



# STOTFOLD TOWN COUNCIL

## THE SIMPSON CENTRE CONSULTATION

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### **Why are we consulting?**

The Town Council would like to obtain resident's feedback when making decisions of this nature and scale. Although we cannot act on everyone's wishes and feedback, it does help guide the Councillor's decision making.

#### **Why is selling the Simpson Centre even an option?**

The Simpson Centre has reached the end of its life. Refurbishing and retaining the Simpson Centre would take considerable investment, which would increase council tax. A sale of the Simpson Centre would allow the funds generated to be reinvested into other areas.

#### **If the Simpson Centre is sold, why is Stotfold Town Council limited as to how the money is spent?**

As this would be a sale of a capital asset, funds can only be spent on capital projects. In short, this means items of expenditure that wouldn't usually be covered by the council tax contribution paid to Stotfold Town Council. This could include, the refurbishment and modernisation of the Memorial Hall, or investment into play equipment at our open spaces.

The funds cannot be used for other purposes, and Stotfold Town Council is not able to invest funds in public services beyond our remit, such as the NHS or Police.

#### **Could the Simpson Centre be kept or the building developed into a community asset?**

We have included this option in the questionnaire. However, please note that to keep the Simpson Centre there would need to be a substantial investment into the building and ongoing maintenance costs. This would lead to an increase in council tax to fund this. If the current building were to be demolished and replaced with a new building this again, would require a considerable investment to achieve. An investment of this nature would require the town council take out a loan, which would mean the council tax being increased to cover the loan repayments.

#### **Why aren't all the play areas mentioned in the questionnaire for improvement?**

The Green, the Riverside and Hitchin Road Rec have the oldest play equipment and of all the play areas, they are the most in need of upgrading.

#### **How can I keep in touch with what's happening?**

Updates will be provided in the Stotfold News, the Town Council website and social media.