

7 June 2022

Dear Richard,

Barrowden Village Hall Replacement

At the joint meeting yesterday between the BPC representatives and the Village Hall Trustees which we found very constructive, the Trustees undertook to provide the BPC with a strategy to address their concerns with regards to obtaining Community Ownership Funding as presented at that meeting.

Below is a working document proposing our way forward. Please forward to Parish Councillors for their consideration.

The Trustees would welcome the BPC's confirmation of the appointment of a Councillor to the VH committee as a full Trustee.

Management Structure

The Village Hall Development Group (VHDG) has responsibility to the Trustees for overseeing the entire project, incorporating wherever possible, work already carried out in respect of the original Hub planning.

The VHDG will report to the Trustees who in turn will keep the BPC fully informed.

Community Engagement and Reporting

A fortnightly "open house" will be facilitated by the Trustees at the village hall for all interested parties to ask questions, raise issues and provide feedback. This will be in addition to our regular briefings via the village email and Parish magazine.

A monthly progress meeting will be held by the Trustees with the PC at least a week prior to each BPC meeting to agree and compile a progress report and if necessary request support or other assistance from the BPC. BPC is asked to report on any feedback received by them on the project.

A dedicated Village Hall Development website will be set up and run along similar lines to the BPC site providing access to proposals, plans, feedback and other relevant documentation except those considered commercially sensitive.

Community Ownership Fund

In addition we also assigned responsibilities for the key issues in the COF application process. All COF submissions will be combined into a final single document for submission to the BPC.

General Comments

In setting this out, we emphasise that the Trustees accept responsibility for the project and its success. A development timeline and project plan will be prepared and submitted to the BPC. The support of the BPC is essential for us to be able to secure COF funding. In turn we realise that it is for the Trustees to provide evidence of Community support to BPC and to the COF managers and we will undertake as a matter of urgency the necessary campaign. This would also be in support of any request the Trustees may make for a Public Works Loan to be set up, and the campaign will therefore seek confirmation of Community financial support to the extent required possibly by precept.

We hope that when the time comes the BPC will express support for the project funding application.

Valerie Fraser
Chair
BVHC