

Potton Hall for All - Registered Charity No: 1158751

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2021.

The Charity was registered on 2nd October 2014 as a CIO and this is our report for the 12 month period ended 31st December 2021. The Trustees confirm that this complies with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and our Constitution.

Our Aims

Our aim is to build and run a self financing multi-functional community Hall for the people of Potton and surrounding villages.

Our Objectives

To identify sources of funding which will enable us to build the hall and to work with other local bodies, both statutory and voluntary to leverage this.

Review of Activities and Achievements

We have consulted with potential users in Potton and the surrounding area to design a building which will provide them with the facilities they need from the hall. We have employed an Architect and have obtained full planning permission for the design which they produced for us. It incorporates features which enhance its sustainability.

Central Bedfordshire Council have transferred the Land for the Hall and Car Parking to Potton Town Council and Potton Town Council have in turn have agreed to grant the Potton Hall for All Trustees a 199 year lease at a peppercorn rent of £1 per year. This land will come fully serviced and with a cash contribution of £683,132 Section 106 monies from the developer of one housing development in Potton. A further £339,912 of S106 money is promised from other housing developments in the town.

During the past 12 months we have continued to seek the funding to complete the project. We have had major successes with promises of funding from charitable trusts and individual donors. Potton Town Council is a partner and supporter of the project and has been granted permission by MHCLG to take a Public Works Board Loan towards the project. A funding gap still exists and we continue to work to fill it.

We are working to validate the estimated build cost.

With the support of Central Bedfordshire Council and our MP, Richard Fuller, we submitted a bid for the Government's Levelling Up Fund. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful.

As restrictions due to the pandemic have lifted we have been able to run a number of successful events which enhance community engagement in the project and raise funds towards it. These included a Quiz night run in association with Potton Show, a Murder Mystery Night run with Potton Playhouse and St Mary's Church Potton. We also provided teas at the Community Orchard Apple Day and participated in the Seasonal Markets and Christmas Lights Switch on organised by Potton Town Council.

A Friends of Pottton Hall for All group has been formed to support the Trustees, particularly in running the community engagement and fundraising events.

Further large scale funding applications are being prepared to pay for the build.

We are working closely with Pottton Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council who are offering support for the project.

The Trustees

We have 7 Trustees who are very active in the local community. They are supported by a number of smaller support committees. The Trustees have taken the commission's public benefit guidance into account when making any decision to which it is relevant.

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£5706 Conditional Funding from Bedford and Luton is subject to certain terms and conditions and should be returned if it is not spent, so far £1680 expenditure has been accounted for