

I have received the statement below from Councillor Janet Parish, Chairman of Stretham Parish Council. As it relates to items 7 and 8 on the Finance and Assets Committee agenda, please could you circulate it to all Members and substitutes of the Finance and Assets Committee and publish it on our website as an additional information item.

Many Thanks  
Sally Bonnett  
Director Communities ECDC

Dear Sally,

I am writing to update you on the latest position from Stretham Parish Council on the Stretham Community Hub.

I would like to clarify and assure the District Council that the GIF and CIL funding applied for is for Phase 1 and Phase 3 of the scheme, i.e the Hub and the GP rooms. The grant will not be used for Phase 2 of the scheme which is the CLT proposals.

£650,000 Public Works Loan Board

There has been much chatter about this in the village. I would like to reassure the District Council that Stretham Parish Council has had discussions with the Public Works Loan Board who have confirmed that the project meets the requisite criteria and in principle would support an application after planning permission is secured.

I would expect, if the District Council were prepared to approve our grant applications, that there would be a condition requiring Stretham Parish Council to provide written evidence of secured funding and that no monies would be passed to Stretham Parish Council without this written evidence.

Parish Poll

A Parish Poll was conducted on 10 November 2022. The question was:

'Do you agree that all further activity and spending on the Village Community Centre should be paused until after the Parish Council elections in May 2023? Yes or No'.

The turnout was 474 (29.49%) and a majority (317) voted yes.

Prior to the Parish Poll Stretham Parish Council took the decision to progress with plans for the Community Hub. Stretham Parish Council are minded to continue with the plans to progress the Community Hub without delay. The reasons for doing so are simple:

1. Delay will only result in increased scheme costs;
2. Concern that grants may not be available if there is further delay; and
3. We may lose the opportunity to bring the GP premises into the Community Hub

I trust this information clarifies where we are with the project.

Councillor Janet Parish

Chairman of Stretham Parish Council