



Town Council decides 2025-26 budgets

This budget has been prepared with the current cost-of-living crisis at the forefront of our minds and Councillors have been very reluctant to make things more difficult for residents. This year's increase of an extra £1.27 per month on a Band D property on the previous year's budget is less than last year's and reflects Council's consideration and understanding of the struggles many local families are facing. A change of government and the impact of National Insurance changes have also had to be factored in.

The Council Precept is the total amount budgeted to provide Council services in the coming year. At its meeting on 14th January, the Town Council unanimously agreed on a total amount of £481,125 for the coming financial year starting in April.

The Town Council places this request on Dorset Council annually, as does the Police and Fire Service. The Council Precept is the smallest portion of the total Council Tax bill.

We know that the improvements that we delivered for the Town in 2024/25 have been much appreciated by residents and there have been many favourable comments on them. People have particularly welcomed the newly refurbished Redwood Road play area, the improvements to Clocktower walk and the creation of a sustainable and biodiverse wildlife area at our land holdings in Poole Road. Once again many of you took part in a well-attended and much enjoyed Community Picnic to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, and the Christmas Celebration was very popular with parents and children. These two events were free to attend.

Building on these improvements, we have set aside funds from the Precept for 2025/26 for:

- Improvement to our land near Warbler Close (previously where the skatepark resided).
- Improvements to The Grove at the Recreation Ground.
- A Community Picnic at the Recreation Ground in June 2025 as part of the Town's commemorations of the VE and VJ day.
- Significantly increasing Grant Aid provision in support of local organisations.
- Provision of funds to support young people in the Town.

Compared to last year's budget, the increased Precept for a Band D property means finding an extra £1.27 per month (29p per week).

Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council Mayor, Councillor Ray Griffin commented, 'We are confident that this small weekly increase represents value for money in terms of the projects and community benefits we will deliver to our community and where appropriate we will utilise our Reserves to deliver planned and additional ad-hoc projects to continue to improve and enhance the Town for our residents'.

Unlike many other parish and town councils, we have very limited opportunities to generate income outside of the Precept. We don't have income generators such as car parks, beach huts or community buildings. We currently have 2 vacancies for local people to join with us, to help us make a positive difference to the lives of our c. 9,000 residents – please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

If you have any questions on the above do not hesitate to contact us by either by email or phone.