

FULL COUNCIL

8th August 2022

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

As Members are aware, there is a full council election in May 2023. In advance of that, from October 2022 – January 2023, the current Council will have to set the budget for the year April 2023 - March 2024.

Given that it is possible some of the current members will not be Councillors at the time the budget is used, it seems more important than ever in the council cycle to deliver a budget with a more detailed justification to inform future committees and members, and also to demonstrate a continuity plan for the coming years.

This is also an opportunity post-Aldi to establish some concrete priorities to work with the District and County Councils on, as well as deliver as a Town Council, if possible.

To do this it is suggested that some public events and consultation are held in order to gain an insight in to the priorities of residents.

Obviously, it may not be possible to solve as a Town Council most issues that come up, but if the Council were to focus on prioritisation, then future decisions can be shown to be justified on the basis of demand (priority) versus other constraints such as budget or responsibility.

It would also help the Town Council when other Councils ask for input in to policies, such as SHDC requesting a 'Town Plan' as part of their 'Better Lives for All' policy.

The event could be used by other groups and organisations to engage too to help them see what demand there is maybe for them to diversify into, or partner with, the Town or other councils to deliver.

It is proposed to hold the in-person events on Saturday the 10 September in the morning, and on Thursday 15 September in the afternoon/early evening.

If this is to happen, it will need Councillors to support the events and help develop how the events will work, and any questionnaires, explanation boards etc.

Members are asked to discuss this proposal, or any other suggestions and volunteer to work with the Town Clerk and colleagues to develop and deliver the events in the relatively short window of opportunity that there is.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk