

28.04.2021

Village Hall Update

The opening the new Village Hall remains an ever more important goal for 2021. Work continues behind the lockdown scenes but has inevitably been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The application to formally create the Englefield Village Hall Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is nearly through the Charity Commission's system. This is an essential next step in creating a community run organisation to operate the hall for the benefit of local residents and community groups of all ages.

A small group comprised of local residents, parish council and Estate representatives is working to put in place everything that is required to enable the hall to be used when restrictions allow. This is a start-up operation with many elements beyond the scope of this meeting but include finances, insurance, safety and compliance, equipping the hall, booking arrangements, caretaking and much more, including the formation of a management committee in due course.

As a result, we would now welcome assistance from members of our community who have experience in the following areas and who may be able to give some time to this important project:

- Caretaking role (paid)
- Administration, bookings and secretarial
- Website design and build
- Graphic design
- Grant applications
- Safeguarding compliance
- Premises Licences

In advance of the CIO being formally approved, it is the Estate's ambition to make the hall available to selected community groups (as opposed to private bookings) as soon as possible with the necessary safeguards in place, should restrictions permit.