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| |  | | --- | | **Thornley Community Space <office@thornleycommunityspace.org>** | | Wed, 16 Jan, 08:21 (5 days ago) |  | https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif  https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/images/cleardot.gif |
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Hi Carol,

Thank you for your email. Sorry if it seems a little late replying but we have been busy at the school and have had several meetings exploring different options and ways to proceed to get the school open this year.

We can confirm that we are happy with your latest offer of the £4,000 to go towards the permanent toilet building which is planned for the rear of the school. This money will be very helpful with match funding any grant money we apply for or to match monies already granted awaiting draw-down. Yes, planning permission will need to be sought and therefore links/liaison with yourselves as trust holders of the lease for Thornley School will be encouraged.

When we last met with the Parish Council, Malcolm commented on wanting the school open in 2019 and requested we keep the Parish Council informed on any progress.

We are pleased to report the renovation has continued with us particularly developing further down the route of the “community approach”. Despite the weather we have made great progress over the last few months. This has been done with a mixture of some paid work hours and volunteering hours. As you will have noticed the windows are back in situ and the school building is benefiting already. We have nearly finished renovating the ceilings and walls in the large classroom plus we have made adjustments to the upper attic preventing the owl access.

There has been an experienced electrician on-site to build on the electrical circuits we initially installed  to enable more sockets, lights and heating. We are hoping that the higher scaffolding in the larger classroom will be removed by next week allowing volunteers to be able to paint the lower walls and renovate the existing cupboards back to their original state. The floorboards have been adjusted slightly to level damaged areas.

We have removed the old broken toilet and damaged piping and will soon start to install a new toilet system as a temporary measure. In the meanwhile, we have a portable chemical site toilet in the rear yard for workers to use.

Your November email enquired about the funding situation with the Albert Gubay Charitable Foundation. This has been given great debate and looked into and is appearing a potential large funding option perhaps more appropriate for phase two of our renovation.

As we are doing this present piece of work with the aim to open the school by summer, we are now seeking a more immediate type of funding rather than the larger grants that can take up to a year before you hear whether you have been successful. The larger grants also restrict what you can be working on in the meantime. Generally, anything you include in a grant application cannot be started until you actually receive confirmation of the grant.

The immediate funds being sought are from organisations such as Champion Bowland, Duchy of Lancashire Benevolent Fund and some local groups that have supported us in the past.

We have received offers of support from Martin Charlesworth  who is involved with the Friends of Bowland and was keen to help with completing the application form. We have also had a recent offer of backing from a local shoot which we are looking into at present which would be timed well for this present phase.

We have been amazed by offers of free insulation, fire doors, lighting, tiles and other building equipment; some already delivered and the rest to follow.

We have the Friends of Thornley School team and the Thornley School Reunion offering their support and time.

A great positive start to 2019 and hopefully with the warmer weather approaching our garden interest community group will start to work on the exterior of the building and grass area, trees, hedges and weed and clear the parking area.

We currently have three community events planned for 2019. Our programme starts with the first one on the 28th February - a fashion night at Ferrari’s . We have chosen a local clothes shop with models/catwalk with clothes on sale and  we are adding a hearty meal and a raffle – it should be a family evening and is already attracting lots of interest.

Your email requested for a key to be dropped off. Due to the ongoing building work, instead could we suggest we join you on your visits? Equipment and scaffolding is still in situ along with workmen and volunteers etc. Safety is very important. Also If we meet you at the school we can talk you through our progress so far and immediate plans; it’s moving so fast.  We can meet you at an arranged time but Wednesdays or on a weekend would be good... we can meet you as a group or we can accommodate you to visit at individual times. To organise these visits please text or ring Helen Turner on 07763127009 who will inform the other trustees so that we can get as many trustees as possible to join you.

We thank you for your interest and look forward to a positive year working together to get the school back open to the community once more.

The bingo night was the best ever fundraising community event to date welcoming new faces and supporters from the Thornley School Reunion and beyond and tables were full of families of different generations. This is the cohesion of the community we want and we feel that it can’t have a value put on it as it’s so important.  But we also made a huge £1,600 profit.

Kind Regards

 Helen

On behalf of the TCS trustees

 Alison, Karen, Janet (and myself)