

Tuesday 3 June 2008



ECO-FRIENDLY VILLAGE HALL IN NORFOLK SCORES BIG LOTTERY FUNDING VICTORY

The villages of Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf in the Norfolk Broads are today celebrating a £177,000 funding victory from the Big Lottery Fund to replace their ageing village hall.

The 'New Victory Hall' project has secured the money from the Fund's Community Buildings programme, which is today making twelve awards worth £3,442,746 for bricks and mortar investments in village halls and community centres across England.

News of the award has been greeted with delight and excitement in the villages following more than ten years of determined fundraising.

Ian McFadyen, Chairman of the Fund Raising Committee, said: "The people of Neatishead, Irstead and Barton Turf are immensely grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for this support. At last we have the finances in place to build a much-needed new village hall and we are very much looking forward to progressing with the project.

"The area has, like many other small villages, suffered in recent times from the loss of several key services and amenities and this award will enable new facilities to be established in the very heart of the village; it will undoubtedly further enhance the already strong sense of community that local people feel."

A range of renewable and carbon-neutral technologies will be used in the construction and operation of the new hall, making it one of the most eco-friendly community buildings in Norfolk upon completion. It will be built mainly from timber frame and straw from the surrounding fields with lime render. The hall will incorporate natural lighting, solar heating and green roofs, among other eco-features.

Importantly, the project will also generate additional valuable tourist income for the area and is also likely to encourage other communities to consider contemporary designs and eco-building techniques.

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Sara Betsworth, Big Lottery Fund Head of Region for the East of England said: "The New Victory Hall will be a fantastic asset to these three villages who have struggled in the past with a very small and inadequate hall that is well over 100 years old. It's a major stride forward for the 1,000 or so residents and we're delighted to be supporting this project."

Work on the project will start in late 2008 and completion is scheduled for summer 2009.

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Full details of the Big Lottery Fund programmes and grant awards are available on the website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Notes to Editors

- More information on the 'New Victory Hall' project can be found at www.victoryhall.info or by emailing enquiries@victoryhall.info
- **Community Buildings** is dedicated to investing in buildings that give communities a chance to improve their quality of life and meet local needs, by offering a range of activities and services open to a broad range of people.
- £50 million will be distributed across England over three years with grants of £50,000 to £500,000 available.
- The programme opened for applications in June 2006. 200 applicants were invited to submit stage 2 applications and development funding was awarded to some projects.
- The programme is now closed for applications.
- **The Big Lottery Fund** rolls out close to £2 million in Lottery good cause money every 24 hours which together with other Lottery distributors means that across the UK most people are within a few miles of a Lottery-funded project.
- The Big Lottery Fund, the largest of the National Lottery good cause distributors, has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK since its inception in June 2004. It was established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.
- Since the National Lottery began in 1994, 28p from every pound spent by the public has gone to Good Causes. As a result, over £20 billion has now been raised and more than 280,000 grants given out across the arts, sport, heritage, charities, health, education and the environment.

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**Issued: 02.06.08
PN 08-06-09**