



Flitwick Town Council Press Release

20th May 2019

Council Announces Plans To Transform Flitwick Town Centre

A planning application to transform the centre of Flitwick has been submitted by Flitwick Town Council.

The proposal is to build new community headquarters on Station Road for two of the town's most successful organisations, the Flitwick Scout Group and the Royal British Legion. Currently both organisations have separate buildings which are in need of substantial repairs and are no longer fit for purpose. They currently have no parking facilities, which has restricted their use and the growth of the organisations.

Sharon Long, Major Projects Co-ordinator at Flitwick Town Council, said: "We're delighted to propose this new project, which will help to create a rejuvenated town centre. The new, substantially bigger, building would provide much improved headquarter facilities for both organisations. Each organisation will have its own separate entrance point, and section of the building. And the wider community will benefit from having a new community building in the town centre that's available to hire.

"After the organisations relocate to the new headquarters building, the suggestion is that their current site is cleared and redeveloped to create a short-stay shoppers' car park with 24 spaces. This could provide much-needed parking for people wanting to visit the local shops in Flitwick Town Centre, and help boost trade for local retailers and businesses."

The Town Council is also proposing that a retirement living facility is built on the remainder of the land it owns on Station Road. This would give the over 55's community an opportunity to remain living independently in privately-owned flats close to all the town centre facilities. The sale of this land to a private developer will release the necessary funds to build the new headquarters building and provide the car park.

The design of the Station Road scheme will incorporate as much open space and green landscaping as possible, and the existing Station Road play area and public footpath will remain.

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The proposed project is part of the Market Towns project, which the Town Council is delivering in conjunction with Central Bedfordshire Council's Market Town Regeneration Fund.

Kate McFarlane, Assistant Director of Regeneration at Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "Our Market Towns project overall is designed to transform the appearance and accessibility of the town centre of Flitwick. To complement the Town Council's Station Road project, substantial road and public area improvements are planned around The Avenue, Kings Road and Station Road area, with work expected to commence later this year."

You will be able to read more about the planning application online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning, once it is listed on the planning portal.

Ends.

Notes to editors:

The Town Council is committed to both providing more open space and upgrading and improving existing open space in its ownership throughout the town, with areas as diverse as Flitwick Manor Park and the Millennium Park, the play area of which is currently being refurbished, and it's proposed development of a new country park on Maulden Road.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) invited bids from its 11 town councils for a slice of £4m in capital funding from its Market Town Regeneration Fund. The money has been made available from CBC's own funds and provides the opportunity for the town councils to work in partnership with it, to help reinvigorate their market towns. Town councils were invited to submit bids, in conjunction with local businesses and the wider community, which demonstrated a comprehensive approach to making better places; unlocking barriers to growth and creating economic uplift that improves the quality of local life.