



## WELCOME

Welcome to our first ever newsletter! Thanks to all our members for your valuable support in joining us in this exciting community endeavour. Together, we have taken the first step towards helping Cricklade to retain a vibrant and viable High Street. This community initiative will make a positive difference to those of us who live and work in Cricklade today – but we also hope it will leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

## SALE OF CRICKLADE POLICE STATION

We hoped to have completed the sale of the police station by now, but alas not. All the funds are with our solicitor, but it seems completion has been delayed by the summer holidays. Exchange and completion is now expected by the end of October/early November. When it finally happens, you'll be the first to know, so watch this space!

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The background to the appeal was a tad inauspicious – the surprise announcement of the sale, the lockdown restrictions, the summer timing when people are more interested in getting away on holiday or visiting loved ones, and of course, the Police and Crime Commissioner's election (and re-run), which introduced delay and uncertainty into the whole process. But, throughout it all, we always had confidence in the Cricklade community – and that confidence has turned out to be well placed.



Thanks to you, we currently have over 100 members, have raised enough funds to complete the purchase of the building, and raised approximately 53% of our stretch target of £250k, for our expected refurbishment costs. An excellent effort!



*Cricklade Police Station as it looked in 1902, when first built and before the 1960s 'enhancements'*

As expected, fundraising has slowed in the past few weeks. However, we hope to turbo charge our appeal again once the sale is finalised. We are acutely aware that we need to reach more people by meeting face to face – not just via social media – so we will shortly be arranging Open Days for both members - and the general public to view the police station and our plans for the property. More details will be provided once the sale has progressed.

## OUR PLANS FOR THE POLICE STATION

We have exciting plans to improve and enhance the appearance of the building and make it more in keeping with the Conservation Area and surrounding historic buildings. Shortly we will be applying for Planning Permission which will include a rear single storey extension to enlarge the ground floor space. The plan is to create 1 or 2 commercial units on the ground floor and 2 small starter flats on the first floor. Priority will be given to local people, and it is planned to offer attractive rents. There will be opportunity for some community uses both inside and outside.

Importantly, our plans are in keeping with the Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan – which was signed off by residents following a referendum. Our plans will provide much needed smaller accommodation, improved opportunities for small businesses and local employment, and also retaining the building for the community long term.

## CHRISTMAS TREE

With the pandemic, we are not sure what type of Christmas event is planned for Cricklade this year – if any. However, rest assured, the police station will remain the site of the Town's Christmas Tree. This important community use is fully incorporated into our plans – and so expect the police station to continue to twinkle away for years to come!



## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN RENTING A FLAT OR COMMERCIAL UNIT?

If you, or someone you know, is interested in renting a residential flat and/or a commercial unit, please get in touch and we will formally register your interest. Once the sale is completed and the open days have been arranged, we will invite interested parties along to view the property and have a look at our plans.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Our planning application is nearly finalised and will be submitted to Wiltshire Council once the sale has been completed. We are also currently putting together a Schedule of Works to allow us to request detailed quotations for building works. So, if anyone could recommend builders to use for either part, or all, of our refurbishment project, please let us know; we would love to hear from you!

## HOW CAN MEMBERS HELP?

We want to encourage as many people as possible to join us and buy shares for this true Community project. If you can spread the word among your family and friends, that would be a great help.



We also welcome any feedback you have to offer, especially on recommendations for builders.

Many thanks for your support so far. We look forward to an ongoing relationship as we continue our efforts to retain and improve our High Street for the future of the Town

