

LINTON CATHODEON COMMUNITY TRUST

Report of the Trustees to Linton Annual Parish Meeting 23 April 2018

The Linton Cathodeon Community Trust manages the Cathodeon Centre on behalf of the Parish Council, which holds the freehold, and the Centre's lessees and hirers.

In the course of the year, no significant changes were made to the interior of the building or the grounds. However, the Trustees are arranging for some external repainting of the building and anticipate that it will be necessary to relay the rubberised surface beneath the play equipment in 2019. The tarmac play area seems to have stabilised and it is hoped repairs will not be needed in the short term. We were very sorry to lose one of our main users, Karen Tumber, the local franchise holder of Kumon Maths. Karen had run Kumon Maths in Linton for many years, but despite the Group being very popular with parents, no one came forward to take on the franchise when she retired. As a result, there are a number of slots available for hire during the week and the Trustees are taking steps to try and fill them. However, the financial position of the Trust remains stable, with reserves to meet anticipated long-term maintenance and repairs.

We were pleased that at our meeting in March, the County Library service reported the first increase for several years in book borrowing by adults, as well as by children. This reflects the increase nationally in the sales of printed books and the drop in sales of e-books. Whilst the future of library services throughout Cambridgeshire remains uncertain in the light of public spending constraints, these trends demonstrate the continuing importance of public libraries for the well-being of local communities.

Regrettably, despite representations by organisations and individuals in the village, the Centre is no longer formally designated as a Children's Centre by the County Council. However, for the time being at least the actual provision of children's services from the Centre continues largely unchanged. The leases of the Library and the Children's Centre are probably unique in the county and were structured so as to make closure of the facilities financially unattractive from the County Council's perspective. The Children's Centre remains a local base for the midwifery service. We are seeking a meeting with the County Council to see if a more certain basis for the provision of children's service from the Centre can be agreed.

Visitors to the Centre will be aware that the vegetation within the part of the grounds of 1 Horseheath Road bordering the Centre was removed by the current owner, which is seeking to redevelop the site. I had a meeting with the owner's managing director to stress that the site should not become a means of access to the Centre when it is not open to the public, and that we would be keeping a watching brief over the area and would look to ensure that the integrity of the Parish Council's property was protected.

The Trustees would like to thank their Honorary Secretary Sue Mudge for her continued dedication over the past year and Lucy Arnold, our caretaker, for her work, together with the Parish Council for its continued support.

Andrew Gore
Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees

Linton Cathodeon Community Trust,
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Hon Secretary: Sue Mudge, 07765 369266
Trustees: David Champion; Andrew Gore; Val Urwin; Alison Walker
Registered Charity No. 1077456