



Bulletin 7 Aug/Sept 2014

We are pleased to bring you the latest update on the achievements (and frustrations) of the Hough End Hall project.

We submitted the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the middle of August. We requested funds to do some more development work; buy, repair and restore the Hall; and run activities from there two years. All this will take us to June 2018 by which time we estimate the hall will be self financing. We were surprised at the extent of the repairs needed, given that the Hall was in use as a restaurant in 2010. We asked for £1,468,000 from the Heritage Lottery and will hear whether we are successful or not in the first of a two-stage process in December.

And now a success story. We told you in our last bulletin that we were about to start a public campaign to request the RBS (the owners of the Hall) gave us more time to raise money and hear the result of grant applications. Our on-line petition gained approx. 500 signatures in a week, which was great for a local campaign, and we sent this in. To our great surprise George Osborne responded to us and wrote (what, exactly we don't know) to RBS. RBS themselves started an 'internal investigation'. This all seemed to have hit the RBS PR button and they will now give us a more sympathetic ear. We are in discussion with them about how they can state their support for our project. This is a small but important step, as without at least some support from the bank the HLF would almost certainly have considered the project too big a risk to fund. Of course, they still might!

We need to provide some match funding for our HLF bid and so have, as promised, started a crowdfunding campaign to raise £82,000. The more people that pledge (no money is taken unless the target is reached by 31st January 2015) the better, so please do pledge on https://spacehive.com/HoughEndHall_lets_make_it_ours . or follow the link from the website which outlines rewards available, all linked to the history of the Hall.

The money raised through crowdfunding is to pay for some free-standing heritage activities - the production of a book about the Hall by Andrew Simpson and Peter Topping; and a signed Heritage Walk around the former manorial estate of Withington, of which Hough End Hall was the Manor House. Even if we do not manage to get the Hall, these activities will take place.

We are still taking ad hoc donations to fund our campaign costs, so if you do not use the internet, you can still contribute. Donations to Carolyn Kagan, 37 Chandos Road South, M21 0TH payable to Friends of Hough End Hall.

We have also submitted a further grant application to the Community Assets and Services Programme, a government funded pot. We previously were awarded £10,000 from this programme and have now submitted a bid for £93,000 for what they call a Feasibility Grant. This will be to pay for a lot of the development work that will be needed by the Heritage Lottery, including specialist surveys, revised costings and plans for construction work and community engagement. We should hear the outcome of this by the end of October.

We are now going to explore the possibilities for European funding, so are continuing to look for different sources of funding.

We have registered with the Manchester Volunteer Centre so if you, or anyone you know would like to volunteer with us, we have plenty of things to do. Just get in touch.

What Next?

- Look for other sources of funding and make applications
- Continue to consult local people about the plans and for their ideas
- Work hard to let people know about the crowdfunding campaign and increase the number of pledges

If you would like to get involved in any way, please get in touch.

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