

## Anstice News

Great news is that the project is still on course for a start of the New Year. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent have been granted for the refurbishment work and so the scheme is now been worked up to go out to tender in mid-November.

In preparation for the works, the ACT (Anstice Community Trust) trustees have done a magnificent job in clearing out the building. Once the refurbishment starts, ACT will need to vacate the building. To keep a presence in the Town, they have accepted an offer from Telford & Wrekin Council libraries to move their office to a spare room in the existing library.

Ahead of the main refurbishment work, the Town Council has decided to restore the front porch of the Anstice. It is being undertaken outside of the main project as it needs specialist contractors to carry out the repair work. Listed building consent has been secured and after a tendering process, Croft Building & Conservation Ltd have been appointed to carry out the work. Paint samples have already been taken and the work started on the 29<sup>th</sup> October. The first job will be to replace the existing roof which is totally rotten. Then all the old paint will be stripped off the porch and then the masonry will be restored. Once the masonry repairs are completed, the porch may need to be repainted. However, the preference is to leave the stonework untreated like it would have been when it was first built. Scaffolding will need to be erected at either side of the porch and there will inevitably be some noise and water spray from the steam-based stone cleaning system that will be used to remove the paint. Every effort will be made to keep the inconvenience to a minimum. However, we would ask everyone who uses the Anstice to bear with us while the work takes place and we are sure that local people will be delighted with the facelift. This work is scheduled to be complete by the end of December.

