

Library And Resource Centre Supporters (LARCS)

Report to Bampton Town Council

22 April 2015

- ❖ Since the last report to BTC, the Library And Resource Centre Supporters (LARCS) Team has been busy with facilitating the relocation of Bampton Library to the Old School in Station Road.
- ❖ Talks are ongoing with Devon Libraries as part of its Pilot Scheme. An investment of c£22k will be made by DCC upon the removal of the library to the new premises.
- ❖ Talks are ongoing with the Vincents, investigating a 25-year lease at minimal rent to ensure that the library and resource centre will be preserved for years to come – even if Devon County Libraries abandon Bampton in the future – there being no long-term commitments from DCC.
- ❖ Having sought legal advice we learnt that in order to enter into any contractual agreement, apply for funding, and to protect its Trustees, LARCS must become a Legal Entity. (Currently our status is an Unincorporated Association).
- ❖ A workshop was held on 14 April with Devon Communities Together (DCT) which determined that the most appropriate form of new body is a Charitable Incorporated Organization, which must be registered with the Charity Commission (the name of the organization will remain as LARCS).
- ❖ Funding is provided for DCT's mentoring up to £1,215.00, thereby the £150 cost of the workshop is covered.
- ❖ A Site Visit was made on 14 April by the Architect, Surveyor, Building Control Officer and the LARCS Building Project Manager. A Change of Use Application will need be made (we have funding for this and also professional fees from the MDDC Locality Fund).
- ❖ Additional facilities will include one unisex, disabled-access lavatory, and small kitchenette. Additional statutory 'thermal enveloping' of the building, VAT, and a contingency fund, all contribute to an significant increase in the overall costs.
- ❖ It is envisaged that the bulk of funding will be provided by donor agencies. An application is being made to the Big Lottery Fund

(Reaching Communities) which will, if successful, cover the entire building costs. The initial stage of the process takes 3 months.

- ❖ A Public Meeting is to be held to update the community on latest developments, and seek its support of the project with further information to hand, and also to approve the change of corporate status.
- ❖ The meeting will be held in the Community Hall at 6.00 pm on this coming Saturday, with a Bring & Share Supper afterwards.
- ❖ Bampton Town Councillors are warmly invited to attend themselves – and bring any other interested parties – all are welcome.
- ❖ LARCS will continue to keep BTC informed and updated and furthermore, looks to BTC for support in its shared aims – to work towards the well-being of the people of Bampton and outlying areas.
- ❖ A flourishing Library And Resource Centre, providing many additional facilities not currently available in Bampton - there'll be something for everyone with a particular focus on children and young people - will be an asset to the town, and bring an historic building back into use.
- ❖ By giving us your support we can demonstrate our local credibility to potential funders and, most importantly, help ensure that Bampton has a sustainable Library And Resource Centre for the future.

JMC