

West Rainton Parish Council - 19 July 2018

Item 13: Jubilee Hall

As requested by Parish Council, a meeting was held with officers of Durham County Council to seek clarity on various aspects of their proposal relating to the future ownership and operation of Jubilee Hall.

Notes of that meeting are shown as Appendix 1.

During the course of discussions it became clear that the essential focus of the Parish Council's deliberations should relate to business planning to establish the future viability of Jubilee Hall.

Whilst information about building value and condition and seeking sources of funding are important, these aspects should be recognised as secondary without first having gained a thorough understanding of the potential of Jubilee Hall as a viable community facility. The business planning process is considered essential to identify the most appropriate model for its potential future management and for the parish council to decide if it wishes to proceed with the proposed purchase.

Durham County Council (DCC) have now supplied information about business planning processes and signposted the Parish Council to Durham Sparks (a regional development programme part funded by DCC and European Regional Development Fund) for the purposes of identifying relevant support.

Contact has been made with Durham Sparks and they have indicated their willingness to provide initial advice and guidance to the Parish Council. An initial meeting will be sought.

Parish Council has previously (December 2017) agreed to establish a working group to inform the Parish Council's possible role in securing the future of Jubilee Hall and it is now timely to constitute this. Key roles will be to engage the West Rainton and Leamside Community Association (WRL CA) in business planning, and engage the wider community through, for example the auspices of the West Rainton and Leamside Village Partnership (WRL VP) to establish aspirations, expectations and anticipated patronage of Jubilee Hall.

Item 13: Jubilee Hall cont ...

Parish Council is asked to:

Set up a working group consisting of three representatives of the Parish Council, namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman and one lay Member to develop a business plan for the future operation of the Hall;

Delegate the formulation of terms of reference for the group to these representatives in consultation with the Project Officer;

Agree that the group, supported by officers from the Parish Council and other agencies as considered appropriate, commence dialogue with WR&L CA and WRLVP, and the wider community as considered appropriate, as part of the essential business planning process.

The resultant draft business plan be reported to Parish Council for consideration and agreement of the next steps.