



# MALTON TOWN COUNCIL

## New office and Community Hub

- Are you in FAVOUR of the Town Council going ahead with the new office and community hub? **YES / NO**

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## MALTON TOWN COUNCIL

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### New office and Community Hub

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# MALTON TOWN COUNCIL

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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The current offices are not accessible to all residents but has been the home of the Town Council for five years now, it has served us well for staff and Councillors but is on the second floor of the building, and therefore, accessibility for members of the public to meet staff and councillors is not suitable.

##### **Why are you considering purchasing an office?**

It has always been the Council's long term vision to purchase a secure base. Councillors feel that purchasing rather than renting offers better long-term value to the taxpayer. This valuable asset will be owned by the community. We want our new central office to be an accessible drop in centre.

##### **The proposed property is a relatively small building, is it suitable?**

The property has already been converted and until recently was previously used as office accommodation. The building provides a flexible work and meeting space. Full Council and committee meetings can be accommodated there. It may be necessary from time to time to hire a larger hall to accommodate meetings where a larger audience is envisaged.

##### **If the Council purchases a property it will be responsible for its ongoing maintenance which could prove a burden on the taxpayer.**

The property is in very good condition and will be an fantastic opportunity to implement some energy efficiency measures and create an example of best practice within our community.

##### **What is meant by Community Hub?**

Our current office already operates as community hub, tourist information, community safety reporting and signposting to North Yorkshire Council and other partner agencies in addition to Councillors' and multi agency drop in surgeries. We intend to extend our opening hours to reflect the demand we have for visitors to the office enquiring about a wide range of issues with which our staff will be happy to assist with. The new premises offers a more flexible layout in which a range of services could be provided at the same time so allowing several activities at once.

The aim of the survey is to inform as many people as possible about the proposal and receive feedback. This is a consultation not a referendum.

SUMMARY: If we continue to rent for 25 years, we will pay out around £235,000 at current commercial rates and have nothing to show at the end of this period.

Instead, the good news is that, in purchasing our own property all monies will be retained in an investment for Malton.



# MALTON TOWN COUNCIL

## New office and Community Hub

- Are you in FAVOUR of the Town Council going ahead with the new office and community hub? **YES / NO**

It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

Name	
Address	
Signed	
Date	

Please send this questionnaire to the Town Council office at the address below by: 12noon on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Any survey forms received after the deadline will be disregarded.

Malton Town Council, The Wesley Centre, Saville Street,  
Malton, North Yorkshire, YO17 7LL

Please note that your contact details will be kept confidential for the purposes of the consultation only and will not be passed on to any third party. Post consultation they will be destroyed in conjunction with the Council's privacy policy.



# MALTON TOWN COUNCIL

## New office and Community Hub

Dear Householder

An opportunity has arisen for your Town Council to stop renting and instead invest in an office, in excellent order which would be used as the new Town Council office and community hub that would belong to the people of Malton and would deliver substantial savings over the long term.

The most important question for you is "how much will this cost"? The Town Council have been looking carefully at what we have in the bank and what we would need in order to be able to do this. After we have made sure that all our existing and proposed projects and running costs are safeguarded, we are confident that we can purchase the building at a total cost of £185,000 utilising £61,135 capital reserves from the sale of a Council property in 2021 and the remaining £123,865 from a Public Works Loan Board Loan.

The loan will not put an extra financial burden on the Town Council revenue budget and will not increase the precept. The loan both interest and capital payments will be funded within the current revenue budget counter balanced by not having the rented commitment as we currently do at our current location of the Council.

So, please examine the facts set out in this leaflet and consider supporting this request for permission to end the practice of handing your funds over to third parties with no long-term return and to purchase a property which after the loan is paid off, will be rent free.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet and consider our request and let us know how you feel by sending back to us the form overleaf.

Mrs Gail Cook

Clerk to Malton Town Council



## MALTON TOWN COUNCIL

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### New office and Community Hub

##### **Why does Malton Town Council need an office? Most people are working from home now**

Although the current pandemic means that many people – including our own staff occasionally work from home, Malton Town Council needs a base. We have a large quantity of paper documents which need to be safely archived but are also available for access by the public at certain times. We also act as a hub for reporting of all kinds of issues and concerns as well as payment of cemetery fees, community safety, tourist information and advice on a variety of issues. If there was no prominent location, many people would struggle to access their local council. Malton Town Council and residents need to own their own building.

##### **Why does an office need to be in the center of Malton?**

The office needs to be highly visible and accessible by as many people as possible. We currently rent The Wesley Centre, Saville Street. It is the commercial center of Malton and the most visited area by both residents and visitors. Due to the merger of Ryedale District Council to North Yorkshire Council we will be required to offer more support to our residents.

##### **This process feels rushed; what is the hurry?**

The process has been brought about by a suitable suite of offices in good order becoming available at the right price and in the right location. The Council has not been hasty, but has been proactive and moved decisively in order to protect the Council's interest in the property.

##### **What is wrong with the current office?**

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