

# **Tullynessle & Forbes Community and Hall Association 2020 AGM**

## **Trustees' Report to 28/5/20**

2020 has been a strange and difficult year for Tullynessle & Forbes Community and Hall Association. The Covid 19 pandemic is the source of virtually all the difficulties. However, the Association has continued to serve as the local community association and management body for Tullynessle and Forbes Hall. 13 of the 14 places on the Association committee were filled this year. The committee is active and, until the pandemic, met regularly to deal with developments and issues.

### **Facility maintenance and development**

Steady progress has been made to improve the landscaping of the Hall by installation of a drain in the car park, removal of part of the surrounding wall, reconfiguring the entrance and exit to the car park and planting of some shrubs. However, the resurfacing of the car park has not been achieved.

A number of internal facility objectives have been overtaken. A new permanent AV system has been installed, a new projector screen has been located in the meeting room which will contribute to modernising the Hall, the improvements to the heating ensure that the system is reliable and sealing of 2 roof vents has reduced heat loss. The kitchen urn has been replaced. The entrance to the storage cages has been altered in readiness for the building of additional shelving and the carpet in the meeting room has been cleaned. The drawing up of the safety audit is under way and the emergency lights have been fixed. Plans are in place to address the issues with the external paintwork but there is no progress on the internal repainting.

The appointment of a new Bookings Administrator will ensure that users can make the best use of the facilities.

### **Social needs and developments**

Contact and engagement with the community continues through Film nights, Theatre productions, Hogmanay Ceilidh, Producers' Markets, distribution of the local newsletter and sale of the 2020 calendar, which sold out in record time. The Producers' markets provide great opportunities for local enterprise. These events provide good opportunities to strengthen social cohesion, but the Corona virus called a halt to all this in March.

Unfortunately, the planned event to engage with the younger elements of the community, Circus Modo, was cancelled because of Covid 19 restrictions.

The profile of the Association continues to be enhanced through promotion of events and activities on the Alford Community website. Instagram and Twitter accounts have been created to improve communication with the wider community.

Discussions have taken place over the future structure of the Association.

GDPR training was delivered to the committee. The Committee also adopted a GDPR Privacy Policy and Procedures which were published on the website. GDPR involved trawling through old files and it quickly became apparent how much the community owed to members of the previous committees.

### **Financial Needs and Expenditure**

Detailed financial analysis is covered in the financial report. The big financial issue for the Association has been the loss of Hall rental income from March. A massive blow since this

is virtually all the Association's income.

Income from the Furlough scheme and securing a business support grant, from the council has softened the loss of letting income. It is very welcome and will make a big difference, but the running costs of the Hall have not reduced. In fact, it could be argued that purchase of Personal Protective Equipment will increase our costs.

Fund raising made a substantial contribution to the Association's finances. The Producers' Markets brought in £2410, the Hogmanay Ceilidh raised £1064, the calendar made a £670 profit, a new Rag Bag bin brings in funds by people donating their used clothes and a £250 grant from the Community Council was secured.

We hope that in future we can gain some substantial income from the 100 Club when that is up and running.

### **The Future**

It is difficult to predict what the next year will hold. For the Association the financial situation will loom large. The business support grant will not last forever. It is crucial to get the Hall up and running again to restart the income stream. It is also important for the spirit of the community as a whole that they have a place to meet and engage with their neighbours. The Association will direct its efforts to supporting the community and to make sure the Hall is available and safe to use.

The Association needs to make a decision about its future structure.

R. Leonard.

Chairperson.