

Broughton Playing Fields & Village Hall Association

Annual General Meeting June 2018 Chairperson's Report

The Playing Fields & Village Hall Association has had another busy year, looking after the day to day running of the hall and fields as well as planning for the future development of the facilities. The finances are in reasonable shape and grants and fundraising have continued to boost the development fund to support the future improvements to the village hall and grounds.

As I said, it has been a busy year with the following providing a bit of insight:

- Occasional hire of the hall and field has continued to increase with income 12.8% higher than in 2016/2017. The increase in use of the Meachem Room being particularly pleasing. We have lost some of our regular users during the year which we will look to replace as we go through the year but generally the space is well utilised.
- Broughton Under Fives is an important regular user of the hall and the Committee were delighted they were assessed as Outstanding in a recent OFSTED inspection.
- Our User Groups and Clubs are an essential part of the future of the village hall and support for them by the local community is essential to sustain them. I hope they are successful in attracting the support they deserve to maintain the diversity of activities taking place on the site.
- The hire income has been sufficient to meet the day to day running costs and ongoing maintenance of the hall which has enabled the room hire costs to remain broadly the same for the coming year with a small increase in annual storage costs which were advised the previous year.
- Revised planning permission has been granted which, in addition to the development of a stage area in the main hall and improved changing facilities, now includes an exciting new Community Room and new entrance to the hall. 3 external storage units have also been approved.
- The windows in the Meachem Room have been enlarged to improve the natural light in the room which has been well received, The CCTV system has been upgraded, external power points fitted and notice boards in the entrance lobby renewed.
- The Committee have reviewed and developed a number of policies to support the governance of the committee's activities including, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection and Procurement.
- A desktop review of Insurance cover has also been undertaken to ensure the Village Hall is adequately insured and the Hire Agreements have been updated and standardised terms applied.

Whilst I say this every year, I am very aware the Committee are all volunteers who give so freely of their time to manage the bookings, look after the finances and help look after the building as well as progressing plans and fundraising for the future development of the site. I am extremely grateful for all the time and effort so willingly and enthusiastically given by both the members of the Village Hall and Village Show Committees throughout the year as, without their support and commitment, the running of the Village Hall and Village Show could not happen.

I was delighted to welcome Gaynor Ireland to the committee during the year who has kindly taken on the role as Secretary and more latterly, Eric Wells who recently moved into the Village. There is however the ever increasing critical need to find new and younger members of the village to get involved to make sure the Committee is representative of the Broughton & Little Cransley community as a whole and has all the appropriate skills and numbers to carry out its responsibilities on behalf of the residents. Failure to achieve this during the next 12 months could see another crisis looming and the prospect of the facilities returning to Kettering Borough Council or the new Unitary Authority control.

Now for one or two specific thanks and acknowledgments:

- The 9th Village Show & Fun Day was held in September with a great turnout from the village resulting in a lovely community event despite the very changeable weather that had people running for shelter on more than one occasion. The Village Show Committee once again did an excellent job in managing to stage a real community event again this year, attracting around 250 entries to the produce and craft show. The event, which was supported by Barclays Bank £ for £ Community Scheme and Northamptonshire Charitable Foundation raised an amazing £4300 which is being used to help fund the various development projects. This event could not take place without the help and support of the Show Committee and the many helpers from the village – to you all a BIG THANKYOU.
- A very big thank you to Broughton Players for organising and raising a fantastic £1000 for the Village Hall Development Fund at their Casino night in January 2018.
- A mention is definitely needed for Gaynor Ireland and Derek Lawrence for arranging Santa and his sleigh to visit Broughton just before Christmas and for the kind donation to the Village Hall from the funds collected on Santa's journey around the village.
- Kettering Borough Council have once again looked after the playing fields and surrounding area, mowing the grass and maintaining the grounds for which we are most grateful.
- Maintaining and managing our regular and occasional bookings is no easy task, income and activity from both has increased again this year and I would like to thank Bryony Gates and Barbara Zutshi for undertaking this responsibility and making sure our hirers are looked after so well. We will need find ways in which we can split the work involved in managing the bookings to make the less time consuming given the ever-increasing activity.
- I am very grateful to Phil and Shelagh West for keeping on top of the maintenance, taking care of contractor visits and for carrying out running repairs and maintenance themselves which has made a big difference to the presentation and upkeep of the building.
- Tim Durdin our Treasurer also requires a special mention as he keeps a tight rein on the Association's finances and governance and continues to manage the Village Hall Development Plan for which I am particularly grateful.
- And lastly, a specific thank you for the flexibility and support of our Cleaner who looks after the building, often undertaking the cleaning at unsociable hours to fit between regular hirers and outside parties and events to make sure clean and tidy facilities are available to all.

Finally, we have a few items on this year's "to Do" list:

- Finding new committee members to provide continuity into the future
- Redecoration of the Meachem Room, Corridor and Bar area
- Establish a community project to build a petanque court
- Put on an open day for the Village Hall and its user groups in early 2019 to promote both.
- Develop better utilisation of the field throughout the year
- With planning now obtained we hope to commence building the external storage units which is the next phase of the development plan.
- To progress the MUGA, Tennis, Skateboard projects now discussions Kettering Borough Council regarding the land and future maintenance of the equipment have been clarified.
- Commence funding applications for both the MUGA and the extension of the Hall and build of the community room. Our development fund and the S106 money should help us attract grant funding for these projects.

There are plenty of things to progress during the coming year as well as keeping the Village Hall running day to day, but I hope this will ensure the Village Hall and Playing Fields continues to provide great facilities for use by our community in the years to come.

Clive Gresham