



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNITY BUILDING AND RECREATIONAL HUB

RESOLUTION TO BORROW

At the Four Marks Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 23rd June 2021, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £1,000,000 over the borrowing term of 50 years for a new Community Building and Recreational Hub. The annual loan repayments will be at a fixed interest rate for the entire 50 year period, which translates to a Parish Council budget commitment of £34,500 per annum at today's rates. To meet these repayments, the Council also voted to raise the Parish Council Precept portion of the Council Tax by a 'one off' 25% increase which, based on this year's precept for a Band D property, would equate to an additional £16.35 per year, 31p per week per household (the same cost as own brand supermarket's Rich Tea biscuits).

Four Marks and its abutting population has and continues to grow rapidly to well over 5,000 individuals with a 30% growth in dwellings in just the last 15 years with no significant infrastructure added to existing facilities to compensate for the needs of this fast and large increase in population.

Cllr McCarthy, the current lead of the project team, said that *'the Council was currently in a chicken and egg situation in a bid to secure funding, in that one funding source was reliant on the other to be in place and planning permission granted, but the Council were reluctant to start spending public funds on the planning application without funding in place. The Executive Officer, Sarah Goudie, however, has been liaising with both EHDC and MCHLG, and a compromise has been reached to allow both applications to be considered without the other in place. Once funding is confirmed, the Council can move forward with this exciting project after years of deliberations and look forward to then working with the local community with consultations and drop in sessions to ensure that a facility is provided that will benefit everyone for many years to come.*

Cllr Kellie Knight, newly co-opted onto the Parish Council, wanted to ensure that the community are aware of how hard this current project team and those previously involved have worked to get to this stage, all volunteers working tirelessly for the benefit of the Community and was looking forward to becoming involved again. The Chairman, Cllr Janet Foster, also wished to add her thanks to everyone involved and looked forward to this project finally becoming a reality.

For a regular and detailed updates on this project please see the Council's website www.fourmarks-pc.org.uk, local social media platforms and the Four Marks News. If you have any views or opinions you wish to feed in, please contact the Parish Office, or email community.project@fourmarks-pc.org.uk