



# **BROAD STREET COMMUNITY MEETING HALL**

Charity no: 1112122

Company no: 4659319

[www.broadstreetmeetinghall.co.uk](http://www.broadstreetmeetinghall.co.uk)

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Broad Street Meeting Hall on course for Lottery grant**

Broad Street Meeting Hall in Foleshill has been awarded a Development Grant of £40,000 by the Big Lottery to help prepare a major Lottery grant application for a new building and a member of staff.

The Hall was built in 1946 as a temporary replacement for a Salvation Army building that was bombed in World War 2. The vacant building was purchased in 1996 by Alan Griffiths, who runs Broad Street Windows next door. The building was restored and re-opened as a meeting hall and, in 2003, set up as a charity. Although they can't keep up with demand for space from local groups, the building is now increasingly difficult to maintain and keep safe.

After a feasibility study identified a growing need for community services in Foleshill, the Lottery encouraged a grant application under their Reaching Communities (Buildings) programme. In partnership with other organisations providing much-needed services in Foleshill, the project has reached the final stage of the application process.

The Development Grant will allow the Hall to appoint a team of building, legal and project management professionals to secure all the necessary permissions and consents and ensure the charity is in good shape to continue delivering services for at least another 10 years.

**Alan Griffiths**, charity's President, said: "We were first granted planning permission in 2004. But we were determined to persevere. A Lottery grant means we can replace our worn out building, increase capacity by 50% and appoint our first member of staff. Most importantly, we'll be able to develop our mission to the poorest and most vulnerable people in Foleshill."

Broad Street Meeting Hall is in partnership with two city charities providing services to Refugee and Migrants – the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre and the Roma Project. **Sabir Zazai**, Director of Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, said: "CRMC and the Roma Project have been providing practical help and advice from Broad Street Meeting Hall for years because it's so accessible. The number of refugees and migrants settling in Foleshill is growing, as is demand for our services. A Lottery grant would allow us to continue helping migrants to settle and integrate and we are looking forward to the new facilities the building will offer. Without the grant, there is a risk that our Foleshill service would have to close."

Mr Griffiths added, "The Lottery only funds projects that meet the greatest need. The fact they are considering such a large grant shows the level of need in this part of Foleshill. Without investment, Broad Street Meeting Hall may not be able to continue because of the condition of the building. This would be a tragedy when there is so much enthusiasm for the project."





## Notes to Editors

**Broad Street Meeting Hall mission is to** promote the well-being of people in the Broad Street and surrounding areas of Foleshill without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or political opinions or religious or other background by bringing people together with public and voluntary organisations to advance education and promote health and employment.

**Big Lottery Fund's** mission is to bring real improvements to communities and the lives of people in need. Their investment aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- People having better chances in life, with better access to training and development to improve their life skills.
- Stronger communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems.
- Improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy.
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

Reaching Communities (Buildings) provide funding for land and buildings projects costing over £100,000 that make the biggest difference to those most in need.

Broad Street Meeting Hall needs to raise around 10% its own money for the project - around £75,000. This is a lot of money for a small organisation, so an appeal has been launched. Anyone who would like to make a donation or could help organise a fundraising event is invited to **contact Alan Griffiths on 024 7663 7850 or email [bswindows@sky.com](mailto:bswindows@sky.com).**

