



## WELCOME

Welcome to our latest newsletter – and an extra special welcome to our new members! We hope you are enjoying the arrival of Spring! It's a great time for renewal and looking ahead.

## PLANNING PERMISSION

And in this optimistic vein, we are very pleased to report that our revised plans for the Old Police Station finally received planning permission last week. This is huge step forward! Now, it's full steam ahead! But, before we can proceed in earnest, we need to ensure that we can produce enough steam! The steam is generated by a combination of factors, such as funding, builder availability, and volunteer help. These will certainly pose challenges, but if all falls into place, we are confident that the renovation works can be progressed soon.

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We are pleased to report that our membership has increased to 140 members – but we are keen to increase this further.



Through your help, we have bought the police station and taken it through planning, and we already have £158k towards the redevelopment of the property. We've had to make changes to our initial proposals through the planning

application process and these will add some costs to the development. This, plus rising material costs, suggests our current funding is probably just above 50% of what we need to complete the development. We're currently getting quotes from building firms to determine more precise costings.

To help cover this funding gap, we are continuing to explore grant opportunities. A small fund grant



application was submitted recently, and we're looking for further grant opportunities. Thank you to those members that have provided leads and offered their support to apply for grants – please keep them coming as we want to explore every avenue. Of course, this does not obviate the need for further member investment. Now that planning permission has been received, we will soon launch another push to recruit new members. Anything you can do to help us spread the word among family and friends will be greatly appreciated!

## APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS—CAN YOU HELP?

We expect most of the work to be carried out by contractors, but there are opportunities to save costs by using the services of volunteers and the recycling of materials.

Our first priority will be the site and property preparation in readiness for the builders' arrival. This will entail removing the stone wall at the rear of the site (the stone will be reused to repair another wall on the site), removing the topsoil from the designated car parking area, preparing, and stripping the property. To achieve this, we will need to call on the support of a willing army of volunteers. Can you help – even for just an hour or so here and there? If you can, please let us know by getting in touch with us as soon as possible at [contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk](mailto:contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk). Working party dates are expected to be arranged within the next couple of weeks.

There are more specialist roles where volunteer help would be extremely valuable, such as experience as a building regulations inspector, drafting of archaeological plans, or even a dry stone waller. Any help you can offer along these lines, please let us know. It might save us some hefty fees!

### COMMUNITY AREA/GARDEN

The community area/garden space at the rear of the property will likely be the last stage of our project. We have started to move forward though with ideas and have drafted a



specification. In essence, we are looking for designs with community use and enjoyment at its heart. So not much news at the moment but watch this space!

### OPEN DAYS

Our Open Days have been very popular. We estimate over 250 people have passed through our doors in the past few months. There is another Open Day scheduled for Monday, 2 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm. This will likely be (fingers crossed!) the last before building works commence. If you have not yet viewed the Old Police Station in its original state, please come along and see our revised plans. And of course, ask as many questions of the team as you like!

### HIGH STREET SURVEYS

Just to let you know we will shortly be carrying out some surveys of residents/visitors and High Street businesses, with the support of Cricklade Town Council. This will be your opportunity to let us know what you think of our High Street as it



currently is and how you think it could be improved – so please make sure you take part when the surveys are launched in May!

### THANK YOU!

Just to repeat our thanks to you for your contribution to this huge community endeavour. It's hard to believe our campaign is less than a year old, and yet it has raised so much! Thank you all! Now that we're moving beyond the 'treading water' stage, we hope you'll be seeing some tangible progress of your efforts in the next few months or so. Until then, if you wish to ask questions, offer advice, or share your ideas, please feel free to get in touch. We will be pleased to hear from you!

