

Changes to the village hall – things you might need to know

The village hall refurbishment project is making good progress, but needs help from your Parish Council. This letter explains how this might affect you, and how you could comment.

Artist's Impression of refurbished Holford & District Village Hall

The main features and benefits...

New northern extension with new small meeting room, with TV, for 10 people: **Better for small group meetings**

Existing building wrapped in insulation and rendered; larger windows front & rear: **Warm building with reduced heating costs**

New insulated roof with opening roof lights to let in much more natural daylight. Blackout blinds for evening: **A warmer, brighter building**

Modern toilets, accessible toilet and separate baby change: **Use less water, more comfort**

New larger entrance with sheltered seating area and larger brighter lobby. Two disabled parking bays. Wider internal doors; **More welcoming and easier for disabled**

New southern extension with green room / second meeting room / library and large storage areas – all chairs and tables now stored at floor level on trolleys: **Easier to move items in and out of hall**

Additional benefits...

Air Source Heat Pump: **Environmentally friendly – better temperature control**

New lighting: mains sockets with USB charge points: **More convenient and efficient**

Stage to be removed: **Larger usable space in main hall. Demountable stage when needed**

New separate pedestrian entry gates and wider two-way vehicular entrance: **Safer for all**
Bike Racks: **Convenient for cyclists**

Enlarged Car Park with 30 extra car parking spaces to be shared with Holford Cricket Club: **Less congestion - safer A39**

10 January 2018

The Parish Council has been approached by Holford & District Village Hall committee to help with the costs of the Hall refurbishment project. Project details on the reverse of this letter.

The total project has been estimated at £551,076, and the aspiration is to perform the work between May and October 2018. The hall’s committee has successfully secured funding from the Big Lottery and Hinkley Point’s Community Impact Mitigation Fund to the value of £332,000. Both grants require that the extra funds needed (£219,076) are in place before work can commence. If these funds are not in place, the £332,000 will be withdrawn.

Other charities have been approached to make up the difference, and the village hall committee has every reason to be optimistic that the full funding can be secured.

One of these charities is Viridor Credits. An application for £100,000 has passed the initial application stage, and is now timetabled for a final decision by Viridor Credits in late January 2018.

The Viridor Credits system stipulates that a ‘Third Party Contribution’ of 10% of the sum requested is paid to the parent company (Viridor Waste) from an independent source. The ‘third party’ cannot be the applicant (Village Hall) or project construction team.

The 10% (£10,000) is required because Viridor only receives tax relief on 90% of its grant. Without such a contribution, the grant cannot go ahead.

In October 2017 the Parish Council was approached by the Holford & District Village Hall committee to ask if we would consider the additional £10,000 funding. This matter has now been discussed at our January meeting, Minute 016/18. The Parish Council took a vote and it was decided they would like to support this request. However, the money would need to be raised by taking out a Public Works Loan over 10 years and the repayment of this loan would be by raising the precept. **The Parish Council Precept (included in your council tax) would need to increase by an estimated maximum of £7.50 per year (63p per month) per HOUSEHOLD to repay the loan.** It was agreed to further consult with all of the Holford Parish via this letter.

You are, therefore, invited to send any comments, specifying either support or objection to raising the funds in this way, to the Parish Clerk by Friday 19th January by completing the section below. Alternatively, emails may be sent to clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk

The returns will be analysed and extraordinary Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 22nd January in the Village Hall at 7.30pm when the public may attend and when a decision on this issue will be made

Chris Hayes
Vice-Chair – Holford Parish Council

I/ We ... SUPPORT raising the funds in this way
 OBJECT to raising the funds in this way

Any comments.....

Name and address.....

Please hand deliver or post to arrive by JANUARY 19th to The Plough Inn, Combe House Hotel or Coach House, 1, Alfoxton Park, Holford, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1SG clerk@holford-pc.gov.uk.