

Message to Residents

The Glebelands Opportunity

Ferring Parish Council (FPC) were in discussions with West Sussex County Council (WSCC) from early 2015 with respect to the possible purchase of the Glebelands Community Centre. This was in accordance with the planned arrangements of the Ferring Neighbourhood Plan (FNP).

In 2018 FPC agreed provisional terms, subject to contract, with WSCC for the possible freehold purchase and FPC also commenced a Project to evaluate the viability of such a purchase. At this time circumstances had changed with respect to the FNP because the Village Hall management committee decided not to be involved. Thus, the provision of a new Community Centre for Ferring as previously envisaged, was not possible but the opportunity to purchase the Glebelands Centre still remained.

At the start of the Covid pandemic in March 2020 it became evident that completion of the evaluation and the public consultation would be adversely affected by the lockdown restrictions and unlikely to be completed by the required date of October 2020. In view of the above FPC considered it necessary to request an extension to the provisional terms.

Whilst WSCC were unable to agree to an extension in respect of the terms previously agreed, they have confirmed that they may be receptive to an approach from the Parish Council to purchase the freehold in the future, subject to agreement of terms and funding being available at the time. WSCC also remain committed to the existing lease agreement dated January 21st 2013 for the term of 25 years.

In summary, at this time, FPC are not pursuing any activities with respect to the possible purchase of the Glebelands Centre.

(May 2021)