



Chailey Parish Council

The Sports Pavilion, North Chailey - an update as at 25th July 2017

This is a further update on the progress made by the Council on the proposed project to refurbish the Sports Pavilion in North Chailey and should be read in conjunction with the update published on the website on 11th July 2017.

Lewes District Council Building Control has now issued conditional approval for the proposed works. There is one condition to be met relating to the way in which rainwater will be disbursed.

On 18th July 2017 the Council considered the project in detail and, in particular, how the balance of the project would be funded. The Council is very keen to ensure that the important amenity provided by the Pavilion continues, allowing organised sporting activities to be enjoyed by all, and concluded that the proposed works must be carried out. The Council also concluded that there was no alternative to the Council borrowing the balance of the required funds (£38,000) in order to allow the project to proceed.

The Council is able to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board at favourable interest rates. An indicative quotation received shows that a loan of £38,000 over 10 years would attract a fixed interest rate of 1.67% per annum and would require annual repayments of about £4,140. The total interest paid over the term of the loan would be about £3,400.

As part of their deliberations, Councillors considered the possible financial effect on residents were the Council to take out a loan. The exact effect will only be known when future budgets are prepared. However, if in due course it was determined that the whole of each annual repayment has to be met from an increase in the precept, based on the data for 2017/18 an increase in the annual precept would be required of about £3.20p per annum for households in band D for Council Tax purposes. The increase would be lower for households in bands A to C and higher for those in bands E to H. However, it is hoped that that at least part of each annual repayment will be able to be met by making savings elsewhere in the Council's budgets.

The Clerk has been authorised by the Council to take the first step towards obtaining the loan, which is to make an application to the Department for Communities and Local Government for approval to borrow the money.

A further update on progress will be published as soon as practicable. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions or comments, please address these to the Clerk at the Parish Office.