

### Debden PWLB Precept Consultation

At the Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020, Debden Parish Council resolved to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for funding in support of a new village hall for Debden.

Given that repayment of any loan granted, if drawn down, would be made from the Parish Council Precept, with the Precept to be increased accordingly, the process requires that a consultation is held within the community to assess support, or otherwise, for such an application.

The Public Consultation commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> February at the Parish Council EGM and closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March. A number of communications were distributed to residents with information about the loan, and public meetings also held to discuss with residents and answer any questions.

Residents of Debden were offered the opportunity to cast their votes either:


- in person at the public consultation meetings (with a secure 'Ballot Box' provided by UDC Electoral Services);
- by post, direct to the offices of UDC Electoral Services or;
- online (via a Survey Monkey facility).

The votes were counted on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March by the Chairman of the PC, Stuart Walsh, Councillor Charlotte Diggins and Councillor Stephanie Watson, with the Rev John Saxon acting as independent observer of the process.

#### Question:

*"Are you in favour of Debden Parish Council proceeding with an application to the PWLB for a facility of up to £400,000 to support the Debden New Village Hall project which would currently require a council tax precept increase of 107% (equivalent to £ 17,492 a year or £45 a year for a Band D property) for the purpose of meeting the loan repayments?"*

Channel	Number of Votes Received	FOR	AGAINST	% FOR	Invalid Votes
In Person	77	59	18	77%	-
By Post	71	10	61	14%	-
Online	128	86	42	67%	7
Total	276	155	<del>121</del> 121	56%	7

Turnout as percentage of total eligible votes: <sup>51.</sup> 



Stuart Walsh  
Chairman Debden PC  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020



Reverend John Saxon  
Independent observe  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020