**Report to PC re White Lion project - December/ January 2021**

It has been a busy time since the last PC meeting, lots has been accomplished.

**NLHF**

Recommended we contact Plunkett and AHF re governance, fundraising etc, see below.

The next step is to complete the Permission to Start Form. This is well underway , most sections are complete, and ready for signing.  I have contacted the NLHF investment Manager re the consultant they are going to allocate to us, who will hopefully assist us with this form. Jeremy Fenn, the investment manager has forwarded details of the consultant he has allocated to our project, he is called David Fairbanks, from Fairbanks Heritage Limited. I have been working with him on the permission to start form, re cash flow. ( PC has agreed to use £17,500 PWLB money as matched funding)  In addition to being a consultant for NLHF for 20+ years he is also a consultant for AHF and involved with Heritage Trust Network and is a parish councillor. He has great knowledge of community projects having completed some himself in the past, actually going through the process of applying to NLHF for funding etc. David talked through the timeline/ calendar / programme and explained how the cash flow chart runs alongside this. Having completed the  timeline and cash flow chart , I sent it to David who has approved it , explaining that once a project manager is appointed we will work on a more detailed programme and cash flow.

The ‘permission to start’ form is complete now, ready to be signed by PC . This will trigger a start up meeting, then the first part of the funding will be given to us.

**Plunkett Foundation**

I had a zoom meeting with Chris Buckham from the Plunkett Foundation about our situation, re PC , CIC, CBS, Trust, governance, fundraising, etc.

- He has recommended  an accountant who previously worked for Plunkett and looks after dozens of community shops and pubs , so is very familiar with our sector. I emailed Nicola Cadwallader ,who has responded, she is happy to give us a quote once we have spoken with a solicitor re the governance. Her business is in Chesterton Oxon

- He has recommended  a firm of solicitors  who are specialists in helping community organisations. David Alcock, from Anthony Collins , I have emailed David and am awaiting a response.

- He has given us links to two other community projects of a similar nature , he suggested that I contact both to find out more information about their set up and how it might help us. I will do this once I have more info on governance from the solicitor. Long Parish and Church Stretton.

**Architectural Heritage Fund**,

I have had confirmation that they received our project viability appraisal and said “ this looks to be a very comprehensive piece of work , which will set the project in good stead during the development stage”

Our original grant offer was due to expire in September, but has been extended again. We will be submitting a claim for the 15th Jan deadline.

It would seem likely that we can apply for further funding from AHF during the course of the project, which is great news.

**Lutterworth Area community fund**

Inow have the relevant documents in order to send off the GLP supplier form to claim the grant. This has been sent and acknowledged by Richard  Osborn on behalf of LACF, who said “we will  come back to you shortly”

**Press release**

These have been completed, (approved by NLHF and PC )  using the NLHF press release template. They have been sent out to,

CAMRA , who say they will do another piece on the project t for their next edition in May.

Tom Kerridge’s  TV production company, no reply as yet.

Rugby Advertiser , Alex Green, put our project on the front page, with more details inside

Coventry evening Telegraph , Naomi De Souza, who interviewed us at the start of the project , took the details, I haven’t seen a paper to know if it appeared or not.

Both reporters were really pleased with the coverage it had on line.

I will send details to local radio as well.

**Birmingham city university students.**

Kristian and I greeted the 3 students who are studying Conservation of the Historic Environment, and showed them around the building and land. Their university project is to write an Options Appraisal and Business plan based on the White Lion and present it to their student group. We shared our measured survey with them. They spent a couple of hours at the site. They agreed to share their findings/ presentation with us, which hopefully will be very informative. They completed a risk assessment and the usual visitors forms on entering and leaving the site.

**Historic Coventry Trust**

I sent an introductory email , requesting guidance and help, no reply as yet.

**Heritage Trust Network**

I have joined this organisation on behalf of PPC , it was free. They have the Clerks address and my email. Vikki Cox , has been in touch, about their toolkit and network hub, which I need to login to.

**Locality**

The Clerk will apply to this.

**Community Ownership Fund**

I have emailed them to see if we qualify for their grant scheme, because Plunkett felt we would not be able to apply as we owned the building. The reply is interesting , they forwarded there grant details which state

‘ funding may support the purchase and / or renovation costs of community assets and amenities’

I will look into it more.