



Minutes of Members Meeting

British School Room, 7th November 2011

Introduction

Chairman of SOSCIC, Peter Sidebottom, welcomed over 50 members to the Meeting. He said the aim of the evening was to update members on the progress of Phase One and to preview the second phase of construction. Each member of the SOSCIC board gave a presentation on their area of specialism within the project. The Chairman also launched a special appeal for personal donations by members towards the cost of phase two completion.

Summary of Presentations

- **Construction**

John Knight described the background to the Old School project and the process of contractor selection. He praised Chappell & Dix for the quality of their work and ability to meet all deadlines. Rear and front roof retiling, as well as a new flat roof for unit 4, had been completed as had all re-pointing work. In the new Post Office & Stores, the floor, ceiling and replacement wooden panelling are complete, as are all electrical works whilst an access ramp to the rear store has also been added. And finally, all external windows have been installed with internal secondary double-glazed units also fitted. 'Before' and 'After' pictures reminded members of the scale of achievement in Phase One.

- **Highways**

Mike Johnson described temporary measures to alleviate any immediate traffic and parking problems. He emphasised the importance of establishing early on clear rules and precedents. Short-term measures include a temporary barrier, disabled parking space outside the school and warning signs for minimum speeds and children present. In the longer term, ideas under consideration by Wiltshire Council include a metal barrier, bollards, coloured tarmac zone, new kerb, permanent warning signs, a new fence/gate and provision for disabled parking. It was stressed no final decisions will be taken without consultation. Also, council budgets are stretched for Small Works Schemes, impacting on the speed that improvements across the High Street in front of the (old) Post Office can be implemented.

- **Rentals**

Richard Hulme was optimistic about enquiries from potential tenants about Phase Two units. Interests encompass retail, office and storage uses as well as space for a cafe. All applications are being referred to Graham Singer as lettings agent.

- **Finance**

Geoff Martin presented figures for both phases of conversion. At the end of Phase One, there remains sufficient money to make a start on the remainder of the roof before Christmas. Due to recent, generous donations by individuals, there has been a matching amount made by the Eleanor Barton Trust, together with cheques from village and local organisations. The challenge is to raise the remaining money to complete Phase 2 – a total of £75c. At that stage, the SOSCIC project becomes self-financing from rental incomes.

- **Fund-Raising/Membership**

Irene Johnston described the urgency of raising the rest of the funding. Phase Two fundraising has a finite life so it is vital to achieve results quickly. A fundraising committee has drawn up a schedule including special events, on-going activities (eg Class Act, the successful charity shop run by Marion Gee), a dedicated website (currently under construction, Facebook/Twitter pages and a PR and media campaign. There is the need to think 'outside the box' and members were encouraged to think of big ideas that might help.

- **Chairman's Appeal**

Peter Sidebottom introduced John Kerslake as new Membership Secretary whose brief is to expand membership numbers and lead the drive for donations. The chairman made an appeal for donations; if every member were to give £100 or more then SOSCIC would be a long way down the road to achieving its target for Phase 2. He reminded everyone that the 'official' opening ceremony will take place on Saturday 26th November at 10.15.

- **Questions**

Members raised a number of issues, including questions about funding sources, parking time restrictions, a 20mph limit and/or cobblestones for traffic calming outside the building, an objection to any suggestion of coloured tarmac and the evening use of the rear car park.