



Extraordinary General Meeting

Proposal to become a Charity

28 February 2022

7pm – Langton Pavilion Café



Summary of Proposal

1. To become a registered charity¹
2. To elect Trustees
3. Charity's official name to become 'Langton Green Village Trust'
4. Membership changes from households to individuals
5. All residents (or connected persons by exception and subject to Trustee approval) are eligible to become members without mandatory subscription fee²
6. Membership to be free with donations invited, with existing subscriptions to be treated as donations

¹including the adoption of the new constitution and transfer of existing LGVS funds and assets

²Voting rights only for those who provide full contact details



Reason for doing this

- We are seeing a steady reduction in membership, common with trends seen with other membership organisations – membership now stands at 285, down from circa 700 in 2010
- Membership receipts have reduced by 32% over the past 5 years
- This means we have less ability to invest funds into the village and can only engage directly (as members) with less than 20% of all Langton Green residents
- Transitioning to a Charity creates a broader opportunity for community engagement and revenue generation, for example:
 - Matched funding by large corporates for organised fundraising
 - Ability to attract interest and partnerships with other charities
 - Residents are more likely to engage in fundraising activities for charitable purposes
 - Ability to claim 'gift aid'
- As an example – in a poll of villagers taken in 2020, a top priority was road safety. A major program of consultation, lobbying and potentially funding will be required to implement road safety enhancements, which is more achievable as a Charity (and unachievable with current revenue)



Charitable Objects

- When registering to become a Charity with the Charity Commission, the Charity must state high level objects in line with prescribed ‘purposes’ (these can be read [here](#))
- We have designed very high level objects, in keeping with our shared goals for Langton Green, whilst allowing flexibility for the future
- The Charity’s objects are to advance the community, cultural and environmental interests of the village of Langton Green by:
 1. Promoting volunteering and citizenship through delivery of events, rural improvements and community engagement
 2. Promoting opportunities for personal growth, entrepreneurship and an environment for local people, organisations and businesses to prosper
 3. Protecting and looking after the village environment



Pro's and Con's of becoming a Charity

- **Pro**

- Broader, greater range of fund raising options, to enable us to do more for the village
- Charities benefit from public recognition and trust; they are often recognised for the social benefit they provide
- Public perceives registered charities as being credible – which may raise confidence in our organisation and help attract more volunteers and benefit fundraising
- Raises the standards required to run the organisation, providing assurance to members
- Affords the organisation, its Trustees and members, more protection by way of guidance and oversight of the Charity Commission

- **Con (*with Mitigants*)**

- Administrative burden for Trustees (*Trustees collective experience in running charities*)
- Overhead in re-branding and administrative costs (*acceptance there may be nominal costs incurred, e.g. new Webmaster / accounts examiner*)
- Small group of Trustees – challenge to deliver on Charity objects (setup an Operational Team)
- Lengthy, technical constitution (no mitigant – but this achieves objective of becoming a charity, as prescribed by Charities Commission)
- Potential conflicts of interest (any potentially conflicted Trustees will not be able to vote on a decision, which will be minuted)



Proposed Trustees & Roles

- Proposed constitution considers a minimum of three and maximum of fifteen Trustees. The below five Trustees and Roles are proposed:
 1. David Whittaker: Chair
 2. James Bowdidge: Vice Chair
 3. Nicci Levy: Secretary
 4. Mark Gamble: Treasurer
 5. Lynn Trainor



Proposed Operating Team

- The Operating Team is uncapped and we are keen to see more involvement from enthusiastic villagers. To begin with the team is proposed as the existing LGVS Committee, as below.

David Whittaker

Nicci Levy

Lynn Trainor

Jeremy Stirling

Emma Stevens

Lawrence Dollimore

Nick Trainor

James Bowdidge

Mark Gamble

Josie Gamble

Lyn Dollimore

Harry Harrison

Emma Howden

Helen Fuller



Next Steps

- Vote on the six Proposed Changes in slide 2 (each resolution to be voted individually)
- Voting can be in person at the EGM or by proxy
- Personal attendance is encouraged, to promote debate
- If you wish to vote by proxy, please write to a confirmed attendee who is then empowered to represent you and vote on your behalf (with signed letter to show to the Chair / Secretary at the EGM).
- You may appoint the Chair of the meeting as proxy in which case you should direct an email including instructions to him, by 11th February, to lgvs.membership@gmail.com