

HOLBROOK ARKWRIGHT HALL COMMUNITY CENTRE (HAHVCC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16 OF THE TRUSTEES' GENERAL COMMITTEE

Since they received planning permission from Amber Valley Borough Council for a new Hall in late September 2014 the HAHVCC Trustees have concentrated their efforts on moving ahead - considering the details of our new village hall....and particularly on getting together the rest of the money needed to get the job done.

Many applications have been made to try to secure grants from as many sources as we could think of - unfortunately without success. Set out below are the efforts that have been made so far, both for information and in the hope that somebody might have further ideas that might be pursued.

- The Ryklow Trust - a charity set up by the late Mr A B Williamson, founder of DEB Chemicals and resident of Killis Lane - said that our new Hall did not fall within the Trust's current priorities.
- The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation also turned us down, indicating that Holbrook did not fall within one of their target areas, the Foundation concentrating its resources on deprived areas.
- The Veolia Environmental Fund - whose funds are derived from Waste Disposal levies. An application was made for £100,000 - the maximum allowed. Disappointingly, this long and detailed application was not successful. Veolia does not - as a matter of policy - give reasons for not supporting applications made to their Environmental Fund, but it was clear from the detailed consultations that took place during the application process that there were many more applications made than money available.
- The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, which appears to concentrate its interest on capital projects for community benefit, village halls in particular, made a similar point when turning down the Trustees' application to them.
- Building Better Communities, a grant aid scheme run by builders' merchants Jewsons, also turned us down, indicating that they concentrated their efforts on "deprived areas". At this stage in the

Trustees' unsuccessful efforts they were feeling decidedly "deprived" themselves!

- Similar points were made by the Big Lottery Fund when rejecting the Trustees' application to them.
- The only remaining application in the frame is to the Derbyshire Environmental Trust's Capital Grant Scheme. But even if we were lucky enough to be granted the maximum on offer from this source, it would provide only a small proportion of the £300,000 that remains to be found to build the new Hall for which we have planning permission.

Investigations must therefore continue to find further possible sources of funds, particularly as our planning permission expires in October 2017 - and a re-application would involve more time and expense. So if anybody has any further ideas on funding sources, please, please let us know!

But while time goes by making grant applications, the Trustees - and Hall users - are painfully aware that the condition of the present Hall is deteriorating week by week. So consideration also needs to be given to alternative approaches to the present Hall's future. It would be unacceptable to everybody if the present Hall deteriorated beyond use while over £300,000 of hard-won village money just sat in the bank.

The Trustees would like to propose holding a village meeting to look at these issues and consider possible ways ahead.