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Chairman: **Cllr Fred Jones**

DEVOLUTION OF SERVICES BY SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Over the last 6 months we have been making you aware of Shropshire Council's financial difficulties and their requests to town and parish councils to support local services within their individual areas. The two services currently under discussion in Bayston Hill are the local library and Lyth Hill Country Park. Future discussions are likely to take place around the maintenance of verges and open spaces.

At the July Full Council meeting the Parish Council resolved in principle that it wished to support the library, which is threatened with closure by Shropshire Council from April 2017. Many residents will already be aware of the plan to build a Community Hub to house both the library and the Parish Council offices; however these plans are still a year or two ahead and are subject to further consultation and planning permission. In the meantime the library could be closed by Shropshire Council. The Parish Council is entering into discussions with Shropshire Council to establish the best way to protect the service financially, until such time as the library can be relocated into a shared community building.

There will be an information sharing event arranged in the library on Tuesday 18 October (2–4pm) and Saturday 22 October (10am – 12pm) to provide more details. The matter will also be discussed at the next LJC meeting on 15 November 2016. It is hoped that these events will encourage local residents to form a 'Friends' group to help raise funds and generate other types of income to support the library in the longer term.

The Parish Council also resolved to support the upkeep of Lyth Hill Country Park, provided it was also supported by Longden Parish Council. Longden Parish Council also agreed this in principle and is consulting with their residents. Both Parish Councils believe that the best organisation to manage the hill is Shropshire Council, which has a team of experts in the wide number of issues affecting the site. The proposal is therefore to negotiate a shared financial contribution with Shropshire Council. Negotiations are at an early stage, but once again, this is likely to have an impact on the Precepts of both parishes. The impact in percentage terms will differ as the two parishes presently have very different Precepts and population sizes, however the financial contribution will be equal.

These decisions are likely to have a financial impact on the Parish Council from 2017/18 and the Council would therefore like to know your views on whether you consider the additional costs justify a small increase in the Parish Precept. A slip at the bottom of the page shows the annual costs of the library and Lyth Hill to a typical Band D household and you are asked to indicate whether you would support the indicated increases in your Precept with effect from April 2017 to protect these local services.

If you would like to give your views please tick the relevant boxes below and return the slip to the Parish Office or place it in the collection box located in the library. Slips will also be collected after the LJC meeting. If you would like to find out how you can get involved in supporting either service by assisting with fundraising or volunteering, please contact the Parish Office.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE SLIP – BAYSTON HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Indicative cost of services (2016/17 costs):

Library	£28,040
Lyth Hill	£8,656 (50% contribution to total cost of £17,311)
Total Cost	£36,696

Additional cost breakdown by Council Tax Band:

Council Tax Band	Current Precept	Additional annual cost of Library	Additional annual cost of Lyth Hill	New Annual Precept	Weekly increase in cost per household
D	£71.94	£16.00	£5.00	£92.94	£0.40

Please give your views by ticking the relevant boxes below:

I am a resident of Bayston Hill and would be willing to support an increase in the Parish Precept to retain the **LIBRARY**

YES

NO

I would be willing to support an increase in the Parish Precept to retain **LYTH HILL COUNTRY PARK**

YES

NO

In order to ensure that we have a uniform spread of responses would you kindly indicate your post code in the box below.

Postcode:

Please return your slip as soon as possible and by 18 November 2016 at the latest.

Caroline Higgins
Clerk to Bayston Hill Parish Council