@kivvy.com)

- * Dog show, 16 classes for dogs of all shapes and sizes. £3 entry per class - contact Anne Price 01544 267221
- * Vintage cars display
- * Children's nature treasure hunt with prizes for all completed entries
- * Take away food and drinks prepared by Leon
- * Teas, coffee and cake for sale provided by Chatterbrook WI.
- * Bar applied for

It will also be a great opportunity to view the updated project plans which will be on display, ask questions, make comments, meet the steering group, and generally discuss the adaption project.

This event will primarily be a great day out to be enjoyed, but - and of course there's always a but! - we could really use some help with some of the tasks on the day - site preparation, car parking, relieving stall holders for short periods, etc. You don't need to commit for more than a couple of hours, so plenty of time to enjoy the various attractions. Any help you can offer would be very gratefully appreciated. Please contact the Fundraising Day organisers, Brian and Chris Price at castlebank84@gmail.com or 01544 267898 to offer your services.

That's all for now - hope to see you on 30th August.

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