

Notice of Public Consultation

At the Debden Parish Council EGM meeting of 19th February 2020, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan of **up to £400,000 for the purpose of supporting a new Village Hall in Debden.**

The PWLB is a government backed lending facility which provides loans to local authorities. Subject to this consultation, It is intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of meeting the loan repayments, should the loan be required.

Therefore, all residents are invited to attend one of three public consultations to vote on the following question:

Are you in favour of Debden Parish Council proceeding with an application to the PWLB to support the Debden New Village Hall Project if it includes a council tax precept increase for the purpose of the annual loan repayments? YES / NO

The consultations will be held at Debden Village Hall on:

Thursday 5th March 7pm to 9pm

Saturday 7th March 11am to 3pm

Wednesday 11th March 7pm to 9pm

If secured, the Public Works Loan Board loan approval will underwrite the current shortfall of the New Village Hall project, in order to protect the MoD Community Covenant grant of £236,400.

As a Parish Council we must evidence that we have the majority support of Residents in order to apply for a PWLB.

The decision to put this mechanism to borrow in place is very much in your hands.

If you are unable to attend any of the consultations at the village hall, a letter including a survey form, with all relevant information, will be delivered to each household in the parish. It will be available to read and download on the village website: debden.org.

A 'Survey Monkey' for residents to vote online will be set up - details will be sent out via the letter and available on the website: debden.org

The Consultation will close on March 20th 2020.

At the consultation members of Debden Parish Council will be present to answer any questions, including information on example repayment figures and what it could cost each housing band per year based on various borrowing levels up to the £400,000 maximum being applied for.

Members of the Village Hall Trust will also be present to answer any queries about the the new village hall project as proposed and agreed by the trust.

If you have any views or opinions you wish to feed in, please contact Debden Parish Council.