



**SAVE THE SIX BELLS PROGRESS UPDATE MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 13TH MAY 2025 PETERSTONE VILLAGE HALL@1830 HRS**  
**MINUTES**

---

## **Six Bells Community Hub Development**

---

### **Attendees**

- Chair, Judy Clatworthy
- Vice Chair, Julie Foster
- Cllr Anne Picton
- Cllr Lucy Turner
- Clerk, Nikki Malpas
- Chair of Save the Six Bells Campaign, Amanda Reynolds

---

### **Meeting Purpose**

The meeting was convened to review the progress of the Six Bells Save the Six Bells Community Campaign and to discuss strategic planning for the pub's transformation into a sustainable, community-led hub and address concerns regarding the effect on the use of the Village Hall. Key goals included:

- Finalizing community engagement and funding strategies.
- Addressing operational and financial challenges.
- Establishing partnerships to support long-term viability.
- Discuss proposed partnership with the Village Hall

---

### **Project Progress Update**

Amanda provided an update on the initiative's development. The Six Bells Group is in the process of forming a Community Benefit Society, with a mission to reinvest all profits into the Six Bells, Village Hall and broader community initiatives.

Plans include:

- A dual-purpose venue: a café-style pub featuring local produce, crafts, and artwork.
- A well-being component focusing on elderly residents, hosting coffee mornings and repair cafe.
- Partnerships with local farmers, artists, and the Living Levels group to support nature conservation and educational programming. This will focus on showcasing the Wentlooge Levels.
- A phased reopening strategy to begin generating revenue during the ongoing restoration.

Conclusion: The project enjoys strong community support, and the group emphasized that its purpose is to collaborate—not compete—with existing local businesses.

---

### **Financial Overview and Funding Strategy**

The group has currently paid a deposit of £15,000, with a pending application for a £100,000 National Lottery grant and several other grant applications. Save the Six Bells has also made it through to the next stage of the Welsh Government's Community Facilities Programme Fund with an application of £300,000.

Estimated renovation costs total £100,000. However, expenses have been reduced significantly through secured in-kind contributions, including:

- Free storage services from Blue Self Storage.
- Pro bono legal support from Hugh James Solicitors.
- Donated scaffolding and skip services.

Risks Identified:

- If the lottery and other grant funding is unsuccessful, the initial deposit may be forfeited, placing the project at risk.

Conclusion: Securing the grants remains a critical short-term objective. In parallel, the group has launched a share-purchase scheme via their website to diversify income sources.

---

## Operational Planning and Community Partnerships

Discussion focused on amenities and collaborative opportunities:

- Future amenities: local produce shop, art workshops, and a discovery centre.
- Potential collaboration with Wentlooge Community Council for shared promotional activities (e.g., weddings, mobile bar).
- Creative use of the existing car park for Airbnb rentals and youth group programming.

Conclusion: A phased facility rollout will support early revenue streams and encourage continued community involvement.

---

## Risk Mitigation and Community Relations

Concerns were raised regarding:

- The implications for the village hall's lease if its usage declines.
- The concern from potential investors due to the rundown appearance of the area and state of the surrounding roads.
- The potential for perceived competition with existing businesses.
- Loss of deposit if further funding is not secured.

Conclusion: The initiative aims to enhance—not replace—the role of the village hall. The Six Bells project operates under a non-profit model prioritizing community benefit.

---

## Key Financial Figures

- Funds Raised to Date: £50,000
  - Pending Grant Applications: £700,000
  - Estimated Renovation Costs: £100,000
  - Reduced by in-kind contributions (legal, storage, scaffolding, waste services)
- 

## Next Steps

- Finalize grant application and initiate website-based fundraising.
  - Enhance the appearance of the area with continued litter picks and reporting issues to NCC.
  - Launch early-stage renovations and service rollouts.
  - Strengthen and formalize partnerships with local groups and councils.
  - Seek a tenant for day to day running of the pub.
  - Continue to utilise social media to enhance engagement.
- 

## Additional Suggestions and Ideas

- Install vending machines offering local milk and crafts.
  - Create a "Discovery Centre" for education and outreach, enhancing the Wentlooge Levels and local wildlife.
  - Consider Airbnb type accommodation for the future.
  - Utilize social media and community networks for promotional efforts.
  - Explore youth-led initiatives and skills workshops to build long-term engagement.
- 

The Six Bells project represents a significant opportunity to regenerate a key community asset through collaboration, volunteer effort, and creative programming. Strong coordination with the village hall and transparent communications with the wider community are vital to the initiative's success.

Further information and updates can be found at [Home - Save the Six Bells](#)

Wentlooge Community Council extends its best wishes for the successful completion of the project and eagerly anticipates updates on future progress.