

Edgmond Village Hall Chairman's Report June 16th 2015

Our Approach

Upon election last June our first task was to consider the role of the Trustees and the purpose of the management committee. From that we could see that the land and buildings were intended to be for the benefit of the community of Edgmond and that our role was to make the most of and to safeguard these assets of the charity. Key to this was the requirement that no asset of the charity should be sold without arranging to replace it with an asset of equivalent or greater value and also taking in to consideration future value.

It would only be possible to test the value of these assets by first making sure that they were being made full use of. This was particularly significant with respect to use of the field in that it had been previously put forward that the loss of the field would have little or no consequence.

Most of the committee were elected on a 'ticket' that focussed on what should be done about the building. However it became clear in the first 2 months that people were visiting the building and grounds and commenting on how lovely it all was and leaving events with big smiles of appreciation having enjoyed themselves. It might not be the case then that the hall needed replacing on an urgent basis or that the loss of some or all of the field would be justifiable.

The primary purpose of the village hall is to provide a meeting place for community groups. We took the view that this was paramount. It was also clear that sufficient income did not necessarily come from this primary purpose. An early decision was to reverse a user group fee price rise of 10% implemented just before the AGM.

We then identified events as a priority and put in place an events program and encouraged new uses and new users of the hall and rooms to boost revenue.

Our approach has been to be open to new ideas and to encourage new initiatives. We have supported new users with rent free starts and we quickly smoothed the path to installing the defibrillator when the opportunity arose just before Christmas. We remain open to new ideas and look forward to incorporating a Petanque terrain to the grounds in the coming months.

Our Treasurer will detail how our events program has succeeded in boosting income.

Raising funds from within the community also paid dividends when seeking external grants and our own fund raising was instrumental in supporting our application for a Community Pride Grant of £95,000.

Following the quite extensive research on user needs by the previous committee and further consultation with the community, a set of proposals for hall renewal and refurbishment were put forward for consideration at a public meeting and on our website. This included the Field Room concept that won widespread support – Thank you Peter Heath.

Our Community pride Grant application was successful but had the unintended consequence of shapping how we would proceed with proposals for hall renewal. This is because in order to spend the grant we need to focus on a new building to the rear which delays a start on the field room and refurbishment of the main hall.

However it does mean that while we will achieve new meeting rooms, kitchen and WC's in a relatively short timescale and the Field Room and refurbishment of the existing hall will then follow.

THANKS

There are so many people to thank and it is difficult to know where to start and who I might have left out.

My Thanks go to:

Our Committee – 8 elected Trustees: Paul Wood, Sarah Wood, Anne Green, Julie Corfield, Dermot Tobin, Peter Heath, Rachel Storey, Jeremy Bowman,

3 co opted Trustees: Ray Marriott, Barry Kiely, Jim Coats.

4 representative Trustees: Georgina Edge, Tim Gibbs, Richard Chesters, Ruth Brunger.

We started with weekly meetings and a punishing work load from the word go which unfortunately put too much pressure on some members

- Rachel, Ruth, Richard and Peter resigned during the course of the year due to time or health or other constraints. Thanks for all they did and the ideas and advice they contributed.
- My special thanks go to Dermot, Sarah, Paul, Jim and Anne for finding time and effort beyond what could reasonably be expected
- Helpers Denise and Amanda and Janis who have been the backbone of the effort for events Janis (and Debbie) who has taken over bookings
- Alan Foster and his band of grounds helpers Jill, Peter, Graham and Dan.
- The Community for coming to meetings, helping out and for finding time to enjoy the various events.

Achievements:-

- The Grounds – in my opinion the greatest achievement and credit is claimed by the committee only in the sense of putting in place a policy that allowed the dedication of others to flourish and make the most of the great asset that is the grounds.
- Young Users – we are, it has to be admitted, a village with quite a high average age but the involvement of the Edgmond Owls each Friday and our Toddler group has managed to balance out participation of all age groups in hall activities and events.
- Winning the Telford Community Pride Grant – We had to act quickly and the outcome did not afford us freedom to do exactly what we wanted when we wanted but the boost to funds and imperative to spend the money before the March 2016 deadline focuses our attention on delivering what I'm sure will be a great asset for use by our village.
- Operating Surplus – immense effort by all and support by so many that has led to boosting village hall funds as our Treasurer will detail.

Challenges for the coming year

- To keep serving our user groups
- To manage the Build
- To provide a steady stream of popular Events – if you would like to assist in whatever capacity - helping to organise events or as a pair of helping hands then please let us know. You will be most welcome.

Summary

I am most grateful to all who have come together to improve facilities for our community. We have been enthusiastic amateurs but have I believe made the most of talents amongst us and close by. This has been a good year financially and we leave things in better shape than we found them and with viable plans to improve further. We hope that you agree and your permission permitting we continue what we have started.

Jeremy Bowman

Chaiman - Edgmond Village Hall