

# Norton Community Trust

## Newsletter No 9

January 2022

Well, we're excited to bring you some really positive news about the former church adaption project at last!

After much hard work and many delays and frustrations, in late December we finally received the great news from Powys Council that Full Planning and Listed Building consents have been confirmed in respect of the Norton Community Hub.

This is such great news. As usual these consents came with a range of conditions including the need for surveys covering bats, archaeological features, contamination, photographic records, and so on. But more importantly, it means our architect can now initiate the next stage of the project by preparing the Building Regulations full plan application and detailed build specifications. When complete by early summer, this work will in turn enable us to invite tenders from qualified contractors for the adaption work in the former church building. So we've finally reached a really exciting point in the project!

We are hopeful that the costs of this next phase of work, budgeted at £20,000, will be funded by grants from the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Town Council. And we also have the amazing £4500 raised by the community from local events over the past two years, including the Craft Fair and the Grand Christmas Draw. The Town Council have also continued to provide financial support during that period and we are really grateful to them for that.

Work has also continued on agreeing the Lease for the former church building, and we are expecting to formally sign that in late Spring this year, which will be another great step forward.

Now that we are embarking on this next phase of the project, we think it's really important to renew our engagement with the local community. So, we are planning a further community consultation in

mid-February to encourage local residents to get more involved with planning how the Hub will operate and how it can be best used by the community in future. So look out for further communications about this soon.

As you'd expect, we have kept our eye on the fundraising ball, and we now have a local working group focused on producing a long-term fundraising plan, with particular emphasis on securing grants for project capital costs, now estimated at around £150,000. There will also be local fundraising opportunities around a couple of major events in 2022. Mindful always of possible covid constraints, but hoping and assuming that social restrictions will no longer be needed, the first is the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee over the long weekend 2-5<sup>th</sup> June, and a range of events will be organised for the occasion. More details will follow in future newsletters, but if you have any ideas for this we would love to hear them - contact details at the bottom of this newsletter.

There will be no Norton Show in 2022 but we aim to repeat last year's highly successful Craft Fair and associated events on Went's Meadow on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. Again, more details to follow in due course.

Well, that's probably enough good news to cope with for now! Thanks to you all for your continued support for the project, and we look forward to hearing your comments for the community consultation in a few weeks' time.

Please feel free to circulate this newsletter to neighbours, friends, and anyone interested - and if you know anyone who'd like to be added to the email circulation list to receive it directly, please do invite them to contact us - details below.

Contacts: For enquiries about this Newsletter, contact Maggie James on 01544267109, or email [nortoncommunitytrust@gmail.com](mailto:nortoncommunitytrust@gmail.com)

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