



As we begin the new year it seems timely to update all our potential volunteers on progress towards opening our community library in Gnosall. It is also worth reminding ourselves that a year ago this prospect was not even being talked about. We really have come a long way in a short time!

Staffordshire County Council (SCC) has accepted GLEAN's bid to manage the community library in the village and this can open at any time after 1 April 2017. The contract will run for 5 years. SCC has also accepted our vision that the library is best accommodated in an extension to the portakabin buildings behind the Grosvenor Centre. In essence the extension will house the book stock and other resources and we will use the existing building (which includes a kitchen and toilets) for other library-based activities. The development requires planning permission and we have heard from Stafford Borough Council (SBC), from whom we sought formal pre-planning advice, that our application for planning permission is likely to be successful.

We estimate that the development will cost £10000-£15000. We have already secured £11000 and are hopeful of support from some other organisations linked to the village who have approached us asking how they can help. We are in the process of applying to charitable organisations outside the village whose funding includes support for the library's aims. We are confident that we can achieve our target and we hope to secure this by the time we receive SBC's decision on planning permission.

We still do not feel able to start converting our list of potential volunteers into actual ones but we know that SCC will require a degree of formality to this process. We are looking at what systems we need to have

in place to do this. This will involve working with a not-for-profit organisation called Support Staffordshire; this has a contract from SCC to help organisations such as GLEAN that deliver services formerly provided directly by SCC. We also know that we will need someone to co-ordinate the work of our volunteers (eg drawing up rosters, arranging cover when problems arise); if you are interested in taking on this role, let us know by responding to this e-mail.

GLEAN could not have achieved all that it has without the support and encouragement of Gnosall Parish Council. It has agreed to provide the land for the library extension and to link this to its existing building. It is contributing to our capital costs and has provided all sorts of administrative support. We appreciate this greatly.

A Happy New Year to you and we hope to work with you more closely on this exciting project in 2017