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Action Plan 2022 - 2023

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Action Plan 2022 - 2023

Budget and Precept

Eckington Parish Council has agreed its precept for the financial year 2022/2023 of £325,270. This equates to an increase of 4.0% or an additional £3.64 per year for a Band D property.

Overall it is anticipated that income in 2022/2023 will be slightly higher than in 2021/22.

Expenditure in 2022/2023 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

Our Clerk, Deputy 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 Working Party 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 Working Party, along with the Community Halls and Premises Working Party, will continue to make recommendations of matters within their individual remits. A Staffing Working Party has also been established to advise on employment matters. The Communications Working Party informs our residents about the work the Council is involved with and about the many events that are happening in the Parish. An Environmental Working Party has been set up to look at ways of reducing the Council's carbon footprint.

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

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, automatic doors, air-conditioning, new commercial kitchen equipment, sound system, projector and more efficient tills. The Parish Council is now able to take payments electronically making financial transactions more accessible to our users. The Council have welcomed a new member of staff in December 2021 who is working to transform the menus available to functions at the Civic Centre.

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.

The Council plan in 2022/23 to improve and extend the bar facility with the addition of a new till, they will also be looking at upgrading the kitchen facilities and sound proofing of the Derbyshire suite and Bluebell suite making these spaces quieter to hold functions at the same time.

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 2pm Monday to Friday. The newly formatted quarterly newsletter, full of information about Parish Council's activities, is delivered to households and 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 provide funding, available for bids from community groups, continues to support Eckington Summer Festival and organising food and drink festivals.

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.

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 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; provision of a new memorial in Renishaw; provision of defibrillators across the Parish. Our longer term projects include: 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 will continue to review and discuss initiatives to stimulate this usage.

6 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 – Council will be looking at how to improve the current market
- 5 Play Areas
- 6 Grant Scheme and Special Projects
- 7 Chairman and Clerk to look at the Councils legal documents and deeds

There will be no reduction in service or provision in 2022/23.

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

7 Climate Issues

The Council has established a Climate Change working party who will look at all aspects of reviewing and reducing their carbon footprint in all areas. The Council would also like to increase their efficiency

The Council are looking into planting additional trees at the Cemetery.

8 Lansbury Road Play Area Development

The Council are looking into investing in a super park at Lansbury Road play area.

Recommendations

The Parish Council:

- 1 Approves the changes to the Action Plan 2022/2023.