

Broughton Playing Fields & Village Hall Association

Annual General Meeting June 2019 Chairperson's Report

The Association is a registered charity which was established in 1979 to manage and look after the Village Hall and Playing Fields for the benefit and amenity of all the residents of Broughton and Little Cransley. The Management Committee is made up of volunteers and is responsible for the management, maintenance and development of the facilities. The Hall and grounds are a community asset in which all the residents have an interest.

Looking back over 2018/2019 it is exciting to see how things have progressed over the last 12 months, a very successful and busy year for the Association. We have seen positive changes in regular users, occasional hirers making ever more use of the facilities and development projects having been completed and moved forward. The finances are in reasonable shape and grants and fundraising have continued to supplement the development fund, helping to support the improvements and ongoing plans for the village hall and grounds. Building the capacity and capability of the Committee has proved more of a challenge but I will return to this later.

I believe we can all be very proud with what has been achieved this year and I hope the Villagers take advantage of the improved facilities.

As I said, it has been a very busy year with lots going on:

- Occasional hire of the hall and field has continued to increase with income 19% higher than in 2017/2018 and now represents 28% of our total hire income. This is a 234% increase on 5 years – areal success story but it is not without its challenges – more about that later.
- Income from Regular Users has also increased by 4.5% year on year which was ahead of budget. Although we have lost one or two of our regular users, increased activity and use of the Football pitches has helped compensate. We were delighted to accommodate Kettering Football Club Ladies, Girls youth and junior teams during the year and look forward to a long-term relationship with them.
- The Committee have various policies in place to support the governance of the committee's activities including, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection and Procurement.
- Broughton Under Fives is a very important group for both the village and the village hall. We will continue to work closely with them to try and help sustain the group into the future.
- Our User Groups and Clubs are an essential part of the purpose of the village hall and ongoing support by the local community is necessary for them to thrive. I hope they are successful in attracting the support they deserve to maintain the diversity of activities taking place on the site.
- With the completion of the 3 external storage units in March this year, the planning permission for the development of a stage area, improved changing facilities and new Community Room have now been locked in. Thanks to Kettering Borough Council for providing a grant of £5000 towards the cost of the units.
- The electrical switchgear was replaced in April to address some health & safety issues but more importantly, to provide the capacity to support the future development plans for the building.

- The new bar chiller unit and dishwasher and sink have improved both the bar and kitchen areas which has been well received by hirers.
- Outside, new goalposts were installed in September 2018 with the help of grants from Maud Elkington Trust and PL & FA Facilities Fund.
- I am delighted to report that, with support from a group of volunteers and CTA Plant Ltd from the village, the promised petanque court was installed at the beginning of June and now is available for anyone to use. A great big thank you to all those involved who made it possible.
- Work is due to start on the changing rooms and toilets towards the end of July to improve access to the toilets and install unisex cubicles for use of teams and spectators. A referee changing room will also be created. The work will be completed in good time for the new season. We are particularly grateful to the Constance Travis and Maud Elkington Trusts for their support of this project.
- We expect to complete the installation of 3 new skate ramps during September. The supplier has been approved and we are awaiting the outcome of grant applications. We will be using part of the S106 monies to fund this project.

Without a doubt, there has been a lot going on and it is pleasing to see that we have been able to deliver on various elements of the plans for the village hall during the year.....but there is a lot more to do.

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.

The increased bookings activity has made the current Occasional Bookings Secretary's role unsustainable in its current form and this will need to be changed if it is to continue to be undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Whilst we have achieved a lot this year, in one particular area we have been far less successful. We have failed 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, energy and numbers to carry out its responsibilities on behalf of the residents. If I am re-elected, this will be my priority for 2019/2020 and I believe is essential to safeguard the future of the Association.

Now for one or two specific thanks and acknowledgments:

- The 10th Village Show & Fun Day was held in September 2018 with a great turnout from the village resulting in a lovely community event. The "wet weather" layout confused some the villagers as the promised heavy rain never arrived, nevertheless a really enjoyable afternoon. The Village Show Committee once again did an excellent job in managing to stage a real community event, attracting around 250 entries to the produce and craft show. The event, which was supported by Barclays Bank £ for £ Community Scheme raised an amazing £4600 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.

- It was great to see Santa on his sleigh again in December – thanks to Gaynor Ireland and Derek Lawrence for arranging his visit to 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.
- Thanks to Richard Tyler for his efforts in liaising on the football front, helping raise funds for the goalposts and for still marking out the pitches at his tender years!
- 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 all their time effort and hard work in undertaking this responsibility and making sure our hirers are looked after so well.
- 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 Tony Brooks 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 managed to knock a few items off our “to Do” list last year but a number still remain:

- Finding new committee members to provide continuity into the future
- With the closure of the Red Lion, to explore the options to use the Village Hall as an occasional meeting place.
- Put on an open day for the Village Hall and its user groups in early 2020 to promote both.
- To progress the MUGA and Tennis court 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 most importantly, I hope the Village Hall and Playing Fields continue to provide great facilities for use by our community in the months in the years to come.