

Framsden Parish Council
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To: Framsden Fundraisers – by email.
Attn: Mark Felton (mark@flindor.com)
Peter Blemings (Peter@gvpc.co.uk)

22 October 2015

Dear Mark and Peter,

Framsden Fundraisers support

Further to your email request for feedback by 23 October regarding Framsden Fundraisers' support for the Debenham Swimming Pool project, members of the Parish Council would like to offer the following.

They were reassured to see mention made of Framsden Village Hall and (if one reads it correctly) your commitment in principal to support the costs of its much needed renewal and refresh. They were interested and concerned to learn of your intention in the coming days to offer the Debenham project up to £5000 from your total funds of £11000+.

At Parish Council meetings over recent years residents have expressed fondness for their Village Hall and concern about its deteriorating condition and unwelcoming appearance impeding its use in village life. You'll be aware that the Parish Council has throughout 2015 worked hard to understand its legal and public service obligations to the Village Hall and how best to meet them. A restored Village Hall not only remedies past neglect of a village landmark; it creates a welcoming 'village hub' to enable the kind of community activity that Framsden Fundraisers supports and indeed exemplifies.

As a first step to prevent further deterioration and subsequent increased costs, the Parish Council produced an agreed schedule of necessary works, secured a local contractor through a competitive bidding process, and commissioned priority external repairs for completion before winter. This initial work has now been completed. The debate and rationale for these works have figured in Parish Council meetings and are extensively published on our website at <http://framsden.onesuffolk.net/>

A phased programme of internal repairs, external and internal repainting are planned for 2015-16 and 2016-17, subject to funding. The total costs are estimated at around £15000. If we commit all of our earmarked moneys (£7300) and much of the funds held in the Village Hall Account (c£9000 as at Mar 2015) we will lose a financial safety net and funds to act as leverage for plural-funded

longer term improvements. A significant contribution from Framsdén Fundraisers now would make a massive difference.

To underwrite the £15000 costs of essential works, we would ask you to consider contributing to a three-way funding arrangement with the Parish Council, the Village Hall, and Framsdén Fundraisers each contributing £5000. Do let us know if you require anything more from us in support of this request – otherwise please accept this as our letter of application for £5000.

Looking ahead, we expect any significant additional work would need to secure wider funding from other sources, would be about improvements rather than essential repairs and maintenance, (eg energy efficiency; disabled access; hospitality / events equipment and facilities) would be aspirational, long term, meeting well-defined community needs, and would definitely need Framsdén Fundraisers in the vanguard of fundraising.

We wonder if there is more we can do to work together to understand and tackle Framsdén's priorities. With a shared understanding of Framsdén's needs and aspirations, and how to meet them, the Parish Council can focus on tackling them in the right way through the services it provides and the initiatives it supports, and Framsdén Fundraisers can do the same by raising funds over-and-above the precept to help pay for them.

Framsdén Play Area is an obvious facility that, subject to consultation, may also need refurbishment and development far beyond the limited resources of the Parish Council to do so alone.

Debenham pool may also be a priority, but where it sits compared to other priorities may not be so clear here and now. We would suggest, in response to your specific question as to how much money to give it, that Framsdén Fundraisers commit a sum sufficient to demonstrate support for the project and add leverage to Debenham's fundraising, but not a sum so large as to detract from money that could be invested in, or earmarked for, much needed basic village infrastructure in Framsdén. We would therefore ask you to pledge to the Debenham project whatever sum you consider appropriate up to £1000 at this stage.

In meeting Framsdén's needs, we'd ask Framsdén Fundraisers to continue its brilliant work to support projects in and for Framsdén parish, and to work with the Parish Council as it does so.

With warm regards

Yours sincerely

David Crowther
Clerk to Framsdén Parish Council