

Freedom of Information Request 008/2025 Market House

The total amount of money spent to date by Castle Cary Town Council on plans to install a lift and renovate the first floor (or other parts of the building).
£8,542 has been spent to date on the renovation of the Billiard Room. £1,716 has been spent on costs associated with submitting the Listed Building consent for the installation of the lift and renovation of the Market House.

The forecasted total cost of the project and the anticipated completion date.
CCTC is not in a position to provide a forecasted total cost of the project at the present time. A likely completion date would be after 2028.

An estimate of the number of staff hours already spent on work relating to this project.

Approximately 20 staff hours have been spent by CCTC Maintenance Officer on work relating to this project to date (preparation for works, liaising with contractors etc.) and approximately 30 staff hours have been spent by the Town Clerk/Deputy Clerk attending meetings, administration/finance work etc. It should be noted that the majority of the work related to the Market House project is being undertaken by Town Councillors / other interested parties in a voluntary capacity (please note there is a lot of good will from residents and the Museum for the Market House).

A copy of the Business Case or equivalent documentation that demonstrates the compelling need for public funds to be allocated to this project.

A business plan and Museum renovation plan will be produced but is not available at the present time. The Castle Cary and Ansford Community Plan recognises support for the Market House project. Please note that the project will be funded through grants and fundraising.

Whether consideration has been given to the potential impact of a new entertainment space on other premises in the local area — including both publicly owned and commercial venues. If so, please provide any relevant assessments or documentation.

See Appendix 1 – although this paper was produced when considering the request for a Public Works Loan for Caryford Hall it provides an overview of the provision of bookable space in Castle Cary /Ansford.

It should be noted that the primary reason for this project is the restoration of the building, improved accessibility (there is a legal requirement to make public buildings accessible) and to enhance the facilities for education and community use not entertainment.

Details of how the project is expected to be funded. If funding is anticipated from local developments, please list each development and the amount of funding expected from each.

It is hoped that the entire project will be funded through grants/fundraising and if it can't then the project should not go ahead. S106 contributions have not been allocated for this project. For information £19,000 has been raised for the project to date through fundraising, coffee morning donations and other donations.

It is understood that repairs are needed to the roof of the Market House. If so, please provide an estimate on what these might cost and how these repairs are expected to be funded.

These works are part of the ongoing maintenance of the building. A maintenance budget is allocated by CCTC each year and there are also earmarked reserves and a dowry that can be used for the Market House. It should be noted that CCTC are obliged by law to maintain the building.

APPENDIX 1

Caryford Community Hall Background for CCTC councillors

The hall was finally built in 1994. After ten years of fund raising by the community.
Before the hall these were the only facilities with a picture of what's on offer now:

Before CH	After	Future plans
	Caryford Hall most sessions are booked for sports, leisure classes, lectures, meetings, NB since phase 1 they have lost a small ante room which was used regularly	Phase 2. To upgrade the womens' loos, build a large meeting room to hold 60-70 and a smaller board room Phase 3. Still planned
Ansford Community School The whole school was used most evenings as part of the Community Education offer managed by Laura as Head of Comm Ed.	Now Ansford Academy the only group that uses it is CATs	
CC Primary School	Scouts and Just Dance	If the new school is built what will happen to the old one. Front is grade 2 listed and would prob have to be used for a similar purpose as it is owned by a charity.
Swainson Building for Youth Club classes, Playgroup and famously discos on Saturday night	Used solely for Toybox preschool	What would happen if the Primary is built and the preschool becomes Early Years provision?
	1610 Sports Centre facilities shared with AA	
Cc Constitutional Club much used for skittles, meetings leisure activities, bar, food, children's and adult parties, dances	Sold Much missed	
Small Church Rooms now demolished	All Saints' Church for several community groups and concerts	Aspirations to become an Arts Centre to include Church services
St Andrew's Church available for small meetings		
Scout Hall	Refurbed Scout Hall used regularly for Tai Chi, carnival links and of course Scout groups	

Methodist Rooms	Refurbered Methodist Hall	
Skittle Alleys were used for activities ..I ran advice sessions and a careers convention once!!	Not used now in fact I think we have lost most of our skittle alleys except the White Hart.	
	Market House - Shambles Undercroft Cobbles	Assembly Room Billiard Room
	Fire Station meeting room	
Drill Hall well used by CCF at least 3 times a week	Refurbered Drill Hall only used once a week cost £30ph	
	DP Pavilion	Upgraded DP pavilion

Interestingly the following halls are available very locally and booked by some Cary based groups and local residents attend events in these halls. These are:

- New hall in Galhampton
- Good hall in North Cadbury
- Hall in Ditcheat
- Halls in Bruton
- Refurbered hall in Hadspen

Until recently Caryford Hall was entirely managed by volunteers through a committee. They have formed a CIC and have 7 trustees.

Trustees take on roles and they have a Friends of CH group membership. This group membership is open to all users and supporters of the hall. Disappointingly their recent AGM was not quorate,

They have struggled to recruit a treasurer and have recently employed a bookkeeper.

Caryford trustees were awarded a grant from ACRE £53k which is likely to be lost because work hasn't started. They have also approached The Newt for a grant, or a grant to bridge the gap or a guarantee from The Newt would be welcome.

Just to remind you we are due to have 772 houses (so far c337) which is about 1500+ people with 1.5 children per family!!! Impossible to calculate.

Judi

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