

Norfolk Windmills Trust

~~County Hall, Market Lane, Norwich, N. of U. NR1 2SG~~

Tel: (01603) 222705 Fax: (01603) 223219

13 June 2012

Dear

Many of you will be interested in Billingford Windmill. This mill is owned by Norfolk County Council and maintained under a management agreement by the Norfolk Windmills Trust. In recent years the mill was restored so that the sails could turn, driving the stones to produce flour for sale to the public. Although this project did not achieve all its objectives, the mill was and is still cared for and the sails would turn on occasions when the mill was open to the public.

During a routine inspection, rot was found in the sails and, for reasons of safety, these had to be taken down for repair. It was found that they were beyond economical repair and, as a result, the only way to restore the sails to the mill would be to make new ones.

The Trust is now hoping to raise funds to continue restoration work on the mill, and to involve local residents in this exciting project. Would it not be wonderful to see the sails turning once again on a regular basis, and for the mill to be open for local people, visitors to the area and school groups to visit, enjoy and learn from?

Billingford mill is very much part of the local scene and a source of pride to many. One way to further the aim of getting the sails back on the mill is to harness local energy and enthusiasm - not just to raise funds but to establish a 'Friends' group of local inhabitants who would be prepared to help with manning the mill, once the repairs have been completed, and the mill is open to the public again. 'Friends' could also help to identify and then approach other funding bodies.

This letter is to help to identify such a body of enthusiasts and we hope some of you will be prepared to put your names forward by completing and returning the attached form. This letter is being sent to all those living in Upper and Lower Billingford and if you know of others living in the vicinity, or even further afield who might be interested, then please feel free to pass it on. The intention would then be to call a meeting to discuss the way forward. As part of any funding package any bids would need to contain letters of support for the project. If you or an organisations you are involved with feel able to supply a letter of support then please forward it to the address overleaf.

To put the situation into context, the funds needed are in the region of £60,000, and the Norfolk Windmills Trust and Norfolk County Council would be able to find some matching funding to put towards this cost.

Sir Rupert Mann, who owns the Common on which the mill stands is very interested in the project and has already pledged his support.

For this sort of project to succeed, the involvement of local people is crucially important, as only then will grant-giving bodies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund be willing to give their support and funding.

I very much hope that the people of Billingford will want to support this initiative, and I look forward to hearing from you

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bryan Read', with a small 'BR' monogram to the left.

Bryan Read
Chairman

p.s. Please note that the address at the head of this letter is incorrect and all correspondence should be sent to the Gressenhall address overleaf.

Billingsford Mill potential 'Friends'

Name -

Address -

Home telephone number -

Mobile telephone number -

Email -

Please indicate below whether you would be interested in helping putting together funding bids, help with opening the mill to the public on open days or both-

Do you feel you have any particular skills that you could offer?

When would be the best time for you to attend meetings: Day/Evening/Weekends

Please either email the relevant information to amanda.rix@norfolk.gov.uk or return the completed form to:

Amanda Rix
Norfolk Windmills Trust
Union House
Gressenhall
DEREHAM
Norfolk
NR20 4DR

