

## **Fantastic News !!**

### **Success for Field Lane group as Funding Target reached**

The Space @ Field Lane Group is very excited to announce that they can move forward with their project to refurbish the former Field Lane Community Centre. They received news this week that they have now have the funding necessary to carry out the renovation of the empty building

The reopened centre will be known as 'The Space @ Field Lane'. The group is a registered charity and they took the building over from Calderdale Council on 125 year lease to seek funding to bring the building back into use.

There will be a wide range of activities and services on offer, including a community cafe as a local meeting point for residents and others. The emphasis will be on community led groups and activities with lots of opportunities for volunteering, learning and sociable activities. A key element will be the provision of facilities for the young people to engage in positive activities and opportunities.

Additionally various services have expressed an interest in using the building to enable them to have a closer link with local residents.

The trustees of Group live on the Field Lane Estate or nearby with one who lives outside the area but who has many years of experience of working with young people.

When the building becomes operational there will be a Management Committee made up of residents and representatives of user groups and trustees. There are plans to employ a part-time centre coordinator, a caretaker/cleaner and also someone to work in the café.

Local residents will also be invited to become 'members' (this is free) and the purpose is to include people from the community in decision making about the Space group and how the centre is run, this may be by attending meetings 2 / 3 times per year, being represented on the committee running the centre, receiving information to get views on suggestions and share ideas etc.

People who support the project but who perhaps live a bit further afield but have a connection with or affection for the area can become 'friends' and they will pay a monthly subscription.

The trustees have been working tirelessly for the past few years developing the project and applying for the funding needed which has come from various grant-making organisations :

- The Tudor Trust, a London based foundation which specialises in helping grassroots projects get underway.
- Big Lottery Reaching Communities Buildings Fund
- Rastrick Big Local
- Garfield Weston Trust
- Calderdale 6C Environment Fund
- other smaller trusts

Local funding help has come from Brighouse Rotary Club whose contributions have helped with paying for basis costs like insurance and electricity during this development phase.

The Trustee Lead on Funding and Finance, Mary Green said:

'The support of the Tudor Trust was key to opening opportunities with other funders. They gave us money to draw up plans for the building and for other development costs and have now given us additional funding to complete the capital project cost'.

We are looking forward to working very closely with Rastrick Big Local and all our funders as the project develops.

The project has been supported by Calderdale Council providing the lease and ongoing support of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Mags Bryson.

The design team includes 2 local businesses, Neil Hardacre Pickles Architecture Brighouse, Ashley Wood of Energy Unique and Steve Brooks of Huddersfield based BCS Consulting, have drawn up plans and provided guidance to develop our vision for the centre.

Tender packages have now been delivered to six building contractors in the Calderdale and Kirklees areas and once their submissions are received, a contractor will be chosen. It is hoped that site preparation may begin prior to Christmas with the work underway in January and the newly refurbished building opened by May next year.

The refurbishment will include a completely new roof, new windows, entrance, flooring, kitchen, toilets, café and much more. There will be a 'Changing Place' which is more than an 'accessible' toilet for people with disabilities, as it offers additional

hoist support as may be required.

There will be a computer room where there will be computer courses or where people can just brush up their cv's, where young people can perhaps help older ones search for information and so on.

Calderdale Adult Learning and a 'Work's Better' programme provided by Together Housing will be providing training opportunities.

The Space will also be available for hire for private celebrations and bookings are invited for after June next year.

Group Chairman, Derek Dodkins, said:

"It has taken a long time but we really can now look forward to Field Lane getting its community centre back again. We want the building to be a welcoming space for everyone, somewhere for people who are on their own to call for a cup of coffee, somewhere for parents to bring their children and where the little ones can play while their they are take part are in an exercise class etc., somewhere for the young people to get away from any negative influences on the streets and where all generations can mix together."

We want our fellow residents to join in by volunteering to run activities or events for the benefit of other residents.

The Group have a website [www.thespacefieldlane.org.uk](http://www.thespacefieldlane.org.uk) and the e-mail address: [mail@thespacefieldlane.org.uk](mailto:mail@thespacefieldlane.org.uk) .