

GUILDEN SUTTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting 2022

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT YEAR ENDING 2021

The Charity Commissioners require the Chairman of charities to prepare a report for their AGM. It is, in any case, a good opportunity to review the events of the year.

Last year's AGM called for further investigation to be made into a CIO, or Charitable Incorporated Organisation for the Community Association. This is a device to further limit the liability of the Trustees of the CA by providing them with an entity which can enter into contracts without the Trustees themselves entering personally into the contract. This has successfully been tried by other organisations in the village.

A working party was set up soon after the AGM to move this forward. It was made up of a handful of people, some from the CA and we were helped by Kevin Janes from Cheshire Community Action. Robin and Vivien very kindly hosted these events, which continued for several months. During this time we learnt a lot about a CIO and about the many permutations the constitution could be developed from.

When this group went as far developing the constitution as it could, the work continued in the Executive Committee of the CA. They took the recommendations of the group and refined them further. At this time the Exec Committee was holding weekly meetings to improve the constitution to a point where it could be put to a general meeting to discuss and approve it.

We now have a constitution the Exec is agreed on, but we have some questions we have asked Kevin Janes to look at. When these are resolved, a special general meeting will be arranged to discuss and approve the constitution and it will be referred to the Charity Commission for confirmation.

Looking to the hall for activities over the last year, we have been gradually getting back to 'normal' after Covid closed the hall for some time. Sadly not all groups have reformed after the break and the hall has suffered a little from this. But generally it is wonderful to see the hall being used so much again and so many people enjoying the facilities we have.

There have been the usual water leaks, pipes overheating, electrical things not working and a number of other day to day jobs which Peter has looked after for us. Peter also spent a lot of time looking after the leaks in the roof. These are so difficult to find and fix, as the water may come through in one place but travel before dripping through somewhere else. Unfortunately, the building is getting old and needs some money spent on it and the roof leaks are one example of this.

It seemed the Velux roof lights have been the main problem for causing leaks and one of these has been totally replaced with all the flashings and fixtures and the tiles replaced where they were. It looks a very neat job. We said we would wait for this to see if it leaked after a heavy downpour and if not, we would then repeat it across the rest of the roof. But this will be expensive to do. In the near future it may be necessary to look at retiling the whole roof and this will be really expensive.

Some painting was done in the toilets during the summer, but we are still hoping that the toilets can be refurbished soon, so we don't want to do too much. The toilet project is one we progressed a couple of years ago, but the person who largely developed it does not have time now to carry it through. We are starting to build up a number of projects for the hall, which we need help to progress.

I mentioned last year that John Riley had to give up running the lottery because of ill health. John ran the lottery for many years and diligently collected the contributions from his own group of members and organised lottery draws each quarter with a £100 first prize. Considering each year the lottery would put about £500 into CA funds, over the many years he ran the lottery, John has contributed many thousands of pounds towards the Association.

My thanks as always go to the many Users of the Hall, who look after it well, and to the members of the Exec and Hall Management Committee for their attendance at meetings and the work they do for us.

D Hughes