

E25. Derriads Barn Community Hall

Consideration was given to Report No.25 (circulated with the agenda) which set out the current position regarding the project, together with additional information requested by the Executive.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The history of the project.
- The recent meeting between the Lead Member, Officers, the Trust and Community First.
- It was extremely unlikely that the Trust would receive a Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.
- The Area Committees had funding available to assist with local community projects, but substantial capital funding for projects was not available.

Councillor J. H. Rooke had submitted the following questions:

“If the recommendation is approved does this mean that this Council is now completely 'washing its hands' of this project and would not consider engaging in any kind of partnership working to bring about a community use on this site?

Is NWDC expecting Chippenham Without Parish and/or Chippenham Town to take this potentially £1million project on without any chance of funding from this Council?

I understood that some of the capital receipt from Goldiggers was to be put to community uses in Chippenham. Is this not an appropriate use of such money?”

The Leader thanked Councillor Rooke for her questions and confirmed that she believed that this Council has adopted the right approach to community facilities such as these in expecting the lead to come from the local community. The Leader confirmed that the Council is very interested in facilities for the local community and is keen to work in partnership with community groups and local councils. This includes funding towards projects and there is a moderate partnership budget available through the Executive and the Area Committees.

The Leader confirmed that clarification will be sought as to the use of the capital receipt from Goldiggers and reported to Councillor Rooke.

Resolved

- (1) It be noted that the Boundary Commission met the Council on 2 June to discuss the Commission's review of the District boundary as well as the Council's proposed review of the Chippenham boundary. No decisions were made and the Boundary Commission is to come back to the Council



on whether the Chippenham boundary review can go ahead.

- (2) It be noted that the only way of ascertaining if the building could be demolished is to submit a listed building consent application to the Secretary of State.
- (3) It be noted that there are no suitable alternative sites for a purpose built facility in the locality.
- (4) It be noted that it is highly unlikely that an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be successful.
- (5) It be agreed that In the light of the above, the only feasible solution is demolition (subject to listed building consent approval by the Secretary of State) and retaining the site for open space for a future community building funded by the local community or parish council.

Administrator's Note: It was indicated that for the period of time it takes the Council to apply to the Secretary of State and receive the decision, the Council will support the Trust in its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.