



Grosmont Futures update, October 2025

Lots of things have happened since the last update in June.

An Important Message About the Village Shop and New Community Hub

Since the sad closure of the village shop on Saturday 6th September, there has been, understandably, a lot of discussion about where it could be located. The question has been asked as to whether there could be a replacement shop housed in the new community hub (refurbished Town Hall). Unfortunately, this is not at all possible as the first-floor main hall is far too small to accommodate a shop and its stock without making it too cramped for a great many of the planned activities and uses.

The only part of the building that will be left as is, is the undercroft which is totally unsuitable, being partially open to the elements, damp in winter and without a power supply.

On the positive side, the new hub will be greatly improved with the provision of a lift, a better equipped new kitchen, first floor WC, new treatment/meeting room and baby changing facilities on the ground floor plus new slate roof with improved insulation and a mezzanine storage area above the first floor.

To find out more about the efforts to reinstate a shop in the village contact grosmontcommunityshop@gmail.com and view information on the website

<https://grosmont.wales/grosmont-energised-communities-2/>

And https://grosmont.wales/group_event/energised-communities-meeting-in-partnership-with-the-grosmont-community-shop-steering-group/

The next meeting on energized communities and the community shop is in the **Nave at 6-7.30pm on Wednesday October 15th** so please come along and show your support.

With regards to the Building Work

In September Mark Whitaker (Chair of Grosmont Community Hub Management group and joint chair of Grosmont Futures) managed to get a look inside the Town Hall and can report back the following

1. The timber roof structure has been refurbished with any woodworm treated and joists replaced with oak where necessary. There was a little more of this than anticipated and it also took longer. The same process was carried out on the small double pitched roof above the entrance at the top of the outside stone stairs; this includes the slate tiling in 2.
2. New slate tiles and a smart lead ridge have been fitted on the roof. The standard of this work is extremely high, and the new roof looks far better and fits in visually with the surrounding slate roofs. It is well worth remembering that the previous concrete tiles were coming to the end of their watertight lives and this work would have had to be carried out irrespective of the Hub Project, and at the Community Council's (ultimately our) expense.
3. Lead flashing has been completed around the chimney and also the inner parapet wall atop the SE gable, which wasn't leaded before and should give extra protection against damp getting into the building.
4. Work in preparation for the fitting of the new lift is completed; with the recess prepared in the stone floor of the undercroft and a hole cut into the floor of the first floor.
5. Inside, the timber studwork for the floor of the new mezzanine is nearly complete as is that for the kitchen. There has been an alteration to the plans which will now include a first floor WC underneath the stairs to the mezzanine, which will now be of a conventional whole tread design, rather than the alternating half tread type previously proposed. This will make access to the mezzanine (a storage area) much easier and safer.
6. The precise layout of the kitchen is under discussion, and interested parties also had the opportunity to see the spaces that will be created and get a clear sense of how things could be made to work and a decision on the final layout of this area is close.

With regards to the Funding of the Building Work.

At the time the building work commenced we still had £58,000 to raise. So far this summer we have been successful in securing a further £20,000 to enable us to create a ground floor treatment/meeting room and to fit a new kitchen, and £12,000 towards the cost of the new lift. We are now £26,000 short of our target with four applications still waiting for verdicts from the funding trustees - News just in is that we have been successful in securing another £10,000 from the Pilgrim Trust.

With regards to funding for the Arts Project.

A community-led Arts Outreach project, for the community of Grosmont to participate in, is taking shape. Having already attracted £1,500 from The Ashley Family Foundation we are awaiting outcomes of a further seven funding applications, and are currently working on two others, to help raise the £8,500 shortfall to bring this designed and costed project to life.

We hope this brief report gives you the important highlights of the work happening behind the scenes. Your continued support and input are invaluable.

If you have any questions or comments, please email Lynne (joint chair of GF) on Grosmont.Futures@outlook.com or phone 01981240350

For those that are interested in volunteering this is a reminder that Be Community caters to diverse volunteer needs and interests, offering free training courses that cover aspects of volunteering and community group management. "Our goal is to equip individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to make a meaningful difference". So, take a look at the courses available, a mixture of both online and local face-to-face courses, and be Grosmont Community Hub ready!!!!

Go to <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/community/training/>

Best Wishes Grosmont Futures CIO Trustees

