

Williton Pavilion Project

Project Update.

I am sure by now most readers are aware through recent reports within the press and social media, that we have been successful in our application to the Big Lottery. The lottery has agreed to fund the balance of the project cost and awarded the charity £949,087.00. Together with grants from both West Somerset Council and EDF we now have the £1,470,000.00 required to commence build. This is a significant investment within our community and indicates a level of confidence by our funders that the new community building will be both viable and sustainable. For those new comers to Williton, the requirement for a community building has been in the pipeline for over twenty years and seen a large number of our residents become actively involved within fund raising activities. These activities have been co-ordinated by three key people who I believe require a mention, Diane Hooper, Maureen Mossman and Elizabeth Peeks. They have raised in excess of £100,000.00 through table top sales, bingo, selling tea towels, recycling, Christmas post and of course the village Fete, which is now run by the charity. Their efforts and those who have been actively involved over the years in raising money has provided our funders with an indication that there is a genuine need for a community facility within Williton.

Combining this need with the proposed improvements to the Memorial Recreation Ground enhanced our ability to attract funding. The building design and other improvements to the ground have evolved through public consultation, input from the user groups and those specific requirements of our funders.

The total funding includes an equipment budget in excess of £50,000.00, this will allow us to furnish the building and will include amongst other things, seating, tables, portable stage, stage lighting, catering and media equipment and a hearing loop system.

Dependant on the overall project cost advised by the selected contractor, we plan to include the remodelling of the old changing rooms, this will provide additional storage and a unisex disabled public toilet.

The charity has formally appointed Slade Parry Ltd as the Employers Agent/Quantity Surveyor who will manage the project on our behalf. The Big Lottery consultants will also take an active role and shall form part of the management team.

During the coming months we will be undertaking the tender process with a view to commencing work late September, we will also be starting to address some of the management and administration aspects of the building, including the formation of a steering committee, comprising of both councillors and members of the user community.

There will be a tent with details of the project on display at the village FETE which will be held on Saturday 8th July. Members of the working group will be in attendance to answer any questions you may have regarding the project.

Councillor Bill Vaughan