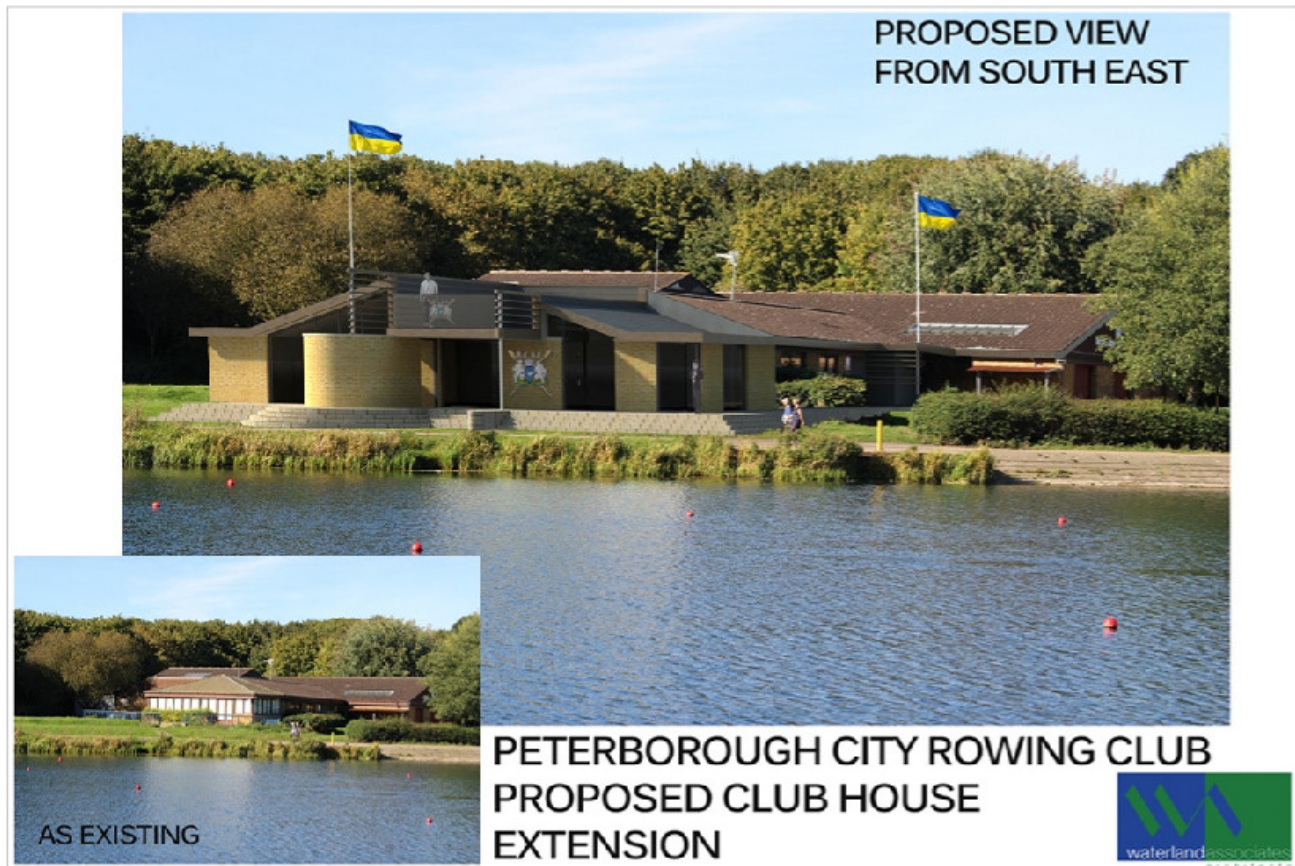


PETERBOROUGH CITY ROWING CLUB'S BIG BUILD



FIRST THE GOOD NEWS

On the fundraising side we have added or very soon will have added about £15,000 to the fund from:-

1. Sponsorship of the June Regatta by Lucas Fettes Financial Planning
2. The regatta raffle promoted by Lucas Fettes and club members during the regatta
3. Some more engraved brick sales (a 3rd batch is about to be ordered)
4. An ergo challenge by Hannah Bassett and Georgina Parker
5. A final sum from Rolls Pollard's bequest to the club

On the preparations for construction, tenders have been received from 6 builders for the boatstore extension and the club's architect is about to seek tenders for the other 2 extensions. Receipt of these tenders will tell us exactly how much everything is going to cost and identify which builders offer the best value for money.

NOW THE BAD NEWS

The club's application for a Sport England grant of £150,000 has been rejected and when Caroline spoke to the case officer to learn why it had been rejected it was made clear to her that we have no chance of

getting a grant of £150,000 and if we are successful in another application the grant would be likely to be only around £30,000.

It appears that this grant scheme is always heavily oversubscribed and priority is very much given to helping deprived areas. The postcode within which the club sits is not a deprived area and whilst we do serve the whole of Peterborough and beyond it is hard to prove that these improvements will target deprived areas.

This is a big setback as this grant is one of the very few with the potential to offer a sum over £100,000. Caroline has now applied for 3 grants of over £100,000 but all have been turned down. There are other grant schemes but they are for sums more in the order of £10,000 or £15,000.

There are more to try but it is clear that all tend to be oversubscribed making it a very competitive business.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We always knew that achieving these big improvements to the club would be a challenge and we do have some £280,000 odd in the bank towards the extensions. We can still achieve these ambitions but we are going to have to work hard to get them.

After reviewing the position, fundraising is now being focussed more on corporate support making use of all contacts we have with local businesses. Grants will still be pursued but this appears to offer better opportunities and we can give companies some good advertising in return. Our regattas attract so many competitors and club members and boats travel all around the country.

We can offer companies corporate recognition in ways such as:-

1. Headline sponsorship of each of our regattas
2. Sponsorship of boats
3. Engraved bricks in the club entrance
4. Permanent plaques in any of the new extensions that a company may wish to sponsor.

We have members working for a range of companies and some have been helping with introductions to help talk to the right people. It is so important to make the best use of contacts so if you can do anything to help with this or have other suggestions please talk to Caroline, Pete Forrest or myself.

Also it is important that all members appreciate that our regular activities that raise funds such as regattas and hosting training camps bring in valuable cash which can help towards our fundraising. If you help with selling tea and cakes or drinks or other roles during our regattas this does make a difference.

The improvements will benefit us all so please help in any way you can.

John Canton
Chairman