

## **Action Plan 2018/2019**

### **Budget and Precept**

Eckington Parish Council has agreed its budget and precept of £264,700 an increase 1.16% £259,580 plus a support grant of 13,852 for the financial year 2018/2019.

Overall it is anticipated that income in 2018/2019 will be slightly higher than in 2017/18.

Expenditure in 2018/2019 will be continued 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.

### **Main Priorities**

#### **1 Continuous Service Improvement**

In 2015/2016 the Parish Council committed to work towards Local Council Award Scheme accreditation and approved a Digital Strategy. In 2017/2018 we continued to work of the criteria for LCAS but have had to defer accreditation and further improvements have been made to our websites. We have appointed an Assistant Clerk to work with the Clerk from the new Parish Office located in the Civic Centre.

In 2018/2019 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. Through increased efficiencies we aim to reduce our admin budget during the coming year.

#### **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.

In the spring of 2018 the disabled toilet is to be upgraded and will include baby changing facilities making things more comfortable for visitors with limited abilities and carers with small children.

In 2018/2019 we aim to reduce our fuel bills and use the monies generated by the new solar panels to continue to maintain and improve the building.

#### **3 Community Engagement**

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 quarterly newsletter which is full of information about Parish Council's activities is delivered to households and available to collect from a number of retail outlets in the parish. The Parish Council and Civic Centre website and the Social Media pages are continually monitored and kept up to date.

In 2018/2019 we will carry out community consultation in preparation for future funding bids.

#### **4 Funding**

The Parish Council has been very successful during 2017 with funding applications, this has helped with the costs to improve the look of the Civic Centre and also helped to reduce the running costs. In June 2017 the Parish Council were awarded just over £28,000 from Viridor Credits for their 'Go Green' project. The funding was used for the installation of Solar PV Panels on the roof and the replacement of all internal

lighting with LED bulbs. All monies generated from the Feed-In Tariff will be ring-fenced for future maintenance and upkeep of the Centre. Whilst the current system will feed-in to the grid, the Parish

Council will consider installing batteries at some time in the future to store the electricity generated. It is anticipated that the technology to do this will be commercially available within the next 10 years.

In November 2017 the Parish Council received £32,348 from the BNED Leader Fund for the refurbishment of the disabled toilet at the Civic Centre, a new audio system, presentation equipment and a new kitchen.

The Council has received £10,000 from 'Awards for All' to upgrade the play areas at Darcy Road and Ridgeway.

Following on from these successful applications the Council intends to look for other funding opportunities during 2018/19 for projects in other areas of the parish.

### **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 2018/19.

### **Recommendations**

The Parish Council:

- 1 Approves the Action Plan 2018/2019