



OPEN GARDENS SOUVENIR ISSUE



The Cossington Village Centre

Our Church, Our Cossington; Our Story, Our Future

Project Group Update: May 2018



We aim to improve the fabric & facilities of All Saints Church in order to:

- **Serve the whole community of Cossington as a community centre for all**
- **Discover, share and conserve our village heritage for generations to come**
- **Enable and equip the growing Cossington church family to thrive**



This Spring/Open Gardens Newsletter has quite a lot to share and to celebrate since our last Open Gardens update!

Planning Permission for the proposed *Village Centre* has been secured!

This most significant development has really boosted confidence all round. The Planning Officer recorded 70 letters of support from local residents and a petition in favour with 102 signatures. Their concluding statement was...

Conclusion

The proposal would deliver a much needed facility and significantly improve the fabric of heritage assets. The provision of accessible facilities on the same level ,with toilets, ramped access and new footpaths with lighting would be to the benefit of the local community.

The proposed development is considered to be acceptable in terms of its impact upon listed buildings and the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. Any minor harm of the extension to All Saints Church needs to be balanced against the community benefits of the proposal and the benefits of the other works to the heritage assets on the site. The proposal is not considered to have a significantly detrimental impact on archaeology ,flood risk or ecology. The application would comply with policy EV/1 of the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan and Policies CS2 ,CS12 and CS14 of the Charnwood Local Plan Core Strategy.

The application is therefore recommended for approval.

Recommendation:
Grant Conditionally

Re-Roofing is Complete

This very significant element of the Project is now complete together with an extensive amount of repointing to the ancient stonework.



The Nave roof has been completely renewed, including addition of insulation.

This will make a significant difference to future running costs.

The Chancel roof of the church has also been renewed. All the Swithland slates were removed, and there were enough good ones to re-slate this south side

The north side has been redone with new slates. Insulation was also added to the Chancel roof.



Some new dressed coping stones were carved to replace those that were deteriorated.

The photo also shows the high-level repointing that was done, opportunistically, whilst the scaffolding was in place.

Many will remember that the aisles and tower roofs were replaced around 20 years ago so all of the church roofs should now be good for the next 100 years!

Heritage Lottery Fund Application

The Project Group has been researching the possibility and implications of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application. We have now submitted a formal *HLF Enquiry Form* to include a summary of our project plans. It seems that around 20% of applications are successful, nevertheless we are hopeful that our Cossington heritage will be deemed worthy of an award. We would anticipate finding out before the summer if the HLF will invite us to submit a fully detailed 'Round One' application.

Cossington Heritage Group

It is wonderfully serendipitous that a very enthusiastic group of village people have decided to form a new society, Cossington Heritage Group (CHG). They will be creating a very interesting Open Gardens display in the Church called *The Lost Stories of Cossington*. It will also mark the 100 years since the armistice with information on the soldiers from the village who fought in the World Wars. The Project Group will be speaking very nicely to the CHG and inviting them to be involved in the Church Project, especially given the HLF development! The church is the oldest building in Cossington and we would encourage everyone with an interest in our village heritage to consider joining CHG.

www.OurCossington.org website

We have created a website to record and communicate village life, past present and future. It is majoring on the Church & Village centre project at the moment and will evolve as a village resource in the future. It would be brilliant if everyone could have a look-see and it would be wonderful if there was some technical person in the village who could help us make its more whizzy! Please contact us with your thoughts on the website, and if you are a website whizz-kid we would be delighted to hear from you!!

Project Patron - Bishop Of Leicester

Last but by no means least we are thrilled to advise that the Bishop of Leicester, the Rt.Rev. Martyn Snow, has enthusiastically agreed to be our project patron. He is very supportive of what our rural parish & community is trying to do.

Your Views? - A key aim of these *Newsletters* is to promote discussion about this project within our community. Please, we would welcome any thoughts on the proposals and progress to date. We do not expect them all to be positive. Please do not hesitate to contact us. We want everyone to know what is happening so that everyone has an informed understanding. This Village Centre project is for everyone. Have a great *Open Gardens* weekend!

Email: Paul Dearson paul@posidrive.co.uk and share your views