

VISITOR CENTRE 7

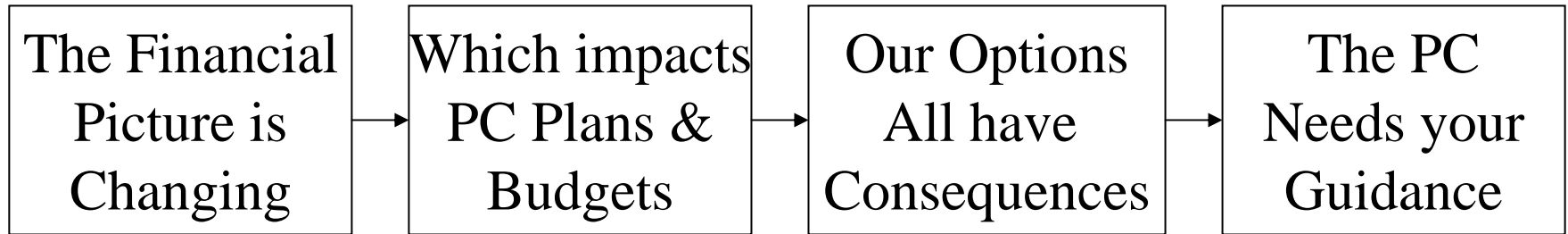


Where do we go from
here?

Extraordinary Parish Council
Meeting

18th May 2011

Why this Meeting?



- understand how you would like us to respond
- not a budgeting or decision making meeting

Plans, based on your views, will be developed once we know full facts/timing & will impact decisions on the library and next years precept

Background

- Parish Precept is £43,300
- Porlock has already lost c.£11000/year from SCC and WSC, mainly Visitors Centre
- The closure of the library will cost us £7500/year (i.e. lost rent, rates + costs transferred to us)
- WSC are planning to “transfer” services to us but probably no money e.g. Toilets, Street Cleaning. No details yet received
- WSC are abolishing discretionary rural rate relief next year which will add to the costs of the Village Hall (£360) & Doverly Manor (Museum) (£372)

We need to decide what's important to us as a Community and what we are prepared to lose or fund

Where Does our Money Go?

The majority of our Precept goes on:

- Parish Office (3 days/week)
- Legal, Insurance & Administrative costs
- Grounds Maintenance inc Cemetery
- Old School Premises
- Annual Funnies e.g. £3000 for legally required tree survey

We then support key Community facilities e.g.:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| - Recreation Ground | £3000 | - Visitors Centre | £4000 |
| - Village Hall | £1000 | - Doverly Manor | £1500 |
| - Lovelace | £ 500 | | |

Library Situation

- Closes in October
- Strong support for a Community Library
- 85% would contribute to costs + offers of help
- SCC would leave books/shelves etc + reroute mobile library
- some transition funding may be available
- decision required by end June

Looks viable IF we can find a way to absorb rent/rates etc

How Big is the Hole?

The financial hole is:

- £7500 per year (impact of library closure)
- plus a PC subsidy to partially support a community library, say £2-3,000?
- plus additional costs heading our way for toilets, street cleaning etc. Not known but significant.
- plus impact of lost rate relief

**We do not know exact figures but in broad terms
c. £10,000+ for the PC plus toilets/street cleaning etc**

How can we fill the Hole?

- 1 By cutting costs, i.e. administration, grants and services, or
- 2 By raising the Precept, or
- 3 A combination of both

Comparative current precept levels (Band D) are:

- Porlock	£59.63	- Selworthy/M-H w/o	£29.88
- Williton	£81.49	- Cutcombe	£35.12
- Minehead	£72.30	- Dulverton	£62.95

The Two Extremes

Solution 1: Cut all funding to current facilities, don't establish a Community Library + find ways to reduce discretionary costs

Solution 2: Raise the Precept from £60 to +/- £80 per Band D property and protect current facilities

What's the answer? Solution 1, Solution 2, Some combination?

In deciding how to respond the Parish Council will be guided by your views on what is best for Porlock