

The Edith M Ellis 1985 Charitable Trust

Crawshawbooth Meeting House (Quakers)

#TGQ11CQ8DH submitted on 11 March 2022

1.1 Please summarise what you are seeking from us

We have got to a position where our current toilet and kitchen facilities are out of date and limited and we need new facilities and to convert the stable area into a more modern and welcoming area. We cannot at present host larger gatherings including our Area Meeting Friends and occasional activities of weddings and funerals. Most importantly we need to be open to our local community and associations and promote Quaker values in equality.

1.2 Tell us more about your project, the impact it will have on those it aims to help, and why you consider the proposed approach to be innovative

Background to Crawshawbooth Quaker Meeting House

A Quaker Meeting House is where Quakers gather to worship and connect as a community. Quaker Meeting Houses are constructed following the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, community and equality.

Originally, Quakers built their Meeting Houses in quiet places to avoid persecution. Most of our historic houses date from the 18th century, plain and simply furnished. These rural historic meeting houses remain vital links between past and present Quakers, as well as bonding points for the villages and communities they sit in.

Built in the small village of Crawshawbooth, the Crawshawbooth Quaker Meeting House dates from 1715, one of the oldest Quaker meeting houses in the world. It is a unique and rare example of an early 18th century Quaker meeting house; only a handful of Quaker meetings from the 1700s have survived to today.

The site consists of the original meeting house built in 1715, including the original horse carriage stables added in 1736 and a small cottage extension added in 1739 to provide additional work space and school room. The meeting house is surrounded by a large landscaped garden that is open to public use year round. The meeting house is also open to public use as a local village hall/community space, however, the current layout and available facilities limit its usage. While there is a small kitchen and single toilet in the building, they are not fit-for-purpose and not easily accessible or even disabled accessible.

At the moment, the meeting house is very inaccessible. The kitchen space is very small and out-of-date and inaccessible to some. There is only one toilet available, which is also not disabled accessible has no hot water supply and had limited headroom. (photo of current kitchen/space)

The meeting house hosts local groups who have use of the rooms and the garden. The garden is open as a peace garden and is well used as a community garden, the only off road public green space in the village. However, use of the meeting house and gardens is restricted at present due to the unsuitable facilities.

Outcomes and Impact of a Restored Meeting House

The Crawshawbooth meeting house has been at the heart of the local community for over 300 years. Upgrading the meeting house and converting the stables space into a modern kitchen and toilet facilities will:

- Ensure that the meeting house is more accessible
- Serve the entire village community as a community space
- Provide opportunities for further development of community use of the peace garden
- Create a more flexible local space
- A suitable home for the growing faith community
- Provide a wellbeing resource to the local community

The meeting house has beautiful landscaped gardens surrounding the buildings, which almost serve as a park for the village. Most of the houses in the village have back yards and very limited green space available and so communal access to the gardens of the meeting house is of great benefit to the entire community. The gardens are looked after by a local group of Quakers.

By converting the stables into kitchen and toilet facilities it will allow the local community to access the building without needing to first go through the historic meeting house. The space will be a flexible space open and adaptable to the needs of the community.

1.3 Which grant-giving categories does your project fulfil?

A - Quaker work and witness

C - Interfaith and ecumenical understanding

1.3a Quaker work and witness

The desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of this heritage building and putting it to viable uses is consistent with conservation. This positive contribution hopefully to the building can add to sustainable communities including the economic vitality and the desirability of this new development, we feel it would make a positive contribution to the area.

1.3c Interfaith and ecumenical understanding

Improvements to our Meeting House, it will function better as a place of worship and as a resource for the wider community, that is accessible and welcoming. We foresee creating a centre for the interpretation of Quaker heritage. We want to act as good stewards for our building and nurture our community.

1.4 Which country is the project based in?

United Kingdom (GB)

1.5 Will the project continue after initial funding has ended?

Yes

1.5b Please give details of how you plan to continue after initial funding has ended

To be involved in a wider sense with the wider community, schools, historical groups in encouraging the Quaker ethos and sense of peace. To be involved with more interfaith meetings by hosting them in our Meeting House, as we are not able to at the moment due to limited facilities, which is against Quaker equality.

1.6 How will the project be monitored and evaluated?

It will be overseen and lead by a Heritage architect and also our Trustees.

2.1 Expenditure

EXPENDITURE ITEM	AMOUNT	NOTES
Contractor costs ex VAT	£65,367	
Onsite archaeological inspection ex VAT	£1,600	we have a burial ground
Architect management of the works ex VAT	£4,400	
TOTALS	£71,367	

2.2 Income

INCOME SOURCE	TARGET AMOUNT	AMOUNT RAISED	NOTES
Grant making Trusts	£65,000	£0	1st week of applications

	£0	£0	
TOTALS	£65,000	£0	

2.3 What is the total amount (in £ sterling) your organisation is requesting from The Edith M Ellis Trust?

£10,000

2.4 Has your organisation made an application to The Edith M Ellis Trust before?

No

2.5 Please state your organisation's annual turnover (in £ sterling)

£100,000

2.6 Do you wish to upload your audited accounts or financial statement?

No

2.7 Please tell us where payment should be made if your application is successful

Quakers Crawshawbooth RSF Reserve Account

50059440

01-07-29

3.1 Your name

Philip Whitehead

3.2 Your contact telephone number

07805925431

3.3 Your position within the organisation

Clerk

3.4 Your email address

p.whiteheadagency@btinternet.com

3.5 Organisation name

Crawshawbooth Meeting House (Quakers)

3.6 Please state the status of your organisation

UK charity

3.7 Please summarise what your organisation does

We are a worshipping community that meet regularly. Quakers are a faith group committed to working for equality and peace. Founded in the 1650s in the North West of England, Quakerism is almost 400 years old. It is the common name for the Religious Society of Friends.

Today, Quakers throughout Britain continue to tackle the root causes of violence, injustice and inequality.

3.8 UK correspondence address for organisation

3 Downham Avenue

Rossendale

BB4 8JY

3.9 UK telephone number

07805925431

3.10 UK charity number (if applicable)

224603-36

3.11 Year established

1716

3.12 Website (if applicable)

<http://crawshawbooth.pendlehillquakers.org.uk/>

3.13 Social media accounts (if applicable)

<https://www.facebook.com/Crawshawboothquakers/>

4.1 How did you hear about The Edith M Ellis Trust?

Directory of Quaker & Quaker-related grant-making trusts