

CONSULTATION AND PRECEPT INCREASE SURVEY – END DATE 7 JANUARY 2022

Clive Parish Council – Financial Support to Clive Village Hall Refurbishment

1. What is this survey about?

Clive Village Hall Committee (CVHC) proposes a third (and final) project to refurbish the Village Hall and has requested a contribution of up to £7,500 from Clive Parish Council (CPC) as part of its own application for a £75,000 grant from Veolia.

At the November Council Meeting, while CPC was minded to support the proposal, it was unable to commit to payment within the timeframes set by the CVHC. To do so would have resulted in a considerable precept increase (approximately 19%), would have depleted the Parish Projects Earmarked Reserve and would also have required transfers from other Earmarked Reserves.

An alternative solution is for CPC to take out a Government loan of up to £7500 over 10 years.

As part of the borrowing approval process, CPC is required to undertake a consultation of Clive residents, with a clear majority being in favour of the proposal.

2. What are the figures?

Loan: £7,500 over 10 years

Total cost of loan: £8,145.80 (interest @ 1.6%), fixed annual repayments: £814.50 pa

Impact on Council Tax Precept: approximate 6% increase

Impact on Council Tax: Whilst we do not yet have the necessary figures from Shropshire Council (SC), we anticipate that the extra 6% for the loan will equate to about a £3 increase per year on Band D Council Tax. This increase covers only the CPC precept. Other precepts are made by West Mercia Police, Shropshire & Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority and Shropshire Council.

3. What is proposed for the Village Hall?

CVHC has previously carried out refurbishments of the kitchen/rear annexe and the roof. The current (and final) project is to refurbish the main hall, including:

- Upgrade the insulation of external walls, ceiling and underfloor area;
- Renew radiators to improve heating;
- Install more efficient and versatile lighting; a new hearing loop; sound system; additional electric sockets and, potentially, wifi;
- Remove the current false ceiling and return the hall to its original height, exposing the stained glass window above the stage;
- Rebuild the stage, adding the old church door as a feature on the gable wall;
- New flooring and window curtains/blinds;
- Redecorate the entire hall.

Full details are available on the CPC website – www.cliveparishcouncil.org

4. What is the total cost of refurbishment and is CVHC making its own contribution towards the costs?

While quotations are still in process, the project is expected to cost upward of £75,000 (which is the maximum grant Veolia may provide). The 10% third-party contribution requested from CPC to facilitate the grant is therefore limited to a maximum of £7,500.

CVHC will be making a contribution of approximately £10,000-£12,000. Should final costs rise above the amount of the grant, CVHC would need to make up any shortfall.

Should costs rise above CVHC reserves, the project would need to be reviewed or scaled back.

5. What is the timing?

- 6 Jan 2022 – CVHC submits grant application to Veolia, with, in principle support of CPC.
- 7 Jan 2022 – End of CPC consultation of residents
- 28 Feb 2022 – Final date for any minor amendments to CVHC's Veolia application
- 8 Mar 2022 – Veolia Board Meeting and decision on grant application
- Summer 2022 – Works start on hall

6. Why am I being asked now?

CPC needs to finalise its budget and submit its request to SC for the Council Tax Precept by the end of January.

7. What happens if the grant/loan application is not successful?

If CVHC is unsuccessful in its grant application, the loan will not be needed. CPC will withdraw the borrowing request. However, CPC's precept request to SC will already include the first year's loan repayments, i.e. £815. In this situation or if borrowing approval is not granted, the surplus £815 will be held in General Reserves and taken into account when setting the budget for 2023-24.

8. Is the work required now – could it be postponed to a later date?

It is best to schedule building works to take place during the summer, when the hall is least used. To facilitate this, it makes sense for CVHC to submit the grant application as advised.

CVHC is keen to manage this in the current grant round because:

- initial discussions about this grant application have already been favourably received by Veolia, following the previous projects;
- those most closely associated with the grant applications may not be able or available to do so in subsequent years.

SURVEY RESPONSE (one per household)

1. Are you in FAVOUR of the Parish Council supporting the Village Hall Refurbishment YES NO
2. Are you in FAVOUR of the Parish Council supporting the Village Hall refurbishment if it includes an extra 6% increase in the Council Tax precept (approximately £3 pa on a Band D property) for the purpose of the loan repayments? YES NO

Name			
Address			
Signed		Date	

Please return this questionnaire to the survey postbox in the porch of the Village Hall (next to the defibrillator), any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk, 11 High Fawr Close, Oswestry SY11 1TE **by Friday, 7 January 2022**

Data Protection: We are requesting name, address and signature to evidence proper consultation. Once responses have been validated, personal information will be removed and destroyed.

Additional forms are available on the CPC website - www.cliveparishcouncil.org