

Have your say on the future of the Police Station Site

Back in June, Southwold Town Council were successful in getting the Police Station site designated as an Asset of Community Value.

The Police and Crime Commissioner has now advised the Town Council that as owner of the site, they are intending to dispose of it.

This starts a process under the 'Asset of Community Value' procedures, whereby the Town Council, as nominators, have the opportunity to express a non-binding interest in buying the site and the police cannot sell the site during this period.

At its meeting on 28th July 2020 the Town Council unanimously agreed to express a non-binding interest to purchase. By making this agreement, a 4.5-month moratorium period is triggered which means that the owners cannot sell the site during this period either. This moratorium period expires on 16th January 2021.

By making the agreement the Town Council has enabled any interested community group to be able prepare a bid and raise funds and then join the bidding process to purchase the site for community use on the open market. At the end of the period the owner can decide who they wish to sell the asset to and for how much. The Town Council has not yet considered whether it would wish to make a bid – this would depend on the costs involved and what community use might be eligible and be given planning permission.

The bid for the asset has to be for community use – 'to further the social wellbeing or social interest of the local community.' Examples of assets that might be defined as having 'community value' include sport and leisure centres, libraries, theatres, museums, community centres, town halls, a village shop, a market or a village pub. All are subject to relevant planning legislation, which may or may not permit a change of use on the asset.

The Town Council would like to hear from you with any suggestions for potential community uses that could be included on the site – please e mail into the Town Hall on admin@southwoldtowncouncil.com with your ideas before the 20th August 2020.

Thank you

Town Clerk

Southwold Town Council