
Canolfan Iâl (Yale Centre) Newsletter

September 2019

Further to our last newsletter, here is an update on your Council's plans and approach in taking the Old School project forward...

A little bit of background

We do not own the Old School building. Your Council has an open-ended 'licence to occupy' with responsibilities to look after the building in terms of basic maintenance, utilities and insurance. The licence stipulates that the building should be used for the good of the community as a whole. Council insures the building for public use and ensures that adequate health and safety measures are in place. Additionally, to keep costs down, we have to tell the insurance company when it is used, for what purpose and how many people will be involved. Your Council also has a responsibility to ensure that the Council budget is used wisely. Over the years a reserve fund has accumulated, originally earmarked to go towards the cost of acquiring the Old School.

A little bit of history

Earlier this year, Council asked for a group of volunteers to help achieve a very minimal refurbishment so that hiring of the hall could begin. We started this process but then discovered problems with the floor in the main hall, which gave cause for concern. We immediately obtained permission from the owner to investigate, during which we found evidence of timber decay. Additionally, there is no electrical safety certification and we have discovered that the electrical supply costs for a largely dormant building are surprisingly high. These problems were reported to the owner with a request for financial help. We have still not received a response to this, despite numerous follow-ups. We have now contacted electrical and timber companies to help us better assess these two safety issues. The basic refurbishment is on hold but can be re-started once health and safety concerns are met. The Council has budgeted a small amount of money to help with the minimal refurbishment.

The way forward

Community responses to previous Council requests over the years to join a Management Group were very limited. However, in response to our latest call, Council has been delighted to receive five expressions of interest to help take the project forward. Council has decided to create an Advisory Committee [*in accordance with Standing Order 50a*] with a view to eventually handing over complete legal and financial responsibility to an independent, legally-formed Management Group. The temporary Advisory Committee will comprise councillors and all those in the community who expressed an earlier written interest to the Council Clerk. The Clerk will inform the Advisory Committee members of their terms of reference [*in accordance with Standing Order 50b*]. We hope that this Advisory Committee will meet quickly and regularly in order to enable speedy progress in forming the permanent Management Group, after which the temporary Advisory Committee will be dissolved.

Keeping in contact with developments

Cllr Nia Roberts (07790 761260 or NiaBach21@gmail.com) has kindly agreed to arrange regular 'drop-in' sessions when you can discuss developments with her and other councillors face-to-face. Please contact her for the date of the next session. The Council website gives further general information.