

Marden Parish Council

Community Facilities Working Group (CFWG) Meeting
on 31 March 2022 by Zoom

Notes of the Meeting

Present: David Bennett (Chairman and PC), Dave Lloyd and Dave Tidball (Marden Church), Chris Wathen (Parishioner), Kate Ryan (PC), Jess Tidball (MVT), Steve Miles (MRGT/Marden Academy)

In attendance: Alison Sutton, Parish Clerk. Member of Public x1.

1. **Apologies** – Paula Barrett (MVT), Angela Sasso (Parishioner).

2. Results of Opinion Poll held 1-28 February 2022

- Noted that of 189 responses (32% response rate), 67.2% stated 'no' to supporting a further increase in the Precept to repay a PWL of £500k, 32.3% stated 'yes' and 1 response stated 'undecided'.
- Parishioner felt some people gave result in vacuum without important information and therefore hearts and minds not won over; need to market better
- Noted that timing very unfortunate in relation to economic situation.

3. Actions following result of Poll

- Briefing paper tabled –
 - Noted that need for new facility has not changed
 - Pre-School and Academy growing, need to release current community centre to them is increasing
 - Core Strategy review call for sites (Strategic Land Availability Assessment – SLAA) likely to lead to various plots of land being put forward in Marden and likely to be allocated, as parish will undoubtedly have to provide more houses from Core Strategy review
 - Increase in parish population and properties even without New House Farm houses
 - Need to see if possible for Academy to assign new leases to allow it to repay clawback if invoked by MVT giving up leases, so MVT only running one facility; note that S106 monies from NHF may be split between 4 schools in area
 - Need to see if way round MVT being able to pass funds from clawback to PC as rent; even if all clawback in funding pot, still not enough
 - Once planning approved, most important thing is talking to developer, ideal would be for them to build community centre
 - Need large donors as well as grants and PWL
 - Parishioner suggested soft loans from some parishioners – but PC still needs to show how can be paid back and would need precept increase to cover repayments on top of PWL repayment
- Recommend to PC that organise Working Group of 2 representatives from Academy, Pre-School, MVT and PC to: agree what trying to do; discuss issues each organisation has; agree solutions.

4. Next steps –

- No more architectural work until planning approved
- Talk to developer before move forward with architect
- Once Jubilee events happened, no more fundraising until planning approved but community engagement events will continue to be considered
- In News & Views and social media that PC and CFG respect views of community given in Opinion Poll and now looking for other funding options
- Recommend to PC re Working Party as above.

5. **Next meeting** – TBA end of April or later, once Working Party in process.