**Station house futures**

Prompted by a CVS event on possible funding sources we were able to meet with Sarah Troop Maldon CVS manager. She had always wondered why the station house wasn’t being used for the community and wants to help us resolve issues preventing use. She has facilitated the development of the Men’s Shed in Southminster and there are opportunities for that initiative to extend to Burnham amongst other things, such as use by artists as before, social prescriber, and others.

***This proposal to Council is to request that the Chief Officer supported by Councillors, pursues the options and ideas Sarah Troop has given us to help us resolve the station house issue and get it back into community use.***

Suggestions in brief:

For the remainder of the lease BTC has with Abelio:

* Get 3 quotes for redecoration of the station house so that it is brought back to habitable use.
* Make an application for funding for this redecoration to the Rural Community Council for Essex who have funding for such projects. (See funding opportunities recently circulated to Councillors)
* Add to this a funding bid from other sources the £3k per year it costs the Council in rates bills.

Once back in a condition for community use we should then:

* consult with Burnham residents to find out how community groups might want to use the station house. This consultation phase could be led by CVS either free if they are still funded or for a consultancy fee if CVS are not funded after 1st April.
* From this consultation, potential users of the Station House can are identified, and the CVS can help them become a charity e,g, ‘Friends of Burnham Station House’ who could then eventually take over the lease when it expires on … x date….and lead to a more sustainable future for the Station House, independent of Burnham Town Council.
* Burnham Town Council could be, if they wanted to, an ‘ex-officio’ Trustee on the new Charity and so retain an interest in the Station House.

Benefits – a charity holding the lease of the Station house means rates relief.

The Council is asked to approve the proposal as above.

Thank you,

Chief Officer, Councillor Fiona Clegg, Cllr Munford.