

Cutthorpe charity Q&A

Q. Why do we need a Cutthorpe charity?

- A. The purpose of the charity would be to provide activities and services that promote the well being and welfare of the residents of Cutthorpe, bringing together the numerous things that already happen on a regular basis (e.g. Cutthorpe Singers, Annual Festival, Creative Crafts) and developing new initiatives. Membership of the charity will be open to all who live in the village as defined by North East Derbyshire District Council.

Q. Are we not doing that already? lots of things are going on in Cutthorpe.

- A. Some of the activities we are already doing are quite complex, are managed on an informal basis, and have budgets running to hundreds or thousands of pounds.

Some of the individuals responsible for these have requested a governance oversight including banking and treasurer skills to deal with and account for money collected and spent, plus compliance with appropriate laws and guidance. This the charity will provide and be accountable for.

A charity can also apply for grants. Official bodies are much more likely to give funds to a registered charity rather than individuals.

The charity can also take advantage of the gift aid scheme if appropriate for any money given from tax payers.

Q. If my group joins the charity what will happen to the money we use to pay our bills and how will I get at it?

- A. Apart from daily running costs which the group leader may wish to hold, the charity treasurer can bank the money which will be in the name of your group but as part of an overall general account. Any funds raised by your group or allocated to you by the Trustees from other sources can be drawn down by arrangement with the treasurer of the charity.

Q. How will the charity be administered?

- A. By the charity trustees, who will be chosen by the members of the charity for their skills and involvement in the village activities. This group will be fluid and made up of individuals from within the village who will serve for fixed terms.

Q. Do we not have a charity already?

- A. A registered charity currently manages the Village Institute on behalf of the Parish Council although its purpose is restricted to matters related to the Institute and is part of an arrangement with the Parish Council. As it is restricted it would not be able to provide wider services to the village.

Q. What are the timescales for creation of the new charity?

- A. The application which includes the governing document for the charity will be submitted to the Charity Commission before the end of December with the expectation that approval will be given early in the new year, after which the new charity can commence operating. A group of initial trustees have been confirmed (as names have to be included in the application process) and once approved by the Charity Commission they will be seeking to hold open meetings with Cutthorpe residents in relation to charity membership etc.