

## Fenstanton Village Hall Update – 20.11.22

I will be up front. We have had delays in the delivery of this project. The pandemic hit us hard as a Trust with regard to a number of trustees having to stand down. We are now back to full strength and we are moving forward. Build costs have increased over the 24 months. As a result of this we realised that we had a shortfall in funding. We put a considerable amount of work in to looking into additional funding and made an application to Fenstanton Literary Institute. The Institute has surplus funds after the sale of their building in the village. We made a detailed application and applied for £125,000. After several months we received confirmation that our application was accepted and the full amount would be awarded. We have now received the money. Cambridgeshire County Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and Fenstanton Parish Council have over the last few months reaffirmed their commitments to this project. Our total secured funding for the project is now just approximately £1,000,000 and is made up of the following:

1. Fenstanton Parish Council £95,000 (pledged)
2. Cambridgeshire County Council £500,000 (pledged)
3. Huntingdonshire District Council £75,000 (pledged)
4. Fenstanton Literary Institute £125,000 (paid)
5. FVHT funds £217,783.75 (paid)

Contracts have been exchanged with Morris Homes on the acquisition of the land. We are due to complete once Morris Homes have approved the design of the new building. There were some delays to handover issues with Morris Homes as other work was still taking place on site. Site has now been turfed and is considered suitable for completion. We also had a delay in appointing architects due to the increase in build costs. I am now pleased to confirm that we are back on track with this and working closely with our architects on the final detailed design. We are ensuring that the building can be delivered in cost effective way ensuring value for money whilst delivering the key objective of a high standard multi-purpose community building which is economical to run and maintain.

FVHT have spent money on legal fees associated with the acquisition of the land and on design and engineering fees related to the new building and discussions with the local planning authority. Ground investigation work has also taken place to ensure build costs are accurate.

The milestones are all dependent on the design of the building, which is now being finalised. This needs to be approved by Morris Homes and Huntingdonshire District Council. Now that additional money has been raised to cover the increase in build costs this can move forward much faster. We anticipate that these approvals will take approximately 3-4 months. An update on the milestones that follow the approval of plans will be published in Spectrum and on the Village Hall Facebook page.

FVHT is always looking for new members. At this time those with skills in project management, construction, accounting and legals would be particularly beneficial but not essential. We aim to bring together a diverse community of all ages and walks of life thus improving health and wellbeing, reducing loneliness and welcoming those new to the village.

David Mead  
Chair, Fenstanton Village Hall Trust