

Town and Cinque Port of Sandwich

Town Clerk's Office
Guildhall
Cattle Market
Sandwich
Kent
CT13 9AH



Telephone: 01304 617197
Fax: 01304 620170
Email: townclerk@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk
www.sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk

SHOULD THE TOWN COUNCIL PURCHASE THE DRILL HALL?

The Army Cadet Force, the current owners of the Drill Hall, have placed the property on the market and the freehold is for sale by informal tender. The property is advertised as a 'redevelopment opportunity' subject to obtaining planning permission; this is because although the Drill Hall is in the conservation area it is not a listed building.

The Councillors at Sandwich Town Council believe that the Drill Hall should stay in public ownership and there are all sorts of ideas coming forwards as to what could be done with it.....temporary art space for hire, plays, a base for community groups, concerts, arts & crafts, etc.

The guide price is £250,000 and in order to raise these funds the town council would need to apply to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for permission to borrow money and then secure the funds from the Public Works Loan Board, who offer very good rates on long term loans for councils. The town council is confident that the precept (the money paid by the rate payer each year to fund the functions of the council) will not need to be increased to repay this loan; a good business plan should allow the property to pay for itself.

The deadline for submitting a bid is the 15th November and so time is tight. Sandwich Town Council would usually try to arrange a public meeting to discuss such a proposal. However, due to the tight timescale hopefully a well-publicised survey will be enough to gauge public opinion.

Please can you let us know whether you think that the town council should purchase the property or not by completing our survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2GHLWKV>, by email to (info@sandwichtowncouncil.gov.uk), phone (t. 01304 617197) or in person at the Guildhall.

In order to get the necessary paperwork to the DCLG in time this survey will close at 9am on Tuesday 8th November 2016.

Thank you for your assistance,
Laura Fidler, Town Clerk