Community Laptop/Projector and WiFi

email from Alex Tasker: Dec 22 2013

Happy Christmas everyone. and a healthy and happy 2014.

I have made this an open email deliberately so that everyone can see whom I have contacted and add missed names to your individual copy lists. I apologise if this publication of your email addresses upsets anyone but I think they are all publicly known anyway.

East Devon District Council (EDDC) Planning Department, in a further attempt to reduce costs will, from April 2014, conduct all planning applications, reviews, assessments and comments from interested parties on line. To this end it will be necessary for your Parish Council to address those applications electronically.
1. 	This could be done in it's simplest form by downloading the relevant application/s, Access Statements and supporting documents plus all drawings and plans on to a memory device: purchasing a laptop and everyone gathering round the screen to discuss and deliberate. Experience to date has shown that this can be problematical in that it is difficult to see the required detail and, at times, we need to compare current with past applications. We think, therefore that we would also need a screen (or blank wall in the Hall) and a projector.
Cost around £900 - £1000 (incl. software)
2. 	In going this far, we have been discussing if these requirements could be of wider community use. The upgrading to a ceiling mounted wide-screen (4.0m x 3.0m) projector and screen would allow permanent use for any and all public presentations [I am thinking of Annual Parish Meetings as well as our Planning Application appraisals, History Soc. talks, school, drama backdrop and, with Blu-ray capability, possible film shows/Moviola etc.].
Extra cost above item 1 approx. £1500 (Total cost approx. £2500)
NOTE: the ceiling mounted equipment should neither extend below the current items nor beyond the stage curtain rail and therefore not interfere with badminton.
3. 	Rather than having to rely upon downloading all that might be needed to make a planning recommendation, it would be better to have the Hall wi-fi enabled. A router could easily be mounted in a secure tamper-proof place. In adding this feature, it would seem advantageous to provide a phone for emergencies and use by users/hirers of the Hall.
Additional cost £120 plus on-going rental of £30/month for broadband and internet phone. (Total cost £2620 plus £30/mo)

WE BELIEVE THAT THE CAPITAL COST OF ANY OF THSE OPTIONS WOULD BE COVERED BY AVAILABLE GRANTS. On-going costs would NOT be covered. The figures above are excluding VAT which Parish Councils do not have to pay.

Can you please open this discussion to your relevant Clubs and Societies and people in general and let me have your responses by 10 January 2014 so that we can begin our grant application. I will ask David Dodd if he can add this to out parish web site [*www.membury.org.uk*] and allow comments to be made there.
Any questions then please contact either myself or Nick Yool or Richard Barrell (Vice -chair Hall Committee).