

Dear Members,

I can hardly believe that we are now preparing for our next AGM...the time has zoomed by and we are more than due an update for you all.

Firstly the Old School Site (OSS). Our working group have spent some considerable time liaising with Somerset County Council over the sale particulars and details of our plans, this has been both frustrating and time consuming, which is, in part, the reason for the slow rate of progress. Happily we now have their full support for our scheme. It is a relief to be able to move forward together. We also have the backing of South Somerset District Council Chairperson, our Parish Council Chairman and David Warburton (our local MP!). We have been offered the OSS for £250,000 with the freehold transfer to be completed by 31st March 2019. Somerset County Council is really supportive of our setting up the OSS as both a business enterprise and well-being centre. As a protection to the site they are aiming to include a covenant that the property cannot be used for private residential use, other than for a site caretaker.

There is still much to do, delivering the project plan for acquiring the OSS, finalising our business plan for running a self-sustaining site longer term and raising funds, all of this is quite a task.

We have successfully obtained a grant from 'Bright Ideas' for £14,700 to help cover the cost of surveys, consultant fees, legal expenses and a proposal for a share option scheme, we also have a number of further applications for grants underway and we are investigating the provision of a loan from SSDC to cover our expenditure, if needed, until the grants are received.

If you would like to become more involved in transforming the OSS into an enterprising facility for our village and surrounding rural community, do come and join us...we would really welcome your ideas and enthusiasm and would very much welcome some new faces on the Board.

Our AGM is on 25th October at 7:00 pm in the Marples Room in the Memorial Hall, come along, find out more.....we hope to see you there.

Thank you for your continued support, we have an exciting year ahead to be a part of

Lesley