

Hall planning approval kick starts debate over funding

Planning permission to rebuild the ailing village hall on its existing site was granted this month after 27 villagers wrote in to support the plan. There was one objection.

News of this approval came shortly before a Parish Council meeting on March 11 where councillors voted to appoint and pay for an independent survey to establish whether a majority of households would support a decision to raise a loan for £150,000 to pay half of the building costs. Over 40 per cent of the money - £125,000 - has already been either raised from individual pledges or sits in Village Hall funds.

Repayments on a loan this size are expected to add “no more than the cost of a Mars bar a week” for the majority of households in the village.

Councillors said the survey will be commissioned “as quickly as possible” to ensure it is completed before the holiday season so as many villagers as possible can be consulted.

Plans for the rebuilding of the village hall were drawn up after the questionnaire used to develop the village plan showed that 84 per cent of respondents wanted to see the hall either rebuilt or refurbished. However, at the time of the survey, no price was put on the project. Now it has been, villagers will have to decide if they feel an increase in the council tax of what is expected to be less than £40 a year for a band D property is worth it.

**Shutford Village Hall
Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday 19th May 2015

at 7.30pm

in the Village Hall

Please come along, everyone welcome