

Notes of a meeting with Paddy Hunter Murphy on 16 December 2019

Present: Andrew Barrett-Miles, Jackie Hilary, Paddy HM, Andrew Clark, Steve Cridland

Apologies: Matt Roberts, Joe Foster

Paddy had distributed three documents ahead of the meeting. The first document was an appeal update, the second notes of the previous meeting and the third a proposed preliminary plan for the public phase launch.

Paddy explained that usually a core funder was found before the launch of the public phase. In the absence of such a funder it was agreed that the public phase should be brought forward. However this would be delayed until the registration of the charity. In the meantime corporate sponsors could be approached and there is a corporate brochure in place for this. The top 100 companies in RH15 will be approached between now and March.

Paddy has written a draft letter for Dame Vera Lynn to sign. He felt that this would add some weight to the appeal. We should get a feel of how the appeal is going by the end of February. A few connections have been made which will help the process. Jackie offered to approach a friend she has at Roche despite the company having turned down the approach by Paddy.

It was suggested that MSDC be approached by Steve to find out whether they had names of managers of businesses in BH which we could approach. A meeting has been set up with Martyn the new CEO for the BHBPA who may also be able to assist with a list of their members and contacts. It was noted that these would be cold approaches.

Planning was expected in January and this would be an important milestone which could be used to show that the Council is committed to the project. It may be an idea to then demolish the old RBL and perhaps erect a board or banner depicting what was planned for the site. This step would also save paying business rates. The negativity of people may go away if something was seen to be happening. The demolition would in any case enhance the value of the site. The one problem that there is, is that the food bank would need a new home. Momentum needs to be built up.

The timings set out in Paddy's document were accepted..

The Lord Lieutenant has agreed to ask the Royal family for a representative to open the building.

Paddy reported that his approach to the Claude Duffield Trust had been positive. They recommended that the group go to Ditchling Museum where a learning space had been provided by the trust in order to see what can be achieved.

Paddy said that a document setting out a business plan for the learning space should be written up by March. This document should explain what is needed, why and who would benefit from a learning space. The activities, ages and outcomes should be explained. A safeguarding policy is needed and groups which might use it identified. Emphasis should be on the community need.

Jackie agreed to lead on this and suggested that she and Matt get together to compile this document.

The proposal put forward by Paddy was accepted. This will take us through to the end of March and his costs will be a maximum of £13k. The group recommended that this be accepted.