

Shutford Parish Council

New Village Hall Survey

June 2015

Please take the time to read and respond- your opinion matters!

Dear Resident

As you may know, the possibility of a new village hall for Shutford has been under discussion for some time.

The Parish Council has **commissioned an independent organisation, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC)**, to undertake a survey to **find out if households are in favour of the Parish Council (PC) taking out a loan to part-fund the building costs of a new village hall on the existing site.**

This loan would have to be paid back by parishioners through the 'parish precept' (the 'precept' is a levy on the council tax which is then paid to the PC to help fund its activities).

What's the background?

2013

Questions about the current village hall were asked as part of the Parish Plan:

- 21/124 households responding (17%) wished to see the hall repaired
- 39/124 households responding (31%) wished to see the hall refurbished
- 64/124 households responding (52%) wished to see the hall rebuilt

2014-present

- From July 2014 to January 2015, five open community meetings discussed the building of a new hall
- The subject of a new hall has been regularly discussed in the *Shutford News*
- Potential designs for a new village hall were publically exhibited in October and November 2014
- Research by the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) indicated that a new hall would cost £300,000
- The VHMC made a presentation to the PC in January 2015. This outlined the case for a new hall and the need for a Public Works Loan (PWL) to part-fund it. The suggested loan amount was £150,000 (to be paid back over 25 years). After debate, the PC agreed to 'support in principle to apply for a PWL, subject to an independent survey of the village'.
- Planning permission for a new village hall has been approved: please be reassured this does not mean the building of a new hall is inevitable. **The opinion of the village must first be established, which is why this survey is being sent out.**

Where would the money to build the new hall come from?

The £300,000 cost of building the new hall would be met by the following:

- £100,000 Confirmed donations (ONLY towards building a NEW hall)
- £ 20,000 Village Hall funds
- £150,000 Proposed Public Works Loan
- £ 30,000 To be raised by the Village Hall committee

If the Parish Council took out a loan to part-fund a new hall, how much would it cost my household?

Based on information from Cherwell District Council, it is estimated that the Parish Council would have to pay £8770 per year for 25 years to pay back the loan. The table below explains what this would mean for your household. **IMPORTANT NOTES: 1- the quoted increases in the precept are current best estimates. They may rise or fall, depending on the interest rate when the loan is taken out; 2- the precept would be charged to the property for 25 years, not the council tax payer.**

Household property band	Precept currently paid (per year) by the household to the PC	Precept required to pay back the loan per year	Total rise in precept per year	No. of village homes in this property band
A	£19.75	£48.60	28.85	5
B	£23.04	£56.70	33.66	6
C	£26.33	£64.80	38.47	39
D	£29.62	£72.70	43.08	48
E	£36.20	£89.10	52.90	70
F	£42.78	£105.31	62.53	20
G	£49.37	£121.50	72.13	15
H	£59.24	£145.80	86.56	3

Please note that the results of this survey will determine the Parish Council decision to take out a Public Works loan. If a loan was taken out, every council tax paying household would be committed to paying the precept increase for the duration of the 25 year loan.

The survey is anonymous and confidential

- It does not ask for either name or address and this form cannot be individually identified.
- It is being conducted by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC). All information supplied will be kept confidential by ORCC in accordance with the Data Protection Act.
- No completed surveys will be made available to the Parish Council or anyone in Shutford.
- ORCC will analyse the survey results and prepare a summary report for the Parish Council
- For more information please contact PC clerk: shutfordpc2@fsmail.net; 01295 780479.

<p>Do you agree with raising the parish precept in order to fund repayments on a Public Works Loan to build a new village hall on the existing site?</p> <p>PLEASE TICK ONE BOX</p>	<p>Yes <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input style="width: 50px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>PLEASE PUT YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY IN THE ENCLOSED FREEPOST ENVELOPE AND RETURN BY 13 JULY</p>	