

**Ryan Bennett**  
Clerk to the Council



**The Council Offices**  
Community Way  
Croxley Green, Rickmansworth  
Hertfordshire WD3 3SU

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**Our Ref:** 1098

**Your Ref:**

25 February 2020

Joanne Wagstaffe  
Chief Executive Officer  
Three Rivers District Council  
Three Rivers House  
Rickmansworth  
Herts  
WD3 1RL

Dear Ms. Wagstaffe,

**The Red Cross Centre, Community Way, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth WD3 3HB**

The Parish Council understands that the British Red Cross Society (BRCS) wishes to dispose of the current lease on the Red Cross Centre, Croxley Green. The Council wishes to work with Three Rivers District Council, as the lessor and the local planning authority, to secure a sustainable future for the building for continuing use by and for the local community. The Parish Council is confident that the District Council supports our objective which we believe to be in the best interests of the residents we both serve.

The land on which the Centre stands was acquired by Rickmansworth Urban District Council, to be used for the provision of an old people's centre. The building was erected by the Hertfordshire Detachment of the BRCS to provide accommodation for the Welcome Club (a long running Croxley Green society for older members of the community) and for the purposes of the Detachment. The building was funded partly by Hertfordshire County Council, partly by Rickmansworth Urban District Council and partly by local public subscription. It was furnished through local charitable donations and locally raised funds. There is a current of local opinion that the building should be retained for community use and this has been recognised by TRDC which has included it on the Register of Community Assets.

Since the BRCS announced its intention to dispose of the building last year at meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Parish Council has been in contact with BRCS officers to discuss the possibility of the Council taking over the lease from the BRCS, operating the building on behalf of the community, and using it to replace the current village hall and parish council offices. We have investigated the terms of the current lease, which currently has about forty-four years to run, surveyed the condition of the building, estimated the cost of repairs and alterations required to restore it to meet current standards (dilapidations) and made an informal offer to the BRCS several months ago. Despite several reminders we have, so far, received only a cursory acknowledgement from the BRCS.

The Parish Council has access to funds to meet the costs of transferring the lease on an equitable basis, to deal with the current dilapidations, to put the building into a safe and useable condition for the remainder of the current lease, and to provide the necessary management and operational services.

As there have been informal discussions between Parish Councillors and local District and County Councillors I am copying this letter as a courtesy to the divisional County Councillor and the ward District Councillors as well as the Leader of the Council, the Lead Member for Resources and Shared Services and the Lead Member for Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development.

I look forward to hearing from you, or the officers you deem responsible for this matter, in the near future to help secure a sustainable future for the Red Cross Centre in Croxley Green.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ryan W. Bennett'.

Ryan Bennett  
Clerk to the Council