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Action Plan 2024 - 2025

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Action Plan 2024 - 2025

Budget and Precept

Eckington Parish Council has agreed its precept for the financial year 2024/2025 of £365,638.00. This equates to an increase of 6.9% or an additional £6.85 per year for a Band D property.

Overall it is anticipated that income in 2024/2025 will be higher than in 2023/24.

Expenditure in 2024/2025 will continue to be carefully managed and additional steps will be taken to try to reduce the running costs and increase the revenue at the Civic Centre. Accessing external funding will continue to be a priority.

Main Priorities

1 Continuous Service Improvement

Our Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Civic Centre and Cemetery Manager continue to make sure that the Council has relevant policies and procedures in place ensuring that we are compliant with all relevant legislation. A Finance Working Party has been established to oversee financial arrangements and this committee will work to examine income and expenditure throughout the year and make appropriate recommendations to the Council. The Open Spaces Working Party, along with the Community Halls and Premises Working Party, will continue to make recommendations of matters within their individual remits. A Staffing Working Party has also been established to advise on employment matters. The Communications Working Party informs our residents about the work the Council is involved with and about the many events that are happening in the Parish. A Community Support Working Party has been set up to look at Council events and other community matters.

The Parish Council is committed to continue to increase partnership working with other local authorities, agencies and local groups.

The Council will continue to pursue actions which improve the quality of, and access to, our services for the benefit of the residents of the Parish.

2 Eckington Civic Centre

During 2023/24 the Civic Centre received grant funding for remodelling the ladies and gents toilets. Redecorating the Civic Centre throughout has made a real impact on the visual aspect of the building.

The Civic Centre now has the facilities to be a destination of choice and we will continue to market the venue as aggressively as possible. We recognise that the Centre is an important community resource and whilst continuing to subsidise the running of the building and its activities the Council will endeavour to minimise that subsidy over time in order to use public money elsewhere in the Parish.

The Council plan in 2024/25 to improve and extend the bar facility, they will also be moving the accessible toilet into the Foyer area taking it out of the bar area, so all the toilets are in the same area on entrance to the Civic Centre.

3 Community Engagement and Support

The Parish Council is now much more accessible with the creation of the Parish Office in the Civic Centre which is open to members of the public 9am until 4pm Monday to Friday. The newly formatted quarterly newsletter, full of information about Parish Council's activities, is delivered to households and is available to collect from a number of retail outlets in the Parish and is available on the Parish website. The Parish

Council website and the Social Media pages are continually monitored and kept up to date with the assistance of our new Social Media and Marketing Officer.

The Parish Council will continue to provide funding, available for bids from community groups, continues to support Eckington Summer Festival and organising food and drink markets.

The Parish Council seeks to work in partnership with other Parish groups where appropriate in order to maximise impact. We will continue to enhance our partnership working.

4 Funding

The Parish Council has been very successful with funding applications. Following on from these successful applications the Council intends to look for other funding opportunities for projects in other areas of the Parish. The largest project at present is the new play park at Stead Street, School Street, Eckington.

5 Market

The market has been very successful and continues to bring footfall into the Town. The Parish Council will continue to provide support for local shops and bringing residents together. Eckington Market is held every Friday 9am until 3pm. The Council would like to hold farmers and speciality markets throughout the year.

6 Continuing Provision

The Parish Council's continuing provision includes:

- 1 Support for the Management Committees of the Community Halls at Marsh Lane
- 2 Allotments
- 3 Cemetery
- 4 Market
- 5 Play Areas
- 6 Grant Scheme and Special Projects

There will be no reduction in service or provision in 2024/25.

The Parish Council would like to thank its staff who work to make the Action Plan a reality.

7 Climate Issues

The Council are looking into planting additional trees at the Cemetery with the assistance of a Derbyshire County Council Officer. The Council also intends to install solar panels at Renishaw and Spinkhill Community Hall.

8 Stead Street, School Street Development

The Council have now acquired the former Youth Centre at Stead Street. The Council have now submitted plans for the area to North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC). Eckington Parish Council have been awarded £200,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund managed by NEDDC to provide the play park and facilities.

This project is to create a large centrally located play park, with café, toilets and car parking, in Eckington, Derbyshire.

Eckington Parish Council has been working towards this play park since 2019, accumulating over £400k in earmarked reserves towards funding the £1127k development project and £260k site purchase.

The existing local play areas are small and offer very limited play opportunities for children, so children spend less time on one of the most important activities for children – healthy outdoor play with other children. This has often been raised by the community as a major lack in Eckington’s play provision.

The existing play areas also have no food/drink, toilet or disabled facilities, which means they are not suitable except for short visits, especially with the increase in grandparents looking after small children.

By creating a large play park with facilities, this will encourage much more active play, for longer periods, and including much more socialisation between children, as they play together.

The play park and café will also create a social hub for the community, with parents/guardians able to meet up while their children are playing.

The café will be operated by the Parish Council, which has considerable commercial experience and already generates substantial income from its operations at its 3 Community halls. The café will generate a surplus, to help fund operation of the play park.

9 Idas Playing Field

The Council are negotiating a lease for Idas playing field from the Learners Trust to maintain this space for the community to use. The Council would like to add a path around the perimeter of the site for walking and cycling. Paths will also be created with ramps and curves for cyclists. Logs and balance items will also be placed near the current play park. Benches will be installed around the perimeter of the site also.

10 Lansbury Playing Field

The Council have formed a working group to continue with the development of Lansbury playing field. The Council would like to develop the site as a whole but need to work on land assembly and drainage issues in order to achieve their vision.

11 Speed Indicator Devices

The Council have purchased 4 speed indicator devices, 3 of which will be static and not moved from their area but 1 will move around the parish. These are used to record data of vehicles using the roads mainly how many and what speed they are travelling. This data will be valuable to Derbyshire County Council when determining any action required in hot spot areas.

12 Community Orchards

The Council have planted fruit trees at the following sites:

- Marsh Lane Playing Fields
- Osmund/Ravenscar Road
- Ducksett

The Council will continue to maintain these sites.

Recommendations

The Parish Council:

- 1 Approves the changes to the Action Plan 2024/2025.