

Halstead Full Council 15th April 2019

HALSTEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE CHARITABLE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

The Trustees remain committed to bring this project to fruition to build a new Community Centre for the people of Halstead.

The Trustees have met regularly during the past 12 months.

Legal:

Halstead Community Centre Charitable Company has a 999 year lease on the property in Butler Road, in effect ownership has been transferred to Halstead Community Centre Charitable Company and the appropriate legal documentation has been lodged with Land Registry. H4C is registered for VAT.

Design

Plans for the new centre received full planning permission in July 2015, this approval expired in July 2018. The Trust has been advised by BDC that the re-submission/approval of the plans should be straightforward. The planning approval was granted subject to a number of conditions, including the removal of contamination mentioned below.

Funding:

Despite the best efforts of the Trustees, the project remains underfunded. The uncertain financial situation in the country has had a negative effect on the funding pool available but the Trustees are hopeful that this will be resolved over the next few years. Meanwhile the Trustees will continue to explore possible funding streams.

A further burden has been added to the funds required in order to resolve the historic contamination on the site. Trustees were aware from the beginning that there was contamination on site, however, the investigations carried out as part of the planning requirements have revealed the contamination to be far greater than expected. In order to clear the contamination to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency (a condition of planning approval) another, approximately, £300,000 will need to be found.

H4C are currently in discussion with Braintree District Council planners in order to seek approval to commence decontamination of the site.