

Cottonmill and Sopwell Hub 2020 Update

- **Annual Report**

Despite the challenging times over the past year, we are still working hard and are really positive about the future of a Hub in Cottonmill. After our last AGM we managed to squeeze three more events into 2019, two quiz nights and our Christmas Capers afternoon, and had two more meetings with the Council (in October and November). We also had a videoconference in July.

At the beginning of 2020 there were some changes within the Council's Marlborough Pavilion team. Richard Shwe left the Council and Tony Marmo is currently the acting Head of Commercial and Development. An SADC project management team was assigned, and consultancy firm Pick Everard were brought in to support the Council, its officers, and the architects through the next phases of the project. The Council also identified the funding, in principle, for the whole project. This will come from a share of the capital receipt from the Leyland Avenue project and an application to British Cycling for additional funding.

In March, we had our first 'joint partner' meeting of the year with the Council and then, two weeks later the UK was in lockdown. Understandably the Council diverted all available resource to dealing with the pandemic and had hardly any communication with them at all until July when we had a videoconference with the new project management team, the architects and Pick Everard. Obviously, we were concerned that the significant financial impact of Covid -19 would affect the Marlborough Pavilion project, but the Council have confirmed that they are still committed to delivering the scheme.

Both our March meeting and July videoconference concentrated on discussing the specifications and schedule of accommodation for the new building. We were shown some very initial concept designs and feasibility studies and we provided the Council with plenty of feedback based on our survey and interview work with the community and interested groups and organisations.

Marlborough Pavilion Overview

| Outcomes | Project Guiding Principles |
|---|---|
| Café | Invest or develop for social good by regenerating an existing community site, in a part of the city that lacks the provision. |
| Additional Lettable Hall Space | |
| Cycle Hub | Optimising the site's potential through excellent layout design. |
| Additional external cycle facilities | |
|  | Invest in whole-life costs and sustainability. |
| | Lead by example by complying with planning, health and safety and other regulations. |
| | Provide an inclusive and transparent community-led project. |

Marlborough Pavilion Milestones

Achieved Milestones

| | |
|---|--------|
| Guiding Principles & Project Phasing Agreed | Jan 20 |
| Consultations with Key Community Groups | Apr 20 |
| External Project Manager Appointed | Jun 20 |
| Stage 1 British Cycling Funding Bid Submitted | Aug 20 |



Future Milestones

| | |
|---|--------|
| Completion of Informative Feasibility Studies | Sep 20 |
| Rest of Multi-disciplinary Team Appointed | Sep 20 |
| Design Brief Finalised | Oct 20 |
| Stage 2 British Cycling Funding Bid Submitted | Jan 21 |



- **Forward Plans**

In Autumn 2020 the Council plan to complete the informative feasibility studies and finalise the design brief. We currently await further communication from the Council regarding these next steps.

Despite the challenges of Covid-19 we have and will continue to communicate with local residents through our website, Facebook page and Twitter, to ensure that our community is kept abreast of any developments and local news - such as cycling events for young people organised by Verulam Cycling Club, and the work of Sopwell Community Trust in, particular their community food bank.

CottonmillAndSopwellHub.org

 Cottonmill And Sopwell Hub

 @Cottonmillcomm1

- **Review of the Past Year**

Oct 19 Our Fish & Chip Quiz Night was a huge success! We had 10 teams taking part and the Marlborough Pavilion was packed full. Everyone had a great evening.



Nov 19 White Lion Quiz Night in aid of CaSH
And raised £203!



Dec 19 CaSH Christmas Capers was a fun afternoon
and we collected several boxes of donations for
our local foodbank.



- **Upcoming Events**

Due to Covid-19 we haven't made any forward plans for events for the rest of 2020. Currently we wait to see what 2021 brings but, in the meantime, if you have any ideas for socially distanced events or activities that you think could be run for the benefit of the local community, please let us know.

- **Review of Committee and Election of new Members**

Our constitution states that our committee can hold their official positions for up to three years. During the year we've had a slight reshuffle (which our constitution allows us to do) and our committee is now as follows –

Chairperson
Vice Chair & Events Co-Ordinator
Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Committee Member

Michelle Mackenzie
Elaine Rainsford
Jo Cooney
Kate Swindells
Janet Charles
Gail Jackson

As no committee member is currently stepping down none of these positions are vacant. But we are always open to new people joining the committee. If you are interested in joining us please get in touch.

- Financial Report



Cottonmill and Sopwell Hub

Accounts 01.08.19 – 31.07.2020

Cottonmill and Sopwell Hub generated £132.38 overall in the financial year to 31.07.2020.

Income was mainly generated by fundraising/social events in the Autumn/Winter of 2019; two quiz nights and the Christmas Capers activity event. Hall hire costs formed the main expense for these activities, although we have negotiated that some of this will be reimbursed by St Albans District Council in the next financial year.

The 100 Club saw lots of outgoings in winnings, whilst most of the income from payment for numbers was in the previous financial year. Sadly, we have made the decision to stop the 100 Club for the time being, due to time constraints of our volunteers.

Our other main expenses were promotional and printing items, including a banner flag and charity donation bucket labels. These were paid for out of last year's Locality Budget grant from Hertfordshire Country Council.

| Income & Expenditure 01.08.19 - 31.07.20 | | | |
|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| Income (£) | | Expenditure (£) | |
| Events & Fundraising | 1209.54 | Events & Fundraising | 628.77 |
| Grants | 0.00 | Printing & Promotion | 406.40 |
| Interest | 0.00 | Certification, Subscriptions & Memberships | 41.99 |
| Total Income | 1209.54 | Total expenditure | 1077.16 |
| Balance brought forward 01.08.2019 | 7947.63 | | |
| Balance at 31.07.2020 | 8080.01 | | |
| Funds of the organisation | 8080.01 | | |

checked + passed
25/10/20

[Signature]
J. MULLAN

[Signature] TREASURER.
3/11/20.