

NEXT CHAPTER UPDATE JULY 2025

The past few months have been busy behind the scenes within “The Next Chapter” team trying to secure PCL’s future home, although not many outside of the project team and trustees know this as we’ve deliberately not been making the progress public as we haven’t wanted to scupper any plans! However, we do now have some exciting information we can share.

As we went into the winter of 2024 we had completed all our research, we knew what type of new home we were after, we knew the area we wanted to be in, and we knew the cost would be about £500,000. We also knew all the key skills needed to make it happen like electricians, builders, plumbers, solicitors etc and to some degree we had people standing by ready, but the hardest part was finding a premises. I had written to numerous landowners hoping to find a disused building or barn we could make our home but only 1 replied and that was a “sorry, we’ve nothing”. The problem is land is so expensive, and buildings often offer a planning permission chance for a house to be built so they are rare to find and expensive when you do.

As we approached Christmas we set ourselves to 2 aims;

A) Continue to look for a premises and B) continue to fundraise by any means possible and thankfully Celia took up the lead on this and to her credit and the rest of the team we have raised just shy of £100,000 as I type.



We did watch an auction for a dis-used church in Ingrave sell for over £500,000 and we coasted out how much rebuilding a derelict village hall nearby might be then within the space of a few weeks 3 landowners came onto the scene and we have been working with them over the spring. We have put one on the back burner due to access issues (the site is within his family farm) but the other 2 have real potential. The stage we are at now is that we are trying to secure a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute to give us planning advice and help us drawn up an application. As we all know, everywhere nearby is greenbelt so this is not a simple process but the new “grey belt” guidance gives us a slither of hope. So in summary, we still need to raise more money so any ideas you have for something YOU can run will be received with thanks and if you know of any people who could help us for free or a reduced fee to get us everything we need for a successful planning application then again, I will receive the offer of help with thanks. In the meantime, keep your fingers cross for us.

If you can help, have any skills or ideas, or would like more information please **contact me, Justin Smith**

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