

Action Plan 2019/2020

Budget and Precept

Eckington Parish Council has agreed its budget for the financial year 2019/2020 of £? plus a support grant of £6,926. This equates to a precept increase of ?% or an additional £? per year for a Band D property.

Overall it is anticipated that income in 2019/2020 will be slightly higher than in 2018/19.

Expenditure in 2019/2020 will continue to be carefully managed and additional steps will be taken to try to reduce the running costs and increase the revenue at the Civic Centre. Accessing external funding will continue to be a priority.

Main Priorities

1 Continuous Service Improvement

In 2015/2016 the Parish Council committed to work towards Local Council Award Scheme accreditation. In 2018/2019 we continued to work on the criteria for LCAS but have had to defer accreditation. We will reconsider accreditation in May 2019 whilst continuing to work towards the Quality level.

Our Clerk and Assistant Clerk continue to make sure that the Council has relevant policies and procedures in place ensuring that we are compliant with all relevant legislation. A Finance Committee has been established to oversee financial arrangements and this committee will work to examine income and expenditure throughout the year and make appropriate recommendations to the Council. The Open Spaces Committee, along with the Community Halls and Premises Committee, will continue to make decisions and recommendations of matters within their individual remits. A Staffing Working Group has also been established to advise on employment matters.

The Parish Council is committed to continue and to increase partnership working with other local authorities, agencies and local groups.

In 2019/2020 the Council will continue to pursue actions which improve the quality of, and access to, our services for the benefit of the residents of the Parish.

2 Eckington Civic Centre

During 2017 the Civic Centre received a makeover using funds from the sale of an asset. With the new external cladding and signage, ramped access to a new parish office and interior alterations and improvements, the building is much more welcoming. Since then external funding has been acquired to install solar panels which are reducing our electricity bills, providing additional funds to maintain and improve the building and reducing our environmental impact. Further internal improvements have been made including an upgrade to the disabled toilet, inclusion of baby changing facilities. The Parish Council is now able to take payments electronically making financial transactions more accessible to our users.

The Civic Centre now has the facilities to be a destination of choice and we will continue to market the venue as aggressively as possible. We recognise that the Centre is an important community resource and whilst continuing to subsidise the running of the building and its activities the Council will endeavour to minimise that subsidy over time in order to use public money elsewhere in the Parish.

3 Community Engagement and Support

The Parish Council is now much more accessible with the creation of the Parish Office in the Civic Centre which is open to members of the public 10am until 12 noon on a Wednesday. The newly formatted quarterly newsletter, full of information about Parish Council's activities, is delivered to households, is available to collect from a number of retail outlets in the parish and is available on the Parish website. The

Parish Council and Civic Centre website and the Social Media pages are continually monitored and kept up to date.

The Parish Council will continue to support the provision of advice sessions in the Parish through grants to NED Citizens Advice and the DUWC. We will also financially support the summer activities for young people. A fund will also continue to be available for bids from community groups.

The Parish Council seeks to work in partnership with other parish groups where appropriate in order to maximise impact. We will continue to enhance our partnership working in 2019/2020.

4 Funding

The Parish Council has been very successful since 2017 with funding applications. Following on from these successful applications the Council intends to look for other funding opportunities during 2019/20 for projects in other areas of the parish. Some of the projects we have in mind are: improvements to the Community Halls in Renishaw and Marsh Lane; refurbishment of War Memorial in Marsh Lane and provision of a new memorial in Renishaw; provision of defibrillators across the parish. Our longer term projects include: upgrade of Ford picnic area; bringing the Chapel of Ease back in to use.

5 Market

The Parish Council has been concerned for some time with the declining number of market traders and the decrease in footfall at the regular Friday market. We have discussed initiatives to stimulate usage and will continue to progress these in 2019/2020.

Continuing Provision

The Parish Council's continuing provision includes:

- 1 Support for the Management Committees of the Community Halls at Marsh Lane and Renishaw and Spinkhill
- 2 Allotments
- 3 Cemetery
- 4 Market
- 5 Play Areas
- 6 Grant Scheme and Special Projects

There will be no reduction in service or provision in 2019/20.

The Parish Council would like to thank its staff who work to make the Action Plan a reality.

Recommendations

The Parish Council:

- 1 Approves the Action Plan 2019/2020