

Ms Amanda Leon
Radstock Action Group
8 Colliers Rise
Radstock
BA3 3AU

18th April 2013

Dear Amanda

Thank you for your letter dated 26th March 2013, that included a number of questions regarding the Victoria Hall. I will respond to these in turn:

- 1. What is happening to the Victoria Hall and the promises to deal with asbestos and electrical issues? What is the calendar for the programme of restoration and improvement?**

The asbestos and electrical works will now be undertaken as part of the overall refurbishment of Victoria Hall as this is a more cost-effective way of achieving this. We are currently working up a scheme and a programme.

- 2. Is B&NES prepared to reverse the view that the Caretaker's House should be sold off?**

As part of the work being undertaken to produce designs for the building that optimise its potential uses, the Council is reviewing whether it will be necessary to retain the caretaker's house.

- 3. Local people want the snooker facilities retained. What is B&NES' current thinking on this matter?**

This possibility was explored at Cabinet and, due to the limitations this use places on the rest of the building, the option was rejected. The Council's position has not changed on this point.

- 4. Is the library to be moved into the Victoria Hall or not?**

As with the caretaker's house, the question of whether the library moves in to the hall or not is being reviewed as part of the exercise to come up with a design and mixture of uses that optimises the building's use.

- 5. & 6. Various sums of money have been promised from B&NES to refurbish the hall. Why is this not being spent? It is ten months since the Hall was closed and every day that goes past means further dilapidation and further expense to put it right.**

No works to the hall will start until a design is fixed. The Council is committed to spending substantial sums on this building to secure its use and is exploring a number of possible layouts to establish which will provide the best combination of spaces for maximum flexibility. A budget can only be set when the design is fixed.

- 7. & 8. When and how are local people going to be involved in bringing this valuable asset back into use?**

The Council is using the feedback from the extensive public consultation exercise carried out in May/June 2012 to inform the design of the building and will be encouraging the community to make full use of the building once the refurbishment works have been completed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Crossley', written in a cursive style.

CLLR PAUL CROSSLEY
Leader of the Council