



On the 4th of July it became legal for community halls to reopen. The Trustees have looked carefully at the guidelines produced by the Government and Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and have reached the conclusion that reopening the Reading Room would not provide the village with much functionality. A maximum of 15 people would be allowed for the types of function permitted and when indoor exercise is once again allowed on 25th July there would be a limit of 4-5 for exercise including the instructor. On top of the lack of facility, the Covid Safe requirements on both Trustees AND hirer's are extremely onerous. The Trustees have therefore taken the decision not to reopen the Reading Room for the foreseeable future. We will keep this decision under review should there be any changes to the guidelines.

Many other village halls in the area have remained closed.

We are now moving the Renovation and Extension project forward and have confidence we can do this but will proceed cautiously having carried out a detailed risk assessment.

During lockdown the Parish Council and The Reading Room Trustees were able to progress the Public Works Loan application and received the Approval to Borrow letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHC&LG)

in April. This is a result of a detailed scrutiny by the MHC&LG of the project as well as the process that the Parish Council and Reading Room Trustees have followed. This means that when we are ready to apply for the loan it will be dealt with swiftly and will only take about 1-2 weeks to come through.

We also heard that our grant application to Cotswold District Council Community Projects fund was successful and we have been awarded a grant of £10,000.

All other major grant applications have been submitted and we await responses.

In terms of general administration relating to this project, our application for Full Plans Approval has been submitted to Cotswold District Council Building Control department.

Our change to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation completed last month when the land registry confirmed the asset transfer of the Reading Room to the new organisation.

Next steps are to continue with the appointment of a project manager and to progress the tender process for the construction work using the Government's procurement portal. We will keep the village updated at each relevant stage and will publish regular progress reports.

Shipton Reading Room Trustees