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Your Parish Council Tax Precept Explained

With Council Tax bills for 2021/2022 currently dropping through letterboxes, Pevensy Parish Council (PPC) wanted to provide information about the Parish Council part of the overall Council Tax or precept.

Pevensy Parish Council consists of 13 local Councillors, who live in the parish and give their time to help deliver some important local services. They are not paid and volunteer their time freely.

The Parish Council is conscious of the difficult financial times facing local people and has therefore not taken the decision to raise its' part of the Council Tax precept this year lightly.

Whilst the percentage increase this year in the Parish Council part of the Council Tax precept appears high, in reality because the Parish Council's part and therefore its budget is quite small, the actual increased amount is just £0.39p per week (per band D household)

What is Precept?

The precept is the Council Tax that the billing authority, Wealden District Council (WDC) collects on behalf of East Sussex County Council (ESCC), WDC, Sussex Police Authority, East Sussex Fire Authority and Parish or Town Councils.

Unlike County and District Councils, Parish Councils do not receive any direct funding from Central Government and so the Council Tax precept forms the majority of a Parish Council's income, which is spent on a wide range of services in our community. The percentage of your Council Tax precept that the Parish Council receives is 5% and totals £124,507 this year.

The amount you pay to each authority is shown as a percentage below:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| • East Sussex County Council | 71% |
| • Wealden District Council | 9% |
| • Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner | 10% |
| • East Sussex Fire Authority | 5% |
| • Parishes | 5% |

How is it Calculated?

The Parish Council part of the Council Tax precept requirement is the difference between the Parish Council's estimated income and its anticipated spending requirements for the financial year (its budget). The financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The Parish Council needs to agree a budget before it can set its precept, and both must be agreed by the full Parish Council.

When calculating the precept, the Parish Council takes a range of factors into consideration including:

- the current year's spending levels - for ongoing services for which it is responsible, including for example recreation facilities, lighting, litter bins, dog waste bins, insurance and grass cutting
- the costs of any additional spending plans or projects
- provision for contingencies and reserves
- levels of anticipated income – from services for which it is responsible e.g. rental income, allotment fees, grants.

Once a precept has been approved by the Parish Council, they inform WDC and it is then added to residents Council Tax bills. WDC pay the precept to the Parish Council in two instalments (April and September)

Like many organisations the Parish Council is facing a number of budget pressures.

For example, many of the Parish Councils capital assets are old and coming to the end of their natural life. For this reason, the budget for this year has had to be increased so that things such as broken play equipment or damaged bus shelters can be repaired or replaced. With no direct Government financial support, the Council is also going to try to exploit grant opportunities and has therefore set money aside to kick start fund raising.

The main budget pressures are as follows:

Capital Replacement Program	£7,000.00
Playground Capital Purchase	£2,000.00
Inflation *0.7%	£997.00
Ethel Wood Community Centre Support	£1,250.00
Street Lights Waverley Gardens Public Works Loan	£1,000.00
Street Light conversion to LED Commitment Increase	£1,000.00
Reserves	£5,000.00
Fund Raiser	£5,000.00
Covid Support for local groups	£1,000.00
Grant Support for local groups	£5,000.00
Website Rebuild to be WCAG2.1 compliant	£4,000.00

* Index – Figures and percentages for inflation

You can find full details of the responsibilities of PPC, WDC and ESCC on our website and also at the end of this document.

Council Tax Support

If you're a single person household, or have a disability, on a low income or claim benefits you may be eligible for Council Tax support and a reduction of up to 100%.

You can apply via WDC and if eligible will get a reduction in your Council Tax bill.

The main responsibilities of your local councils can be summarised as follows:

Wealden District Council:

- Planning and Building Control
- Council Tax, Council Tax Benefit and Business Rates
- Environmental Health
- Leisure Services
- Business and Tourism Support
- Housing and Housing Benefit
- Elections
- Land Charges
- Waste Collection and Recycling
- Car Parking

East Sussex County Council:

- Roads and Pavement Maintenance
- Education
- Libraries
- Trading Standards
- Transport and Traffic Safety
- Adult Social Care and health
- Waste Disposal
- Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Town and Parish Councils:

- Allotments
- Street Lighting
- Bus Shelters
- Play areas and recreation grounds
- Litter bins
- Dog hygiene bins
- Grass cutting of some roadside verges