

Bishops Waltham Youth Hall and 'Community Right to Bid'

Winchester City Council has received notice of the owner's intention to dispose of Bishops Waltham Youth Hall in Malt Lane, Bishops Waltham.

Under the Localism Act 2011 (Section 95) local facilities that are considered to be of value to a community can be placed on the list to give local people a chance to bid for them before they are sold on the open market.

There are two key elements to the Community Right to Bid process:

1. Nomination of an asset of community value – this happened in 2018 for Bishops Waltham Youth Hall, which was nominated by the Parish Council and agreed by the City Council because of the services it provides to further the social well-being of the local community.
2. Sale moratorium - an initial period of six weeks once the City Council receives a notification of sale or transfer of a lease. If a request to be treated as a potential bidder is received and accepted from an appropriate community interest group, this period is extended to six months.

The City Council has now received notification of the owner's intention to dispose of Bishops Waltham Youth Hall. If the Council receives an appropriate expression of intent to bid by 2 June 2021, this prevents disposal on the open market for six months, until 21 October 2021.

A parish council, charity, community interest company, company limited by guarantee or industrial and provident society may submit an expression of interest as a potential bidder. This allows the community a period of six months from the original notification to the Council, in order to prepare and negotiate a competitive bid for Bishops Waltham Youth Hall with the current owner, during which time the property cannot be sold on the open market.

Written expressions of interest to be considered as a potential bidder must be submitted to Winchester City Council by 2 June 2021.

For more information contact the council on 01962 840222 and ask for Steve Lincoln.