

BCHT Chair September Statement

In order to secure the terms of the existing Planning Permission for the new village hall work must start by 17th December. The Trust had planned to do the building in two phases as raising the capital for the whole project in 3 years was not realistic. To this end details are being prepared for work to start on site at the beginning of December. The scale of the work to be undertaken is not yet determined as the Trust and the architect are in dialogue with WDC Planning to make sure that the work undertaken is sufficient to comply with the conditions to secure the Planning Permission indefinitely. Whatever work is undertaken in Phase 1 the site will be returned to its present condition allowing continued access to the Ionides Trust land.

It has taken 7 years to get to this stage jumping through many hoops so we are very pleased to actually make a start. We continue to look to where we can make savings on the current estimated cost of £1.3 million. Once this Phase 1 work is completed the trustees will make strenuous efforts to fundraise for the balance of the required funds for the Phase 2 works. These efforts will include making applications to suitable charitable trusts and possibly appointing a professional fundraiser.

Sheila Bartholomew
BCHT Chair
8th September 2017