

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

5th September 2022

Heritage Centre

The Ivybridge Heritage and Archives Group (IHAG) are still desperately looking for space to work with the significant body of materials that they have accumulated from the Mill, Town Council and other sources.

At present, private residences are being used to store and work on the material eg digitisation, cataloguing, and preservation.

This has many restrictions including:

- Unable to bring in new volunteers
- Unable to easily share material with the public
- Difficulty working with the materials due to space constraints
- Infringement on private space

A new 'Heritage Centre' has been secured through S106 agreement at the Stowford Mill site. This includes a finished shell of up to 1000 square feet, plus a £10,000 cash contribution.

However, it is thought this will be around 2-3 years away from being ready for occupation, taking into account funding and fitting out works that would need to be completed, it could even be longer.

Some Town Hall space could be used as an interim heritage room. This would allow the group to work in a public space, making it far more accessible and also remove the infringement on private space.

It would open the door to new volunteers and provide them with a space to welcome the public, plus the other rooms could be used for one-off workshops or temporary exhibitions by arrangement.

The St Pierre Sur Dives room could be used as its occupation is lower now than pre-Covid. It does need to generate an income to balance the budget of the Town Hall so a rent would need to be agreed. However external funding may be available to IHAG.

Members opinions are sought on whether this should be explored and if so give the Town Clerk some guidance as to what level of income the room would need to achieve. This needs to be considered as an agreement to lease the space would reduce the rental rooms available to the public, and so any benefits would need to outweigh the loss of the facility.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk