

PARISH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

Over the last four years the Council recognised that the Parish Centre was coming to the end of its useful life and that the facilities needed to be updated, particularly with regard to energy efficiency, meeting disability access regulations and offering more flexible accommodation for hiring purposes and community use.

During the last twelve months discussions have intensified and the Parish Council has deliberated on possibilities for redeveloping the Parish Centre. Various options such as relocation were considered and the Council agreed that the most cost effective solution was to demolish the existing property and provide a brand new, flag ship building for the future. It is anticipated that the cost will be in the region of £1million.

Following recent public consultations the Parish Council is working with its architects to draw up final plans. Parish Council approval for these plans will be sought at the meeting on 16th February to enable submission to the planning authority as soon as possible.

The Policy and Finance Working Group has looked at the implications for borrowing funds to finance the project and has made recommendations to the Council for its meeting on 19th January.

A potential rise in precept this year of 15.47% (11.5% to fund loan repayments) is an increase of £10.14 in total (£8.04 for the loan repayment) on a Band D property. Future repayments will be funded from income raised on room hire in the new building and changes in additional expenditure.

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