



8th August 2026

Mr G Dickerson
Chairman
Heddington Parish Council

Dear Members of the Parish Council

Proposed Grant to Friends of The Ivy

Firstly, may I thank the Parish Council for its continued support of the Friends of The Ivy project. We understand that, at its meeting last November, the Council agreed in principle to award a grant of £1,500. We also appreciate that, at the time, the 2026/27 budget had not been set and it was therefore sensible to take a cautious approach.

Since then, the project has made significant progress. Our community share offer has raised over £435,000, the Amenities Committee has committed a grant of £70,000, and more than half the households in the village have invested in the Community Benefit Society. The building has now been purchased, a planning application submitted, volunteers have undertaken extensive preparatory work, and we continue to pursue additional grant funding to help deliver the best possible community facility.

In light of this progress, we would respectfully ask the Parish Council to reconsider the level of its proposed grant. Now that the 2026/27 budget has been agreed, we hope the Council may be in a position to review its earlier decision. We understand that the Council has the power to make grants of up to approximately £5,684 for projects of this nature and, if circumstances permit, we would be grateful if the Council would consider increasing its contribution to that level, or alternatively to £5,000.

We recognise that such an increase may not have been anticipated when the original grant was proposed. However, we understand the Council holds reserves which could potentially support a project of lasting benefit to the whole parish. Given the exceptional level of community support already demonstrated, we hope the Council will feel able to give this request favourable consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request and for your ongoing support of this important community project.

Yours sincerely

Richard Ring
Interim Chairman, Friends of The Ivy