

BARROWDEN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

Report from Village Hall Development Group



REBUILD BARROWDEN 1927 VILLAGE HALL

A first step towards new Community Facilities

Over the past 6 years the Barrowden Village Hall Development Group have developed a plan to replace our ageing village facilities. Encouraged by availability of grant funding for Community hub buildings we envisioned a hub consisting of new community shop, hall and surgery. The plan to bring all community facilities together under one roof on The Kings Lane / Wakerley Road site was strongly supported by village residents and stakeholders. Planning permission for this building was granted in February 2021.

Unfortunately, in the wake of the Covid 19 pandemic a number of key grants have simply disappeared, also costs have escalated and at present the Group cannot see a way to raise the £1.6m budget estimate for a hub. In the meanwhile, the 1927 Village Hall building is deteriorating rapidly and has now become uneconomic to repair or refurbish. The Group therefore urgently need to take the first steps in what we hope could be a phased development of new facilities using the footprint of our current planning permission.

We have researched several realistic and affordable options for a replacement village hall building as Phase 1 of our aspirations and have been in consultation with a number of potential suppliers. Our business plan has been updated and we have had successful discussions with Burghley Estates and Uppingham Surgery about enabling the additional parking capacity that will be required. Our research into grant funding is bearing fruit and we have been able to identify a funding opportunity, The Community Ownership Fund which will launch in June. This fund is managed by the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Department. We have approached our MP Alicia Kearns to ask for her assistance and support to apply for £250,000 from this fund and have received a very positive response. This grant when match funded by other grant awarding bodies, and together with local fundraising, would enable a key asset to be replaced for the benefit of the whole Barrowden community.

We look forward to holding an Open Event in the very near future so that we can inform and consult village residents about our plans.

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