

Ockbrook & Borrowash Parish Council

Wednesday 6th February 2019

DCC Report

(Cllr Robert A Parkinson)

Library

DCC Cabinet, on 20th December 2019, approved its plan for libraries with some amendments:

- Supporting groups running community managed libraries (CMLs) with five years of grant funding, rather than four
- Making £50,000 available to pay for independent support for CMLs
- Seeking help from Locality (a national network supporting community organisations) to support CMLs
- Giving more support and assistance in the financial processes of running a CML for the first two years
- Managing the transition to a CML, with council staff support for the first two years
- Helping with recruiting and training volunteers, and developing eLearning packages
- Ensuring the council includes support for CMLs in any new staffing structure
- Trialling the Smart library idea before any implementation
- Keeping the existing DVD stock and loaning them free of charge until March 2021.

The proposal for Borrowash Library to be offered to volunteers remains in place. Throughout this process, DCC leadership have been clear that *no libraries will close* and I have not seen anything to the contrary.

My understanding is that it is now intended to carry out an exercise to try to recruit volunteers. The latter may or may not be forthcoming, but there will certainly be some interesting and lively discussions. Should the recruitment exercise not be successful, then there will need to be further consultations to determine the way forward, so all is not yet decided.

Budget 2019/2020

Plans to increase council tax by a lower than predicted amount of 3.99% have been recommended for approval by Derbyshire County Council's cabinet.

The budget proposals, which include the lower council tax rise instead of an earlier predicted 4.99%, continued investment in road improvements and targeted spending on services for vulnerable older people and children, will now be considered by Full Council when it meets on Wednesday 6 February.

The budget for 2019 to 2020 is proposed to be set at £519.5m, with £329.4m coming directly from the council tax which, for a Band D property, would rise by £25.44 per year or 49p per week.