



Histon & Impington Millennium Halls Ltd.
PO Box 958
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Cambridge
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15 February 2005

Closure of Millennium Halls Project

Dear Resident

It is with regret that we announce the decision to bring to a close our efforts to create a new purpose-built Community Centre on the site of the current Church Halls on School Hill, Histon. The directors of Histon and Impington Millennium Halls Ltd (HIMHL), the not-for profit company set up in June 2001 to run the project have commenced procedures to dissolve the company.

This is not a decision that the Board of HIMHL has taken lightly. Feedback from the Histon and Impington community has repeatedly shown a clear enthusiasm to maintain and expand on this central facility, not least to allow Stepping Stones, Mad Hatters and the other excellent clubs and activities that currently use the halls to continue.

However, community support and involvement is key to a project this size and whilst we have been inspired and encouraged throughout by the helpful and enthusiastic support we have received we have not managed to find enough recruits who can get actively involved in the mammoth fund raising effort required.

HIMHL have managed to secure a small amount of funding from the two parish councils of Histon and Impington and from South Cambridgeshire District Council, but have not had the time or resources to identify a major source of funds or to drive forward the fund-raising efforts, either within the community and elsewhere in search of capital grants.

The future of St Andrew's Church Halls, Histon is uncertain as the buildings are in desperate need of major and expensive building works. They are over 100 years old and have long outlived their intended lifespan. Some sections are already beyond repair, and are in need of extensive modernisation in order to comply with current disabled access requirements and standards for childcare and education. HIMHL share St Andrew's (Church and current owner) concerns that maintenance costs are escalating quickly to the point where it will soon not be practicable to continue maintaining the current buildings.

On the positive side, an inspiring set of plans, a detailed architects brief and a business plan for the proposed facility are all current and available. This information will be retained in case a subsequent organisation succeeds in securing funding.

It remains for us to thank you for your support, and to express the sincere hope that Histon and Impington will one day find an opportunity to provide the sort of community facility that this size of community deserves. If anyone would like to discuss this further please contact Histon and Impington Parish Office on (01223) 235906 and the clerk will arrange for one of the directors to contact you.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Jones
Chairman HIMHL.