



# Grange Park Centre

Helping build community

## **Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts period ending 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016**

2017 has proved to be a very challenging but exciting year. The state of the economy and most notable the impact of Brexit has resulted in financial pressures on government bodies and charities, particularly in securing financial support.

We would formally like to thank our previous Councillor Robert Sharp for all his work and support for the project over the years. In addition we would like to formally welcome our new Borough and County Councillor Ted Parton, Borough Councillor Richard Huddleston, and Councillor Jonathan Morgan. They all join Borough Councillor David Hayes who has added his support over the past year.

The group has continued to develop relationships with local MPs, Councillors, residents groups, and the wider community. Charnwood Borough Council have been working closely with us to help secure the land from William Davis as part of the Section 106 agreement.

We have continued building links with Shelthorpe community association to understand the needs of the community as a whole and have seen close connections develop as a result.

We have held a number of local consultation and community building events which were well attended. Over the summer we undertook a survey in three local schools involving more than 370 children about the activities they would like to participate at the proposed community centre.

The design of the building has been on-going based on the consultation and our growing understanding of the needs of the local community who hope to operate in the building. A revised design based on consultation outcomes has been created by the working group.

At the start of 2017 we secured a development grant from the Big Lottery for the design phase of the community centre project. This enabled us to start interviewing a number of employers agents before the final appointment of MDA Consultants. Once this had been secured we approached a number of architect firms to put forward proposals for a building based on a brief of the communities requirements, developed with our employers agent. We then approached a number of construction companies and after discussion with the Big Lottery secured professional services to work on the design. This will take the design of the building to RIBA Stage 4. All of the professional team (employers agent, architect and construction framework) have been keen to work with us to develop a building that caters for the whole community.

During the later part of the year, we secured a grant to help fund a community event. This drew over 500 people from the surrounding area to find out more about the project. Designs for the building location were available for the community to see and ask questions about the project. The consultation during the event highlighted a huge interest in the centre and the activities which could be run from it.

We continue to welcome residents to come forward with their ideas and suggestions for activities that can be run from the centre.

There continues to be a strong desire for the construction of, and ultimately for the use of the community centre within the local community and thus the group continues to forge ahead with the building design.

#### **Brief Account Summary for the period Jan – Dec 2016**

Total income for this period for donations and Grants received	£290.90
Total expenditure, advertising, printing, and cost of public fund raising event etc.	£0.0
Charity bank account at the end of this period stands at	£841.51

For the Trustees

November 2017