

# Love Hesketh Bank

The Newsletter of Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council

November 2019

## Welcome

In this issue of Love Hesketh Bank we are bringing you an update of exciting developments at the Community Centre. You can find out more about Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council by visiting our website at:

[www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk](http://www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk)



Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council Councillor, Ron Tyson, presents the award to Mike Ellis.

## Community Centre progress

At the October meeting of the Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council, the Hesketh Bank Community Centre was awarded a £50,000 grant towards their rebuilding project.

The Hesketh Bank Community Centre rebuild project has taken a big step forward with the award of a £50,000 grant from Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council from local receipts of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies charged on developers of new properties in Hesketh Bank.

The Trustees have been working on this ambitious project to create a new, modern community centre for Hesketh Bank for the last three years and the project is now well advanced.

Thanking Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council, for the grant, Project Manager, Mike Ellis explained what a major difference the funding will make to the delivery of the project.

*“With typically 1,200 or more regular users a month, casual users at events and a growing demand, the current facilities are no longer fit for purpose and suitable for their needs so a new community centre is much needed.*

*Our users are excited by what is to come and this grant will help us to create a hub not only for our many user groups but to provide support for a much wider section of the community. Becconsall U3A, who use the centre, are having an impact on loneliness in the community and with a new building, we can do more. In our seventy fifth year, it is appropriate that this development is taking place and we greatly value and appreciate the support of Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council”.*

# Hesketh Bank Community Centre

This year, Hesketh Bank Community Centre is celebrating its seventy fifth anniversary. It's popular and well used but better and more flexible facilities are needed if the Community Centre is going to continue to be relevant in future years.

The Community Centre (a totally separate body from the Parish Council) is run by six non-paid volunteers who are also Trustees, all of whom have undertaken approved trustee governance training. The Community Centre has been a registered charity since 1964 and in 2019 was accepted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) by the Charity Commission - Charity number: 1180178.

The Community Centre owns the land which is held in trust by the Charity Commission on their behalf.



There are two halls - the front hall and back hall and both are in need of urgent replacement. In addition, there is a popular Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). Because the Trustees have always kept hire charges low, there are limited funds available, but even so, they have done what they can to maintain and improve the halls. The whole centre needs to be brought up to modern standards and this has not proved possible. **We need a new community centre.**

Under the stewardship of the current group of Trustees, the usage of the centre has grown considerably and at many times of the week it has been not been possible to accommodate all who want to use the centre. There are many diverse user groups of all ages including Becconsall U3A, the Scouts, pilates, yoga, singing and Gymzkool to

name but a few. The Centre hosts many well attended events such as the Mikron Theatre, Gilbert and Sullivan, bingo, comedy nights and markets. In addition, specialist care support meetings for children and adults are hosted.

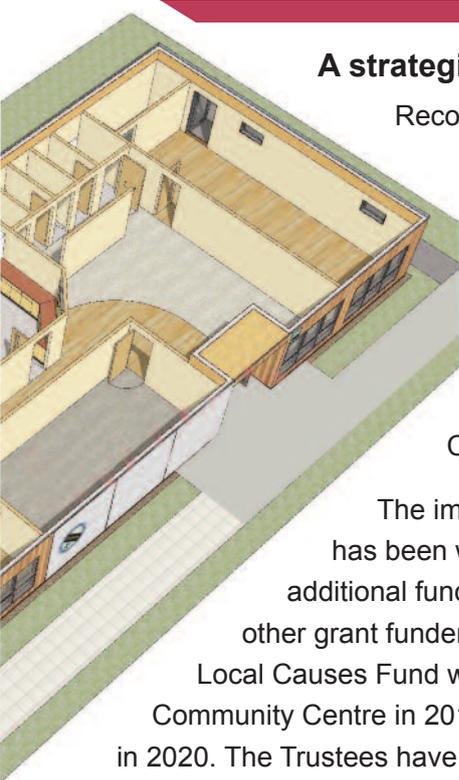
Over the last two years, the Trustees have carried out research and talked to users and the broader community. A number of extensive online surveys have been completed, there have been meetings with users and the public, stands at many local functions, displays in Booths supermarket and links have been formed with all local schools. With this knowledge base of local needs and direct contact with many county-wide organisations who support the local community it has been possible to plan ahead.



The Trustees have worked with specialists to create a concept design for a new community centre which has been shared with our users, displayed publically on banners at every opportunity for comment and options were presented at a recent Public Consultation meeting

The Trustees are going to create one new building with the ability to support three groups of users simultaneously. In addition, there will be a social meeting area, kitchen and bar for events that will be held at the centre. Storage has always been an problem and the new centre will resolve that issue.

Planning ahead for the next generation and beyond, the Trustees have worked with their architects to create a flexible building that will be able to adapt to changing needs and can be extended if required. It will be “factory built” so that onsite construction will only take twelve weeks. This will have minimum impact on our neighbours and no impact at all with our user groups.



## A strategic development

Recognised by West Lancs Borough Council as a project of strategic importance to the community, the new community centre has been shortlisted for a major award of CIL monies.

The importance of the project has been widely recognised and additional funding is coming from other grant funders including the Co-op Local Causes Fund who supported the Community Centre in 2019 and will do so again in 2020. The Trustees have also had support from Persimmon Homes and the National Lottery Awards for All Fund who have already awarded the Community Centre just under £20,000. The Community Centre were invited by the National Lottery to submit a Funding Proposal for significant funding earlier in the year and this is about to be submitted.

By Charity Commission rules, all monies raised for the project will have to be used for the building of the new Community Centre. It is important to note that the new Community Centre project will be delivered at no cost to the Council Tax payers of Hesketh Bank and when complete, will be a major community asset.

Redeveloping the Community Centre is not an easy task and in the present economic climate fundraising is far from easy. Through events and generous donations along with grants, money has

been raised but it is insufficient to build a new centre. As such, the Trustees have been advised by their funders to look at options that would allow them to safeguard the future of the Community Centre whilst releasing asset capital to fund what needs to be done.

Three options have been considered, two of which would involve the sale of some or all of the land.

**Building at the front of the site** is an option that is popular with our neighbours.

**Building at the rear of the site** would involve selling a portion of the land at the front of the site for building.

**Build on another site** has been a recent suggestion from many in the community and would involve selling the current site for development and moving to another location. All of the money generated would be used to fund the construction of a new building.

**Final decisions on location are yet to be made and discussions between the Trustees and interested parties are ongoing.**

Both the second and third options would require the Hesketh Bank Silver Band to relocate. Aware of this, the Trustees met with the Band's President over a year ago and invited the band to join them in a new Community Centre giving them security of tenure for the life of the building. The band have, at the present time, been unable to reach a decision. It is also intended to retain and relocate the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

The Trustees want the Community Centre to be a hub at the heart of our community and the proximity of the Centenary Sports Ground could lead to the creation of an integrated sporting, recreational, social and learning facility, originally planned in 1944 but never delivered. It would be a fantastic asset for the whole community and the Trustees are working hard to make it happen.

For further information, please contact:  
info@heskethbankcommunitycentre.org.uk or  
telephone: 07784 942127

## Dates for your diary

Parish Council meetings are held in the Front Hall of the Community Centre on the second Monday of every month from 7:30pm.

Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

11th November 2019  
9th December 2019  
13th January 2020  
10th February 2020  
9th March 2020  
13th April 2020

All residents are welcome to attend, not only to hear about the work of the Council but also to raise any concerns or questions that they may have.

If you have any questions or concerns then please contact the Parish Clerk on [Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk](mailto:Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk) or call him on: 01772 812681.

## What is the Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL?

This is a relatively new tax brought in by the Government to help local authorities address the local Infrastructure issues which new developments bring to an area. In West Lancashire, this was introduced in 2015 and applies to all but the smallest developments; social housing is also excluded. The Actual amount of the levy is set by the Borough Council; in West Lancashire that means that for every square metre of floor space developed the Parish Council receive £12.75 and the Borough receive £72.25.

The uses to which this levy can be put is tightly controlled by law; In Hesketh Bank, the Parish Council has resolved to support two significant schemes – The Community Centre and the River Douglas Linear Park. Funds accrued from the 'Alty' development will go completely to the Linear Park scheme which will provide not only a useable green space for recreational use but also a quiet, attractive and traffic free route to Tarleton and hopefully beyond in the years to come. With the population of our village expected to exceed 5,000 souls very soon, these two schemes should add considerably to the wellbeing of residents.

## Newsletter circulation

Our Love Hesketh Bank newsletter is posted on the Parish Council notice boards around the village and in Booths. Hard copies are available from Top Shop in Hesketh Bank. The newsletter is also available on line at the Council's Website.

If you wish to receive an email whenever the Council's Website is updated, send a blank email to [Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk](mailto:Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk) with the words 'Subscribe to Updates' in the Subject line.

## Your Parish Councillors

### Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank  
Diane Earles, 2 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank  
Norma Goodier, 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton  
Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank  
Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Jeff Christie, 62 Beconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank  
Mike Ellis, 17 Astland Gardens, Tarleton  
John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank  
David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank  
Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore Road, Hesketh Bank



**Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper**  
Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport, Lancashire PR9 7PG

01772 812681 [Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk](mailto:Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk)

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