

## Village Hall and Community Council Report May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021

The good news is the Village Hall is now open for business!

We opened for local elections and last week we opened for the public. Pilates has commenced and a dog training class is starting this week. We are waiting to hear about keep fit. We may have to find another instructor for this class. I was also asked about Tai Chi so I am looking for an instructor for that as well. This is through the Fit Suffolk initiative. They find the instructors and set up the classes initially.

We have had some maintenance work carried out in the toilets and they have now been upgraded. Unfortunately, there is some damp coming up on one of the walls so this will need to be seen to.

During lockdown the hall was lucky enough to be given grants by Babergh District Council to help with running costs.

The Survey conducted to measure support for the Village Hall Extension was carried out by delivering 205 questionnaires to properties in the Community. There were 105 responses, 101 in favour, 4 against. A strong endorsement for the Project. There were many suggestions for new and continuing activities and events.

Funding for the Project is being provided by Biffa Award (79%), Babergh District Council (17%) Village Hall and Community Council (4%) at a total cost of £79,914.

The Council have enrolled in Entrust, which is the Regulator of Environmental Bodies under the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996, which enables the Biffa Award grant payment. This enrolment also provides the potential for funding future projects. This enrolment required modifications to the Governing Document for the Village Hall and Community Council Charity, which have been accepted by the Charity Commission.

The work is in progress, currently waiting for approval of proposed materials and details by Babergh DC Planning, particularly relating to Heritage official comments to ensure appropriate conformity with the existing late 19<sup>th</sup> century part of the hall.

As part of the conditions for the building extension we have to plant some trees and shrubs and put-up bird boxes and bat boxes this will tie in with the

landscaping to take place behind the hall. We plan to have a patio with picnic tables along with adding extra play equipment.

It was decided after our first meeting last week that the hall should be cleaned on a regular basis. It will only be an hour or two a week but this will enable us to keep the hall in better condition for all users. Particularly with the COVID measures that have to take place.

Christopher Harding and Sheila Goodman

Chair and Deputy Chair

Village Hall and Community Council