

## COMMUNITY EXHIBITION SPACE, THE CHAPEL, GREEN STREET

### UPDATE REPORT FOR APC - SEPTEMBER 2021

We met in the chapel on 20 July. Representatives of about six organisations have expressed at least some interest in exhibiting.

Follow-up letter sent 3 August outlining possible way forward (see below):

*Belated thanks for coming to our kick-off meeting a fortnight ago (or for indicating that you would have liked to come had other commitments not prevented you). I am copying this to others who have said (or ought to have said) that they might express interest.*

*What did we achieve that evening? For my part, I felt a real sense that this is a project with a future and I believe that you shared this. It was great to hear so many good ideas and to listen to a discussion that, whilst wide-ranging, was also focused on the achievable. Doing all this in a building of such potential was an added pleasure.*

*At our meeting we touched in particular on:*

- 1. Finance: many suggestions about sources. Running costs ought to be modest but no costs are ever so modest that they can be ignored!*
- 2. Exhibition types: printed materials, artefacts, videos etc.*
- 3. Committee: we need one. It will not be onerous to be a committee member.*
- 4. Administrator: we must have one.*
- 5. Daily management: easier to provide a physical presence with WiFi installed.*
- 6. Date of next meeting: autumn.*

*Next steps:*

- I will aim to make progress on approaching potential grant makers. Some I know myself (e.g. the Wiltshire Community Fund) but most I do not. Please send me your suggestions. I want to come to the autumn meeting with concrete proposals for accessing funds.*
- Committee: any exhibitor is eligible. We should plan to agree the committee when we meet. Feel free to propose yourself or (with permission!) somebody else.*
- Exhibitors: please think about the content of your exhibition and be ready to say something about it when we meet as we need to consider the way we use the space.*
- I will suggest dates for our meeting when I am a little clearer about funding sources.*

*Thank you again for your interest. I am increasingly confident that we can turn this opportunity into something really worthwhile for Avebury, its 350,000 or so visitors every year, and - not least - to your own organisation.*

I have been exchanging information with the Wiltshire Community Foundation and, within the next week or so, I hope to be making applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Garfield Weston Foundation, and (in December when the next round opens) the government's Community Ownership Fund. There may be other appropriate grant makers; suggestions welcome! Subject to parish council approval, I would expect that a contribution from council reserves would allow an application for matching funds from the area board.

An indicative budget for year one looks likely to require income of about £5,000 to meet energy costs (estimated at £2,500), start-up items (e.g. exhibition panels), and a small reserve. The annual budgets for year two and thereafter might drop to £4,000 and certainly ought not to exceed £5,000.

I hope soon to have sufficient information on points 1-5, allowing our next meeting to be held in the second half of October.

*Stephen Stacey*  
*6 September 2021*