

DRAYTON CIVIC SOCIETY

Patron: Sir Algernon Heber-Percy KCVO
Registered Charity No. 504887

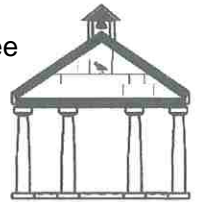
Chairman: Carole Higgins 07734 859657
Secretary: Andrew Brown 07960 948399
Treasurer: Jane Freeman

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Cllr. R Hughes, Chairman
Finance & General Purposes Committee
Market Drayton Town Council

Finance & General Purposes Committee
5 September 2024
Appendix FG061



53 Shropshire Street
Market Drayton
Shropshire
TF9 3DA

9th July 2024

Dear Sirs,

On June 27th, following the refusal of our application for a Small Grant to help towards the cost of repairs to the Museum roof, I addressed the Community and Governance Committee on behalf of Drayton Civic Society to try to explain our position more clearly and to ask if the decision could be reviewed.

The advice given was to write to the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and ask that the Members give consideration to making a donation to our Museum Roof Fund.

The two reasons given for the refusal were that we 'own the building' and we are 'due to relocate very soon'. To answer the first point, while we own the building, we manage it as Drayton Museum on behalf of our town, providing a social, cultural and educational resource for the townspeople, the only safe store for the thousands of documents and collection of artefacts that tell the story of our town's history and heritage.

We could find no mention in the General Criteria applying to Community Grant Applications of owning the building being a restriction, so we assume this refers to the clause stating:- No grant will be awarded to or for any commercial venture for private gain.

The Civic Society is not a commercial venture and no-one makes any personal gain – *quite the opposite*. We are a Registered Charity (504887) with no regular income or funding and rely totally on donations and volunteer power to stay open.

Our Constitution allows us to:-

raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; **provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose.**

Second reason, *we are due to relocate very soon*. We assume this refers to Joules Brewery's offer for us to relocate to new first floor premises at their planned development, which, if planning permission is granted and if we can raise the hundreds of thousands of pounds in grant funding we will need to complete and fit out the bare shell building on offer, based on similar projects, we estimate it will take at least five years or more before it is ready for us to move into. That is if our move goes ahead, *and at this stage – that is by no means certain*.

Are the Councillors aware that it is only the bare shell being offered and not a completed Museum building? We will need to supply and fit lighting and electrical points, heating system, walls and doorways to create office and storage space, flooring, display cases and stands, even a lift, before the building will be ready to house the museum, and all at our own cost from Grant funding. This will be a major undertaking for our small charity and a long term project for the Civic Society.

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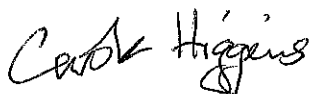
Meanwhile, we have to maintain our current home – and we have a roof that overhangs a main road and footpath into the town needing urgent repairs.

We understand the Town Council will have many calls on its finances, we have done our best to keep the town museum open by our own efforts for 19 years, rarely asking for your help and only when circumstances force us to ask. The value of the work done for the town by our Volunteers in 2023 has been very conservatively estimated at over £35,000.

The final bill for the repairs to the roof will be in the region of £8-£10K. We are appealing now for you to consider making a donation to our Roof Fund to help keep a roof over Drayton's History and Heritage and ultimately to keep the Museum open.

If any Councillors would like to visit the Museum and see what goes on there these days and who our volunteers are, or re-visit and see how it has developed recently, please contact us to arrange a convenient time and we will arrange for our Volunteers to give you a tour of the current exhibits.

Yours faithfully,



Carole Higgins, Chairman & Trustee
Drayton Civic Society