Report to the Town Council from the Lord Leycester Hospital - 3 April 2023

(Reported by Heidi L Meyer – Master Lord Leycester Hospital)

Thank you for your support and for the grant that you have provided us. This report is to explain to you how we have used the grant you so generously awarded the Lord Leycester Hospital.

This is not the first year you have provided a grant to us. But like all the previous grants we have received from the Warwick Town Council over the past few years, these funds will go towards our £4.8 M restoration and improvement project.

Our improvement project will restore the fabric of the lord Leycester and it will improve our Heritage visitor experience. With this project we hope to improve footfall to the Lord Leycester from 5000 a year to 35000 a year. This can only be a good thing for Warwick tourism!

So far, our project is on track for us to open to the public in the summer 2023. If you look at the chapel tower you will see the chapel has a new roof, a new flagpole and a restored weather vane. These are signed of progress! We plan on a soft opening in the summer followed by – hopefully - a Royal opening later in the year or early 2024.

One of the greatest challenges of this project has been keeping to budgets. An inflationary economic trend was not the best time to undertake a complex project like this. It is a daily struggle to take decisive action on how to mitigate rising building, materials and utility costs. In some cases, we have had to value engineer and in other cases, where we cannot compromise, we have had to raise additional funds. The outstanding sum we are still fundraising for is £140 K. We have ongoing fundraising programs: The Pathway for Support - buying an engraved paver in our garden – is still alive and will go on for a long time, or the Sign a Tile fundraiser where by for a donation of £25 you can sign a tile that will go on the new Great Hall roof. That will obviously end when the rood goes up at the end of April 2023.

It just goes to say and underscore that we are still fundraising and that means we are ever grateful for your continued generosity in supporting us financially. And I mean that most sincerely. Thankyou for all you have done for us.