

The Renovation of Lamorna's Village Hall – an Update

In the update we circulated in June, we advised you of the submission of our funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. We also said that no one assumed it would be quick or easy to secure financial support for the Village Hall project. We had encouragement from lots of people for our bid and that made us feel really optimistic about our chances. The last sentence of our update read: 'Let's hope the funders like it just as much!' With great regret we have to tell you that it seems they did not and our application has been rejected.

HLF's Heritage Grant Scheme, under which we applied, closes this month so there has been a flood of applications. This is against a backdrop of rising building costs and a reduction of lottery ticket sales in this quarter of over £90 million, or more than 20%, compared with the same quarter five years ago. HLF is issuing what it calls a 'new strategic framework and portfolio of grant programmes' in the New Year, so we cannot navigate that particular path again until then. That is if we wish to do so.

This lengthy, time consuming and disappointing experience has made us take a step back and focus on the core improvements we must have for the Village Hall to stay in business. We may need to take smaller steps, rather than try to fulfil everyone's wish list in one mighty bound, which we were encouraged to do in the advice we received. On a positive note, the immense amount of information from research, community feedback and individual letters of support that were gathered and documented, provide us with a comprehensive library of information to support any grant applications that we consider in the future, be they large or small.

The existing operation of the Village Hall is very successful. It provides a valuable community asset with a great programme of events and we work very hard to keep it solvent. The minimum we need to do to safeguard its future is to replace the toilets and kitchen with decent and accessible alternatives and perhaps also improve the display facilities for art exhibitions. Extensions and archives and improvements to the carpark may have to wait.

As a community asset, we do need your views and feedback. So tell us what you think and in particular, whether you have any cunning ideas for fundraising!

We look forward to hearing from you.

Rae Hood (On behalf of the trustees of Lamorna Village Hall)

August 17th 2018