



Buckfastleigh Town Council Precept and Budget 2024-25

Statement by the Chair

Buckfastleigh Town Council is aware of the impact of increased food, fuel, and energy costs together with the long-term effects of Covid-19 on our residents. At our meeting to discuss the budget and precept (the total amount raised through the council tax to meet our budget needs) for 2024/25 held on 22nd November 2023 it was agreed to continue to fund the services we provide and support within our community.

Following consultation, we are aware that some residents would like additional services, but this would undoubtedly place an additional burden to fund from the council tax which some households are already struggling to pay.

To strike a balance, the Council agreed that it is important to continue to support our existing commitments such as the Town Hall, Victoria Park and swimming pool, youth services such as the Wellbeing Café, the Citizens Advice outreach service, the free Hello Summer (Seasons) programme of activities for our young people and of course our popular Town Ranger. In addition to this we also provide funding for other organisations who provide a wide variety of services, activities, and events in the town such as the annual Christmas Fair, the Valiant Soldier Museum, the Library, and other groups for eg. The Friendship Group and Moorland Caring. Over half of the Town Council budget will be used for grant funding groups and organisations within our parish during 2023/24. A list of all our beneficiaries and how to apply for funding can be found on the Town Council website: <https://buckfastleigh.gov.uk/buckfastleigh-town-council/council-grants/>

To keep the same income with a little bit extra to account for inflation and higher costs, the Town Council has agreed to increase the Council Tax Precept by 2.74% with effect from April 2024 which equates to around 7p per week based on a Band B property and increases the current budget of £150,550 to £156,100 for 2024/25.

We will continue to work for the benefit of our community over the coming year and are always keen to engage with our residents whether that is at our meetings, an event or on the street. The councillors are all volunteers, many of whom work full-time and do not receive any remuneration for their position or accept expenses.

We currently have some vacancies on the Council and are keen to hear from anyone who meets the eligibility criteria. For further information please visit our

website or contact Judith, our Town Clerk: clerk@buckfastleigh.gov.uk or telephone: 01364 642576/07904033616

And finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families and friends a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councillor Huw Cox, Chair of Buckfastleigh Town Council

28th November 2023