



This being the first year of the Society, a lot has happened to get us to where we are. There's a lot to cover but I'll try to keep it brief.

The society's financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 28<sup>th</sup> February, so I'll include activities up to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, but there are a few significant events that have taken place, so I'll also be mentioning some of those in this report.

The origins of the Society date back to the survey of the village in November 2019, which was followed by the formation of a group of volunteers who wanted to be involved in the setup of the project. This culminated in our registration as a Community Benefit Society with the Financial Conduct Authority, under whose rules the society operates.

So, we begin with March 2020, with a newly formed society, a group and volunteers and little else, other than energy and commitment. We were helped to get off the ground by the Parish Council who provided us with a donation of £2,000. This was supplemented by pioneer investments from the members of the Management Committee.

These funds were supplemented in the year by profits from our Pop-Up Café and Pop-Up Cake sale. Whilst these did not raise a great deal of funding, they demonstrated the interest within the village and our commitment to providing good service and quality food and drinks.

<Show Achievements slide>

In terms of planning for the development of the shop and cafe we evaluated various sites and building options and decided, with the agreement of the Parish Council, to site our building on Manor Fruit Farm, with a building on the corner of the car park being the preferred option of the Parish Council. We had the services of two architects who worked on the plans for the location, design and layout. These plans were submitted to Guildford Borough Council and were accepted with 64 supporters and not a single objector.

Since then, the team have worked on developing the plans for the equipment for the shop, café and kitchen and the products and services that will be provided. Alongside this, the communications team have been publicising the venture.

We always intended to offer Community Shares, that's the reason we set up as a Community Benefit Society, so that the community owns, runs and benefits from the shop and cafe. As you will already be aware, the share offer exceeded its targets putting us in an excellent position to show the village's commitment to the idea.

The situation on grant funding at the beginning of 2020 looked very difficult as the main grant funders were by now focussing all their attention on businesses and charities that were directly affected by Coronavirus. We did not satisfy that criterion.



We did, however, find out about the Community Projects Fund (now known as “Your Fund Surrey”) which was launched by Surrey County Council, using £100million of their capital budget over the next five years to support projects such as ours.

We were fortunate to hear about this from Keith Witham, our Surrey County Councillor, and also to get the chance to meet the head of the Surrey County Council team to present our ideas. He was impressed. Since then, we have kept in touch with the Your Fund team. In February 2021, we submitted our idea on the Your Fund map and were well supported by the community with over 250 ‘likes’ for our plans.

Ultimately this would lead to our being invited to submit a full application for funding, which we have just done.

I’ll just run through a quick reminder of what we’re looking to bring to Normandy. I’m sure most of you will be aware, but no review of the year would be complete without showing where we planning to be in twelve months’ time.

<Slide 4>

This simply shows where the shop and café will be, and what we plan for it to look like and the internal layout.

<Slide 5>

Shows how we would like the interior to look, with an open, rural feel.

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And this shows the types of products and services we will offer.

So, now a few words about the progress since the beginning of this financial year in March. The share offer was launched on Crowdfunder, raising over £95,000 which far exceeded our expectations. It certainly helped to get our project selected to go through to the full application stage of the Your Fund Scheme.

Since the original plans were set out, many things have happened to give us problems with the financial side of the project – lockdowns have resulted in a shortage of staff in the building trade and in the transport field, with not enough lorry drivers. Materials have been at a premium with prices increasing at an alarming rate. And the final factor that we must acknowledge is that some of our early assumptions were just not correct. So, the budget for the whole project has increased markedly to the point where we are now asking Surrey County Council for around £480,000 to fund the building of the shop and cafe. We have mentioned this figure to the Your Fund team and have not been told it’s out of the question, so we carry on to the evaluation of our proposal which takes place on July 26<sup>th</sup> – just two weeks away. We’re not sure whether we’ll hear anything straight way but hope to get an indication. Even with the go-ahead we expect there to be more negotiation to take place before we can start building.



Our early hopes were that we would be able to open in 2021, but this is now looking impossible, so we will work hard to open as soon as we can in 2022. But please bear with us and be patient – we really are working as hard as we can to keep things moving, but we’re anticipating several hoops to jump through along the way.

So, that’s where we are – on the verge of a fantastic breakthrough – a new shop and café for Normandy and at last a hub we can call the meeting place for the village.

But before I finish, I’d really like to thank so many people for getting us where we are.

Firstly, the team – there were more but for various reasons a number have moved on, leaving us with the team as it is now.

Next, and there are too many for me to name them all. I have to mention Les and Debbie who are not members of the Management Committee but have worked so hard to get us where we are.

Former members of the Management Committee

The Parish Council who helped us get off the ground

And then, the ones who have shown their commitment to the project by being involved in our discussions, by investing, donating, spreading the word. There are too many to mention, but I can sum it all up by saying “Thank you, Normandy, for supporting us!”

That’s all I’m going to say – I could say a lot more, but I’m sure some of you will have questions, which we’ll try to answer.