

UPDATE ON CHURCH HALL/HS2 FUNDING APPLICATION

- Anna/ Ingram attending monthly SNC HS2 meetings at Towcester to update for funding applications/ matters pertaining to the route including meeting with Groundworks, the holders of the funding purse strings.
- The maximum funding ***per application*** is £75,000.
- We have conducted 3rd party consultation with builders and architects, had our application proof read (Karen Dickerson), advice on the survey (Julian Rodway) to explore opportunities as to what could potentially be done with the hall. We have also had cross consultation with successful funding applicants (Wormleighton) to examine their bid and the response from Groundworks.
- Meeting of PCC with PC representative to ensure convergence of desired outcomes/expectations has taken place.
- Preplanning permission consultation has taken place (25 January). SNC very supportive of community ventures, as is the Diocese.
- Surveymonkey survey launched to canvass village opinion and demonstrate community consultation (a positive influencer for a successful bid), as well as genuinely seeking out views.
- Drop in session to hear views organised for April 12th 2018.
- The Diocese has agreed to extend lease on the hall for the next 30 years (for now).
- There have been successful bids in local areas in what they've asked for, but we need to demonstrate a community motion behind it, that the community has been consulted and that there's a social/ practical need supporting the application (Helmdon, Thorpe Mandeville).
- We will be asking for three bids for the proposed works providing initial response to the grant application is positive. Two of the three bidders have been identified at this stage.
- It's important to note that there can be multiple applications for grants per community – i.e. no “quota” for the village. The grants for community funding are available over the next 11 years (so we are told) and there is no prevention of re-application in the event of an initial rejection.

Anna Faure