

Cornhill Community Action Status report - 11th November 2021

CAT: The legal transfer documents from NCC are with our solicitors, Sanderson, McCreath and Edney. However, there is no mention of the reinstatement of the services by Gleasons and, until we know that that will be carried out, or paid for, the PC and CCA members are not willing to take the transfer. We fear this issue could take months to resolve. Despite everyone in NCC saying they want everything to go ahead, no-one seems able to solve this issue. MD raised this again with Paul Urwin last week.

Planning application: after much lengthy and time-consuming negotiation, Pre_planning was finally agreed. MD then moved on to the formal Planning application. Again, because change of use from a school to rentable units does not fit into any pre-prescribed category, there was much to-ing and fro-ing and negotiation before it was finally understood that this is not a literal development but a change of use by another way. The final pack of documents was submitted on 8th November and a new acknowledgement received, which appears to indicate all is now well.

Keys: The keys to the building will be handed to the Chair of the PC on 11th November. MD will then have time to draw up a detailed specification of the work required. Five builders have so far been asked to make appointments next week to assess the work. They are:

Steven Lackenby General Builders Ltd, Duns

G&J Waddell Ltd, Greenlaw (*declined*)

K. Dixon Building Services Ltd, Berwick (*declined*)

Phil Stewart Ltd, Kelso

PJ Brown Ltd, Berwick

and also

Crawfords Joinery, Berwick

WR Patterson decorators, Kelso

All the builders have Federation of Master Builders credentials or equivalent.

Some 10 new doors and other joinery need to be manufactured; these will need to be a separate nominated supplier agreement unless the builder is also a joinery manufacturer (i.e. P J Brown only). There is not a lot of conventional builder's work as such but a good deal of repair work, rubbish removal and the usual unknowns so MD thinks it will be less expensive to deal with these on a cost-plus basis.

Funding: SW (our trustee responsible for funding) reported that he thinks the project has all the right characteristics to appeal to funders, especially as we have £20,000 already. He expressed concern over the fact that we cannot get started.

Publicity: Oliver, our trustee responsible for publicity made lots of excellent suggestions for how we should now proceed, as follows:

- he will come up with a strategy to involve the local press with some timely press releases. This will be fairly fluid and won't have many dates on it - rather what we'll say when we reach certain milestones. It should, however, start now - once we have the parish council's blessing. (ED agreed to take some photos; maybe PC members outside the building?)
- he will endeavour to set up a Facebook account for the project which will double as an advertising stream. He said you only need to look at Cornhill shop's Facebook page to see how successful this can be for a local business.
- expand the website - include a page about renting the units.

CCA Bank account: Anne Legge who is our financial trustee, along with William Carrington, reported at our recent meeting that Bank of Scotland/Lloyds group say that all the documents (sent in mid-August) were lost in the post so new application forms will be sent. They have not been sent. Anne has contacted Royal Bank of Scotland and sent in the application forms on 9th

November. David wondered if it might be worth trying to set up an investment account to hold the money so it is removed from the PC account.

Village Green: Stephanie (SC) organised a visit from Miles Rudge who has many years experience working in Estate gardens. SC and ED met Miles on the site; he offered to put together a planting plan, free of charge. He lives in West Leamouth. However, on SW's advice, no further progress will be taken until the PC has ownership of the land.

All CCA's work can be seen on the CCA chronology website at: <https://www.ccal.uk>