

Please use this space to make comments and put forward any other suggestions on how this money could be used, thank you.



Recap and Information:

Desborough Town Council wants to hear from the residents about the financial reserves it has.

This is the start of that process and the option for the town to use some of the reserves to buy the library is being put forward by DTC.

If you want to contribute to the discussion you can:

- ☀ Fill in the tear-off portion of this leaflet and post it in the box in the library
- ☀ Email admin@desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk with your response (based on the tear-off portion)
- ☀ Complete the more detailed online survey on the DTC website - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H72563H>
- ☀ Pick up a paper copy of the survey from the DTC Offices in the Library if you prefer.
- ☀ Use the QR code below



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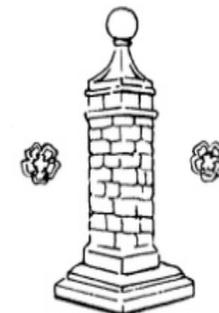
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Desborough Town Council Autumn 2018 Update

As changes in local government approach with the creation of two Unitary Authorities to replace the almost bankrupt County Council, town and district councils are considering what to do with their current financial reserves. Desborough as you know has been subject to very high precepts over the last three years and has a lot of money in 'the pot' but the proposals of the previous administration are largely uncoded, vague and unworkable. The Town Council has a responsibility to set a precept to cover its costs as there could be future caps placed on these. If this Town Council set an unrealistically low precept, it could cause financial problems for future Town Councils which would not be the right or proper thing to do. A 'win' now for the current Council is short-sighted, as every Councillor believes in the town, its future and wants to do the right thing for all residents.

There is money to use sensibly but of course, this needs to be done with the town's support. This is why DTC is sending out this leaflet, to start the process of discussion so that it can work towards a solution which meets the needs of the town over the next year and a half.

The Town Council realises this is a question to which there are no simple answers, so DTC has one initial idea to present to the residents which is further explained in this leaflet. This is just the start of the process.



Should the Council use some of its reserves to buy the library?

As explained on the front page, the changes in local government approach with the creation of two Unitary Authorities will happen in 2020, although the final decision has not yet been taken formally. Desborough has very high financial reserves, and the Town Council wants to involve the whole town in discussing how to use these.

There is more than £400,000 held in DTC accounts.

As we are sure you also know, our library has been threatened with closure for more than a year now although the pause in the process brought about by the actions of our residents has allowed more time to plan what can be done. A Charitable Incorporated Organisation Desborough Library and Community Hub (DLCH) has been set up to take over the library if NCC agrees. There has been a positive initial meeting with a decision due soon.

Although nothing is guaranteed yet, DTC and DLCH have been working hard to seek funding to purchase the building as we believe that the only way to protect it is for the town to own it; and when we say town, we mean town not DTC. The Town Council has been successful in finding £150,000 so far, plus the £120,000 reserved by DTC in its last budget towards the costs involved with the library. There is a price tag of £360,000 but this is market value and there will be negotiations about this. But as it stands, there is a further £90,000 to find in order to buy the library.

Of course, more grants are being applied for and this approach will continue, but DTC feels that approaching NCC with a thorough business

plan and a clear vision, both of which the County Council agreed we have, plus a guarantee that there is the money to buy the building in place would be a very attractive proposition.

However, DTC feels equally strongly that the residents must be involved and have their say - after all it is the town's money collected through taxes. We have to move quickly so we can have our plans in place so we are asking a very simple question - do you agree that the library (with all of the plans to make it even more of a community hub than it is now with many new offerings and events) should be bought and saved by the community for the community?

To help us gauge how the town feels, please complete the tear-off section and return it to the Library by 21st. December 2018.

There will be Councillors and DLCH Trustees available in the Library on Gala Night (30th. November) to discuss DLCH's vision (which is just a starting point but driven by ideas put forward by residents) and it would be great to see you there.

If you can't make the date, then email admin@desboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk. There will be also a box in the library for the tear-off responses.

DTC is seeking views on other ways to use the financial reserves and there is an online survey on the DTC website or alternatively paper copies are available from the DTC Offices in the Library.



Over to You

(Desborough Town Council takes your data seriously and will only hold your personal details for as long as is necessary. We will only use this data to verify that you are resident in the area. The Council will not share your personal details with any third party unless required to do so by law or if you have expressly permitted us to do so).

Name:

Address:

Tel. no:

Email address:

**Do you agree that using some of the Desborough Town Council reserves to buy the library building is a good thing?
(Please answer 'Yes', 'No' or 'Unsure')**

It would be very useful to to know why you answered as you did if you don't mind explaining.

The closing date for comments is 21st. Dec. 2018