

Matterdale Community Association Bulletin No 1

Following the Open Meeting at the Royal Hotel on 30 October, it became clear that there was a real impetus to progress the establishment of a Village Hall in Matterdale, and potential new Trustees were invited to put themselves forward for a revitalised Matterdale Community Association (MCA). The first meeting of the MCA took place on 25 November, 2015, and this Bulletin is to keep residents of Matterdale informed of progress.

The current Trustees of the MCA, Mark Nixon and Tyrone Castles, approved the following nominations to join them as Trustees, appointments which will be subsequently put to an election at a proposed AGM of the MCA in March 2016: Brian Clark, Tom Clifford, Peter Crofts, Paul Goodman, Veronica Gore, Jane Newport and John O'Neil.

The following were appointed as Officers of the MCA: Veronica Gore (Chair), Jane Newport (Secretary) and Mark Nixon (Treasurer)

The following Operational and Administrative matters were agreed:

- * The MCA will adopt a Financial Year ending 31 March. Nil accounts will be filed for the Financial Years ending 31 March 2014 when no activity was undertaken by the MCA.
- * The AGM for the MCA will be held on Thursday, 10 March 2016 at the Royal Hotel at 6.00pm.
- * Members of the community to be encouraged to become members of the MCA, and as such would be able to vote at the MCA AGM.
- * Trustee Indemnity Insurance to be obtained
- * An MCA Bank Account to be opened with the three Officers as signatories
- * Gift Aid would be set up to maximise income from donations
- * The Parish Council will be approached with a request for initial funding to establish the MCA and cover the small on-going costs. At present, the MCA has no assets.
- * The MCA will meet monthly initially, and a Bulletin circulated to residents in Matterdale following each meeting to keep the wider community informed. The Bulletin will be sent out by email and posted on the village noticeboards.

The Parish Council, as the Sole Trustee of the Matterdale School Foundation (MSF), has identified three options in respect to the New School of which the MSF owns the freehold:

- * sell the New School and hand the proceeds of the the sale to the Cumbrian Community Foundation to administer prizes for local children in line with the objects set out in the MSF Trust.
- * pursue the option that has been approved in principle by the Charity Commission of changing the objects of the MSF to allow for the refurbishment of the current New School into a Village Hall with the proviso that a day a week is made available to local children to use it free of charge.
- * sell the New School and use the proceeds to build a purpose built Village Hall either on the site adjacent to the New School, or on another site in the valley, making the new facility available to local children as above.

The Parish Council have asked the MCA to indicate an initial preference of either a refurbishment or new build in time for the Parish Council Meeting on 4 January. The decision will be taken by the Parish Council (not the MCA) in it's capacity as the sole Trustee of the MSF. The MCA has set up a Working Party to identify the criteria that would influence such a decision, and report to the next meeting of the MCA on 17 December.

The Parish Council and members of MCA are meeting with Andrew Smith from the National Park Planning Department on 16 December to get a steer as to what the Planning Department would approve in respect to a new build and where. It appears that the recently adopted Matterdale Development Plan now gives more scope than would previously have been possible.

Should the decision to go ahead to progress the Village Hall be made, Working Groups will be set up to put together a Business Plan, and to develop a Fund Raising Strategy. The hope is to draw in members of the local community to share their expertise and contribute to the Working Groups.

