



News Release 13th September 2015

Sustainable Village Hall for the next 100 years

On sunny Saturday 12th September, more than 100 people attended the official opening of a new village hall in Maplebeck, in rural North Nottinghamshire, that leads the way to a low carbon and low running cost future. Built to serve all the villagers of Maplebeck, Kersall and Winkburn, the new hall replaces a hundred year old building that was heated by coal and propane gas, was structurally unsound, totally un-insulated and well beyond its economic life.

A dedicated team of community charity volunteers has spent 8 years fundraising more than £350,000 from the local community and national UK funders, with the largest grant coming from the Big Lottery Fund – Reaching Communities Buildings. Volunteers have managed the project from inception to completion of construction and are now ensuring the hall is used to its full.

The Big Lottery was particularly taken with the plan to ensure that the hall is used by all sections of the local community and the fully accessible and sustainable design, which, in addition to optimal insulation and solar gain, incorporates a 9.1kWp Photo Voltaic installation and Biomass heating system. The Big Lottery “Reaching Communities fund” has generously contributed to the building construction and The Big Lottery Fund - “Awards for All” has funded some of the essential equipment.

As well as receiving donations from most residents and friends of the three villages, generous funding has also been received from WREN, Nottinghamshire County Council, The Scottish Power Green Energy Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation and The J N Derbyshire Trust.

Nottingham based Main Contractor Combellack Ltd. and Architects Marsh Grochowski have generously supported the project through its many years of development and implementation.

Derek Sayer, the Chair of the volunteer hall management committee, said: “The opening of the new hall is a wonderful achievement, after many years of hard work. The committee will ensure that the new modern, warm and inviting space is used for a broader range of community activities suitable for all village residents. From films, plays and music, to dancing and yoga, quiz nights, and talks, meetings and parties.....and even voting in elections”.

The new Village Hall in Maplebeck will create a real hub for the local community to come together. It is all about helping people to improve their community in a sustainable and affordable way. The income from the on site electricity generation and the renewable heat incentive for burning wood pellets, the use of quality materials and the energy efficient design will ensure minimum running and maintenance costs for years to come.



Notes to Editors:

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The Big Lottery

The **Big Lottery Fund** is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery. The Fund is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK. Since its inception in 2004 it has awarded close to £6bn. The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.

WREN

WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community projects from funds donated by FCC Environment to the Landfill Communities Fund.

FCC Environment are the leading UK waste and resource management company and are part of a global group with a strong heritage in providing services for communities and business. Their vision is to be the environment company of choice, delivering change for a sustainable future.

Nottinghamshire County Council

The **County Council** has an established "Supporting Local Communities Fund". In the 2015/16 round 90 applications were received with a combined value of £1.7m. The detailed evaluation resulted in awards to 25 projects and total budget of £500,000 with an individual project ceiling of £50,000.

Scottish Power Green Energy Trust

The **Trust** is an independent charity that has been funded since 1998 by Scottish Power Green tariff customers, who make an annual donation to the Trust. The Trust supports small scale community based environmental and educational renewable energy projects.

The Garfield Weston Foundation

The **Foundation** is a family-founded, grant-making trust which has been supporting charities across the UK for over 50 years. From small community groups to large national institutions the Foundation supports a broad range of organisations and activities that share a commitment to making a positive impact to the lives of the communities in which they work.

The Foyle Foundation

The **Foundation** is an independent grant making trust that distributes grants to UK charities. Since it became operational in 2001 the Foundation has disbursed £63.2m in grants. It was set up by the daughter of the founder of the famous family bookshop in London.



The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation

The **Foundation** was established in 1960 and recently exceeded its £100m mark in grant making to a wide range of charitable causes. One area of particular interest is the belief that every community needs a focus on which to build cohesion. They are therefore advocates of the “village hall”, particularly in rural areas where facilities are often very limited.

The J N Derbyshire Trust

The **Trust** was established in Nottingham in 1944 for the development of communities in Nottinghamshire and other local charitable causes.

Marsh Grochowski

This award-winning architect, based in the Lacemarket, Nottingham, provide a wide range of design and architectural services throughout the UK and have a unique portfolio which includes everything from low energy eco projects to modern, contemporary designs.

Combella Ltd.

This Nottingham based building contractor is expert in new build main contracts and also specialises in providing a comprehensive range of Property Maintenance and Building Services including all aspects of electrical, plumbing, heating, joinery, solar PV and more.