

Public Consultation on Community Flock

Telscombe Town Council feels that its residents should be involved in the decisions that affect them. We would like to know whether you think we should continue ownership of the Council's Community Flock of 100 sheep. Your comments will then be considered at our Council meeting in July and a decision will be made at that meeting whether to continue with ownership of the Community Flock.

The purpose of the flock is to breed the ewes and sell the lambs. Income from the sale of lambs is taken into account in the Council's budget and therefore impacts on the amount of Council Tax that you as residents of Telscombe Cliffs and East Saltdean are charged.

There are operating costs involved with management of the flock for any treatments required, medication, vets bills and feed. We currently also pay a management fee of £250 annually to Stud Farm for managing the flock on our behalf.

The profit and loss figures from the Community Flock can be seen on our website.

The profit has been an average of £2,250 per year. This includes the asset value of the flock. This equates to approximately .68p per household per year, but does not allow for admin costs.

Ewe losses led to a reduction in the flock to 69 ewes last year and the Council at that time decided not to purchase replacements to make the flock up to the previously agreed 100. To be financially viable, the stock would have to be maintained at 100.

If the Council makes the flock up to the previously agreed 100, an initial outlay will be required. The market price of a ewe can vary but the average is approximately £80-£90. Also ewes only have a few years breeding cycle. This will mean that some of the current ewes may need to be sold and new younger ones purchased. This will also impact on any profit made in the current year.

For these reasons we would like your opinion if you think we should sell the asset being the Community Flock.

For information, Telscombe Tye is registered common land with grazing rights for Stud Farm to graze 252 sheep and Kirby Farm to graze 100 sheep. These grazing rights remain unaffected.