



Ripley Parish Council

The Parish Review

Summer 2015



Chairperson
Jennie Cliff
224051
Planning,
Environment,
Christmas
Event.



Vice-Chair
Caspar
Hancock
07974355625
Planning,
Environment,
Playground.



Councillor
Colin Cross
224107
Finance,
Environment,
Christmas
Event.



Councillor
Vernon Wood
225098
Planning,
Bonfire,
Christmas
Event.



Councillor
Richard
Ayears
224989
Planning,
Environment,
Finance.



Councillor
Lisanne
Mealing
225613
Finance,
Farmers'
Market.



Councillor
Suzie Powell-
Cullingford
225303
Planning,
Christmas
Event.



Clerk
Jim Morris
224847
Parish Council
Office,
High Street,
GU23 6AF.

Have Your Say

The Village Hall– Ripley's asset

Many local groups and organisations use the Village Hall, and most parishioners will have been to an event, class, party or other gathering there at some point.

The Ripley Village Hall building, a 'temporary structure' built over 40 years ago, is reaching the end of its life and the principle of a new Village Hall has the support of both Ripley Parish Council and Ripley Village Hall Trustees. Ripley Parish Council does not own the Village Hall building. The Village Hall is a registered charity governed by appointed Trustees. Your Parish Council is working with the Village Hall Trustees to find a solution. One Parish Councillor represents the Council at Trustees' meetings, and others are involved on behalf of other village organisations such as Shed Youth Club and the Bonfire Committee.

The purpose of this consultation is to outline the options regarding funding a replacement Village Hall. You may recall that some time ago the village supported Ripley Parish Council offering to part fund the redevelopment of the Village Hall, but not enough funds were raised. Subsequently, the Village Hall Trustees proposed one option of selling the outside grass area to a developer in order to fund the building of a replacement hall.

Your Parish Council considers this open space to be an important part of the site, and does not wish to see it sold off. Many villagers also see this as a village asset. As an alternative, Ripley Parish Council now proposes to raise the sum of £600,000 via a government loan to contribute towards a new hall. Further funds will most likely need to be raised, but our contribution will enable the Trustees to seek the balance needed via matching grants and donations.



The cost of producing this newsletter has been kindly covered by Wills & Smerdon, local Estate Agents.

The Public Works Loans Board

The Public Works Loans Board, or PWLB, is part of the UK Debt Management Office, which itself is an Executive Agency of Her Majesty's Treasury. Loans are available to government bodies and agencies such as Parish Councils, Fire Authorities, Borough Councils, and Police and Crime Commissioners. Surrey County Council, for example, has taken out £80m in PWLB loans so far this year. Current historically low interest rates on these kind of loans make now the ideal time to pursue large projects.

Precept

It is our intention to pay for this loan by raising the precept, which is the Parish Council's part of your Council Tax. The precept is the Parish Council's allocation of the Borough's Council Tax. All households in the Parish that pay Council Tax contribute towards the precept. This money is spent by the Parish Council on staff and projects around the village. The Parish Council's accounts are carefully budgeted and audited annually. Repaying a PWLB loan will increase the precept, and will affect all Council Tax payers in the Parish, most likely with effect from April 2016. The table, right, shows indicative figures for repayments on a £600,000 loan over 50 years. At approximately 4% interest, this equates to a projected precept rise of £35,000 in year 1. It is estimated that this would represent an increase of 2.65% on residents' overall Council Tax.

	Annually	Monthly
Band A	£29.11	£2.91
Band B	£33.96	£3.40
Band C	£38.82	£3.88
Band D	£43.66	£4.37
Band E	£53.37	£5.34
Band F	£63.07	£6.30
Band G	£72.77	£7.28
Band H	£87.33	£8.73

PLEASE NOTE: If the majority of respondents do not agree to a rise in the precept as outlined above, it is likely that the open space will be sold to a developer in order to raise funds to build a new hall. The options for the Village Hall are a stark choice between these two outcomes.

Our promise to the electorate is that your Parish Council will make budget savings wherever possible in order to keep the cost to you of a new Village Hall to a minimum. Ripley Parish Council also commits itself to reducing the precept whenever the opportunity arises in the future.

Consultation

Ripley Parish Council is holding a consultation at the Village Hall from 2-7pm on 4th and 10am-3pm on 5th September, and at the Farmers' Market on 12th September from 10am-1pm. The closing date for comments will be 25th September. This will enable everyone to have their say in whether they agree in principle with the Parish Council's offer to the Village Hall Trustees. Please come along and find out all the information or detach the form below and hand it in at the parish office, but either way, please make sure that you have your say. Alternatively, please email comments to RVHfunding@ripleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please indicate your house name/ number and postcode (we need to avoid duplicates).*	Are you the Council Tax payer for your property?*	Do you agree with the Parish Council's proposal to provide the Village Hall Trustees with a £600,000 grant?
	Yes/No	Yes/No

*This information is mandatory, without it we will be unable to include your response.