

NOMINATION OF AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Roger Hollingworth
Portfolio Holder Consulted	√
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford – Head of Planning & Regeneration
Wards Affected	Catshill & Marlbrook
Key Decision – N/A	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To consider a request to list the Catshill Library as an Asset of Community Value

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet consider the contents of the report and decides to either:-

- (a) Support the listing of the Catshill Library as an Asset of Community Value; or**
- (b) Not support the listing of the Catshill Library as an Asset of Community Value**

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As Members are aware from previous reports the Localism Act included the 'Community Right to Bid' which gave communities a right to identify a building or other land that they believe to be of importance to their community's social well-being so that if it comes up for sale there is a six month period within which they can prepare their bid to buy the asset. The property in question can then be sold on the open market. Community groups have the same rights as any other bidders but there is no preference given to the local community bid.
- 3.2 Officers have received a nomination for the Catshill Library which is owned by the County Council and currently vacant. The nomination has been made by the Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council. The Parish has requested that the asset be nominated to give the ability for it to remain as a community asset in the future.
- 3.3 The County Council and local ward Councillors have been consulted as part of the process. The County Council has confirmed that they have no objection to the asset being placed on the register.
- 3.4 Consideration of the nomination has been undertaken by Head of Planning and Regeneration who is of the view that approval of the nomination would support the provision of community activities within

the District if a community group were able to purchase the property. The recommendation from the Head of Planning and Regeneration to Cabinet is therefore to support the proposal for the library to be listed. Members are reminded that under the new process for assets of community value introduced in November 2012 the final decision regarding whether to list an asset rests with the Head of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.

Financial Implications

- 3.5 There are no financial implications for the Council as the ongoing security of the building and any associated costs will be the responsibility of the County Council. Claims for costs incurred can only be made by private owners not Local Authorities.

Legal Implications

- 3.6 There is a legal requirement within the Localism Act 2011 to implement the provisions as defined for Assets of Community Value regulations 2012.

Service/Operational Implications

- 3.7 There are no specific operational implications for the District. The list of nominated assets will be maintained by Land Charges officers and will be available on the Councils Website.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.8 The approval of the nomination of Catshill Library will ensure that should the property be declared for sale any community group would be able to express an interest in purchasing the asset. This would result in up to 6 months of moratorium whereby any sale could only be to a community group. Following this the owner can sell to any purchaser.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The register will be maintained to ensure that all assets nominated are included to mitigate any risks associated with assets not being included on the register. Consideration by officers and members will be

undertaken at each nomination to ensure a consistent approach is taken.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Ruth Bamford
E Mail: r.bamford@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881202