



Chailey Parish Council

The Sports Pavilion, North Chailey - an update as at 11th July 2017

This is an update on the progress made by the Council on the proposed refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion in North Chailey. The pavilion is owned by the Council and is used by Chailey Sports Club and its affiliated clubs, Chailey Cricket Club and Chailey & Newick Colts Football Club.

Residents may recall that the project to refurbish the pavilion has been mooted for a number of years. The Pavilion is about 35 years old and urgently needs work to make it watertight and to bring it up to an acceptable standard. In some respects the building does not meet modern building standards and the works proposed include some improvement works to bring the building up to date. The works proposed also include making changes to ensure that the building meets requirements under equality legislation.

The Council has engaged the services of a firm of Chartered Surveyors to advise the Council and to assist with all aspects of the project. Planning consent for the proposed works has been received and the necessary building regulations applications have been made. A full specification for the works has been drawn up and tenders received for the works from three contractors.

The cost of the works, based on the tenders received, is much higher than previously anticipated. The Council has for some years held a reserve to undertake the works. Through its own fund raising efforts, Chailey Sports Club (which has also explored the possibility of obtaining grant funding from the FA) has accumulated funds which can be committed to the project. However, these two sources of funds will be insufficient to meet the likely costs of the project and the Council is currently exploring how the funding gap might be filled. Two avenues are being explored: the availability of other grants or similar and borrowing. It is perhaps unlikely that any grants that may be received will be sufficient to make good the funding gap and the Council is looking into the possibility of obtaining a loan to plug the funding gap to allow the project to proceed. The Council has the ability to borrow money at advantageous rates of interest over the medium or longer term. Taking out a loan would clearly have implications for the Council's budgets, perhaps for some years, and the Council is currently assessing how taking out a loan and meeting the required repayments would impact the Council's finances.

A further update on progress, including details of the project costs and how these are to be funded, will be published as soon as practicable. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions please address these to the Clerk at the Parish Office.