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Action Plan 2023 - 2024

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Action Plan 2023 - 2024

Budget and Precept

Eckington Parish Council has agreed its precept for the financial year 2023/2024 of £343,394.00. This equates to an increase of 4.9% or an additional £4.64 per year for a Band D property.

Overall it is anticipated that income in 2023/2024 will be higher than in 2022/23.

Expenditure in 2023/2024 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 Clerk, Civic Centre and Cemetery Manager 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. A Community Support Working Party has been set up to look at Council events and other community matters.

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 2022/23 the Civic Centre received grant funding for remodelling the ladies and gents toilets. The Council have secured the bar area by reinstating the shutters. Upgrades to the CCTV system along with other security measures. An additional till has been installed in the bar area.

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 2023/24 to improve and extend the bar facility, they will also be looking at upgrading the kitchen facilities. The Council also plan to redecorate the hall.

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 with the assistance of a social media contractor.

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 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 and a large park area at Lansbury site.

5 Market

The Parish Council has been working with a local resident and their team to bring back the market. The market has been very successful and continues to bring footfall into the Town. The Parish Council will continue this joint venture which is providing support for local shops and bringing residents together. Eckington Market is held every Friday 9am until 3pm.

6 Continuing Provision

The Parish Council's continuing provision includes:

- 1 Support for the Management Committees of the Community Halls at Marsh Lane
- 2 Allotments
- 3 Cemetery
- 4 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 2023/24.

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

7 Climate Issues

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 and have secured funding from North East Derbyshire District Council.

Recommendations

The Parish Council:

- 1 Approves the changes to the Action Plan 2023/2024.