



RECORD OF DISCUSSION AT THE SWAN CLEWER CIC OPEN FORUM

11 September 2023

Dear Bevy Member,

Please find below notes recording the discussion at the Swan CIC Open Forum held on Monday 11 September 2023.

16 people present.

Apologies received from: Rachel Cross, Tony Cross, Martin Payne, Allan Molloy, Ray Sawyer, Melinda Matthews and Ken Sutherland.

1. Willie Calvert (WC) opened with a review of current finances for the CIC. He emphasised that sales against plan remained disappointing but highlighted the financial success of SwanFest. He reiterated the combined impact of mortgage and utilities increases that are likely to result in a £30k hole for the FY.
 2. There is an obvious and urgent need to generate a 'cash firebreak'.
 3. WC is due to meet with Triodos (the CIC Mortgage provider) to ensure that a new loan scheme and/or a new share offer would be allowed within the terms of the current mortgage.
 4. Any new loan scheme is likely to be up to £1k in value with a return in not less than 3 years.
 5. WC confirmed that clubs and societies using The Swan are being charged.
 6. Options to provide a food offer in future continue to be explored.
 7. Options to raise funds and increase footfall were discussed including distribution of leaflets advertising The Swan. Anyone willing to volunteer
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for this task is invited to contact Ismene Brown via email (ismo2@me.com).

8. The benefit of greater use of volunteers was acknowledged. Trudy Lowe is leading on the organisation of a volunteer get together in part to establish what skills are available to the CIC.
9. A working group has been established to determine how more use, and more income, can be generated from room hire.
10. Hollie Harrison (HH) thanked all who had helped her to get started in her role as Community Director.
11. HH confirmed that the Bevy Survey is currently out and encouraged all to respond. It is planned that this will be an annual survey.
12. Richard Allen (RA) reported that GRS and GRC had received a grade of Outstanding from Ofsted in the summer. It had been felt inappropriate to publicise this widely in light of recent adverse press coverage of Ofsted and the pressure schools are under. However he was grateful for the manner the inspection was carried out and the support the community has shown towards the school.
13. AA reported on the successful destinations for the pupils who were moving on from GRC into the world of work and further education.
14. Richard Douglas (RD) advised that 2 applications had been received for the role of Company Secretary and that interviews would be held on 20 September.

AOB

15. In response to a question RA confirmed that GRS have had an offer accepted to purchase 104 Maidenhead Road but this has not yet been completed.
16. General Manager confirmed his hope to provide a Christmas menu from early December but this relies on recruiting a chef.
17. The plan to organise a clear out of the upstairs rooms at The Swan was noted. Items with a potential resale value would be sold to raise funds.

Action Lexie Sparks and Micky Foden-Andrews

18. Date of next meeting: Monday 13 November 2023 at 8:00pm

Warm regards,

Will & Richard

For and on behalf of the Swan Clewer Community Interest Company



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