

HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Business Plan Sub Committee Meeting on Monday, 4th March 2013 at Gill Hope Farm

Present: Bob Lake, Fiona Shafer, Rachel Lewis and Janet Tourell

1. Feedback from mtg with Buxted Community Hall Trust

The meeting with the Buxted Community Hall trustees held on Friday, 1st March was discussed. **FS** remarked that it was a 'curious' meeting - on the one hand they seemed further along with their plans that our committee and on the other, they had reached an impasse. They had no business plan to refer to and much of the underpinning information to support their planning application was 'borrowed' from the Medical Centre application.

However Wealden do appear to want to help them and it might be to our advantage to learn from their experience with Wealden planners. Also, the background to the work undertaken by George Claydon to gain charitable trust status, might be useful. However, we felt that most probably, there is a great deal that they could learn from us.

BL felt that we should meet with Vivian Blandford, Buxted PC Chair; also it might help to approach representatives from Mayfield and Forest Row who like Buxted and ourselves, are affected similarly by the 7km restrictions. The issue is more to do with the disposal of any existing hall rather than the control on increasing the size of any proposed new facility. Maybe there might be strength in numbers in terms of lobbying politicians and raising our profile. Interestingly, the Buxted Community Hall trustees seemed anxious not to fall out with Wealden Planners.

RL said that she thought it had been a valuable thing to do and we should keep in contact. She was very surprised that there was no funding coming to their project from Developer Contribution funding (formerly Section 106 money) from the new housing development behind the Buxted Inn. However, Developer Contributions had been secured from the development of Mayhew's chicken factory sited on the A26 north of Five Ash Down.

2. Funding

RL reported that the HDCC now had a valuable asset in Nicola, Rachel's next door neighbour at the Grange, who had agreed to join us to help with fund-raising. She had lots of contacts and was looking at possible EU funding.

BL asked **FS** if she could look into the Exeter Road Shareholder project in Brighton that she'd reported on some while ago as a possible way forward. **FS** said that she'd have a chat with Karen Lord re. Industrial and Provident Societies.

BL said that our ability to attract other funds should be a central plank of our plan.

RL said she is doing work on forming charities at the moment so will work for the HDCC at the same time. An application for a Gatwick Airport Community Trust grant should be applied for.

3. Business Plan

JT will gather material re. the history of hall and background of project.

FS will deal with objectives – use research and analysis of other halls plus needs of the community. She will use the survey and look for gaps in the current hall's need - **JT** and **BL** to make contacts with other halls. Whether or not to include halls located in the towns of Uckfield, Heathfield and Crowborough was considered and it was thought not to be particularly valid. All agreed that the emphasis should be on community and connecting.

BL said we needed a fund-raising strategy and a target, he felt that the Finance Plan would be tricky. **FS** - would need to talk to Richard Boswell about plans and costing and also look at other options. **BL** agreed and felt that 'parameters' needed to be established. **FS** suggested approaching RIBA for advice but not without Richard's knowledge. **JT** to contact Louise Beaton at AiRS re. architects used in other halls.

FS suggested contacting Janet Hughes at Barcombe because she obviously has considerable experience of fund-raising. **FS** also said that she thought Paul Presler should be contacted.