



Open Public Meeting 16th March 2019 11:30am

Following the first Annual General Meeting of the members of The Walled Garden Community Shop & Café the meeting was opened into a public meeting.

The meeting was well attended with a total of 48 present including members who had attended the AGM.

Adrian Nagle of the Management Committee welcomed all to the meeting, introduced himself, and a brief history of where we started, the progress made to date and the plans for the future. This followed the main points of his Chairman's Report to the AGM – the text of this report is attached to give a full picture.

All those present were encouraged to raise questions, the main headings of questions raised are covered below with a brief description of discussions that followed.

Q1. Water Storage – what are our plans to harvest water and to what use will harvested water be put?

To a large extent our plans will be governed by available financial resource, however our intention is to harvest water and funding permitting to have underground storage. The primary use of stored water to be for use within the garden. The scale of storage was discussed and that Panks had been asked to provide quotations for water harvesting. It is recognised that this is something which needs to be carried out within the building phase.

Q2. To what extent have we costed for other eco-friendly renewable energy.

It was explained that in order to include solar energy panels that the building will need to have a pitched roof, and the cost to include a pitched roof is approximately £26,000. Also that current plans include an air source heat pump, but that a ground source heat pump is also a consideration, which again is a funding permitting situation.

There is likely to be a 2nd share issue in the near future which will address the desire to include renewable energy, water harvesting and to underpin the current build programme reducing our reliance on debt funding. Within the room it was clear that knowing what additional investment, from both existing and new investors, would be used for would be an important consideration in making a decision. It was also noted that now we are able to demonstrate progress made, and that the project is actually going to go ahead, the appetite to invest in the project has increased.

Q3. Recording Progress

It was felt that visualising would be helped by including photographs of the site and of progress made within our website, and future publications. Whilst some do remember the Walled Garden as it was, many do not and access is both restricted and of course at this stage the land is private property pending the conclusion of legal matters between the current owners and the Parish Council. It is also true than many within our community would find it difficult on uneven ground.

Debbie advised the meeting that Norwich University of Arts have a group of students who would like to record the transformation by either photographic journal or even possibly a short film, but that of course current restrictions prevent access.

The possibility was raised from the floor that Thorpe Academy 6th Form may also wish to record progress as they have photography students and that many youngsters from within the community attend the academy.

Q4. Hospital Service Users

The question was raised regarding the involvement of hospital service users and public safety.

Vicki advised that she is an Occupational Therapist at Little Plumstead Hospital, and has been involved in this issue from both a hospital and management committee perspective. The Walled Garden was for many years a key part of the treatment of service users in what was a much larger hospital site. It has always been a hope for this project that a few hospital service users will benefit by gaining work experience within the garden, shop & café. The Walled Garden Community Shop project was instigated and initially financially supported by the NHS, however is now led by the community. The vast majority of the volunteers required to run the café and shop will come from the local community rather than the hospital, due to the amount of hours required. She explained that strict risk assessment procedures are in place before any service user goes out of the hospital, which both help service users integrate into the wider community whilst at the same time ensuring public safety. The patients being considered for the project already volunteer successfully in Norwich city centre, in animal sanctuaries and other charities around the county.

From a management committee perspective, all volunteers will be enhanced DBS checked as per our safeguarding and volunteering policies (available on request), and the decision on whether to accept any volunteer will be taken by the Walled Garden

rather than the hospital. The school board of governors have reviewed and are happy with our policies. All those gaining work experience at the project will be accompanied by an appropriate hospital staff member, as indeed they currently are whenever outside of the hospital.

It was also commented from the floor that there are other local establishments where work experience has enabled service users become valuable members of their community to the benefit of all, and gives those gaining the experience the opportunity to move into full time work giving them the same feeling of being a valued member of their community as we all enjoy.

Q5. Parking Plan - Concern was raised over what parking will made available.

Adrian explained that parking has been a hot topic since the project started. Initially a wide area for parking had been hoped for, however the school has expansion plans which include a large piece of land set aside for staff parking. This has reduced the parking space that will be available for ourselves, our plans however do include off road parking space for 7/8 cars and there is a parking area of considerable size on the opposite side of the church.

During the meeting the importance of volunteers to the project success was highlighted, Kelly was introduced to the meeting as the lady co-ordinating volunteers and anyone who felt they could offer some time as a volunteer was encouraged to talk to Kelly. Should you feel you can help as a volunteer please register your interest by e-mailing enquiries@thewalledgardenshop.co.uk

All were thanked for coming and the meeting closed at 12:30.