

Orleton Parish Council

The Parish Council wishes to inform you about some recent financial decisions, including the precept for 2016-17, support for the 490 bus service, and resurfacing project at the village hall and recreation ground car park.

Parish Council Precept, 2016-17

In reviewing the precept for 2016/17 last November, the parish council was conscious of the need to continue all the existing commitments and also of the need to resurface the Village Hall Car Park and to tarmac the car park extension which serves the recreation ground. It was also apparent that the 490 bus service was under threat, and there has been a suggestion that Leominster Library might require support to maintain the service. Taking all these matters into consideration, the parish council allocated £5,000 to support the village hall, £5,000 to support village amenities, and £3,500 to contribute to local services such as the bus service and library. The 2016-17 precept is available to view at: www.orletonvillage.co.uk.

Resurfacing village hall car park

The parish council has recently appointed a contractor to resurface the village hall car park, including the adjacent car park extension on the recreation ground. This project, based upon a full specification agreed with the village hall committee and recreation ground, will cost in excess of £30,000. The parish council appointed the contractor that quoted the lowest cost for delivering the specified work.

Parish council loan

The cost of resurfacing the village hall car park will need to be paid for in part with a loan of £20,000 repayable over 10 years. The money can be borrowed cost effectively from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) which will charge a fixed interest of around 1.5 %. The parish council has applied to the government for permission to borrow the funds; once government permission is obtained the parish council anticipates the resurfacing work will be carried out in the next two months.

490 bus service to Ludlow

The parish council has agreed to provide £2,000 to help pay for the off peak 490 bus service between Orleton and Ludlow, which would otherwise have been cut from 10 April 2016. Other parish councils and Leominster Town Council are providing financial support for the off peak service as well. Herefordshire Council has responded positively to this initiative, confirming “*that these contributions will assist in the retention of the off peak service 490 journeys between Leominster - Ludlow which will now continue to operate at the existing times and days beyond [10 April 2016]. It is anticipated that should further funding become available it will be possible with a contribution from Herefordshire Council to retain the journeys until April 2017*”.

Your parish council, our community

The parish council wants to support the local community, and this was the motivation behind the projects highlighted that have required an increase in the 2016-17 precept (+26%). This increase amounts to about £1.25 per month for the average Band D house. It is hoped that you will agree projects such as the village hall car park and the bus service justify this increase. The parish council will be able to support other projects as well using the allocation in the 2016-17 precept for village amenities.

Richard Jack, Chairman, Orleton Parish Council.