

THE POLEHAMPTON CHARITY

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Dear Members of the Local Community,

The Polehampton Charity is in the process of asking the Charity Commission to raise a “scheme” for us. This is the method by which a charity is able to alter its objects. As part of this process we are required to show we have consulted with interested parties, hence this Public Notice.

The reason we are seeking to change our objects is because at present we do not have the ability to lease the Old Boys’ School in Polehampton Close (OBS) to Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) for use as a library. In 1998 The Polehampton Charity was formed by amalgamating two older charities. When this was carried out several objects of the older charities were not carried forward to the new charity. We are asking the Charity Commission to re-instate some of these. In particular, the one relating to the OBS will give us a “wider utility charitable purpose” which enables us to support local initiatives such as the establishment of a new library.

In addition, as the library will be used by residents around the local area, we are asking the Charity Commission to widen our area of benefit to include Charvil. The Polehampton Charity has always had sufficient funds to cover requests for grants from the existing area of benefit of Twyford and Ruscombe and in particular regular support has been provided to the local schools. Whilst increasing the area of benefit to include Charvil may lead to more requests for assistance this will be more than covered by the proposed changes to the arrangements for the OBS.

The Old Boys’ School is an old grade 2 listed property that does not have modern facilities and has deteriorated considerably over the years. It will require a large sum of money to be spent on it to firstly bring it up to modern standards and then maintain it. The proposed lease to WBC means they will refurbish the building to bring it up to current standards and then maintain it for the length of the lease. A clause is being included so that if they decide not to use it as a library or similar public building in the future the building will revert to The Polehampton Charity. The enormous cost savings to the charity from this arrangement will far outway any increase in demand from the enlarged area of benefit which means the proposed change to our objects will not have any significant impact on our ability to continue to support schools and individuals in this new area.

Also, we have found another anomaly in our objects. This is that although the charity owns the Polehampton Infants School site we do not have the power to lease it to the academy that is being set up to run the school. Once again, this was an oversight when the new charity was set up in 1998 and we are asking the Charity Commission to re-instate this object. In effect we are only asking for this change to make the current status quo legal within the framework of the Charities Act and no other parties are involved other than the school authorities and The Polehampton Charity. It will not have any effect on our grant awarding capabilities.