

# **CHISELDON PARISH COUNCIL**



## **2018/19 Precept**

At the January 2018 Parish Council Meeting, it was agreed that the precept the Parish Council requests from Swindon Borough Council should be increased from £105,000 to £135,000. On a standard Band D property, this will represent an increase of 84.1p per week.

## **What is the Parish Council doing with the money?**

The Parish Council took on a number of services such as grass cutting, hedge trimming, limited litter picking and some fly tipping clearance from Swindon Borough Council two years ago, and the transitional funding for those services ends next year. The Precept provides the main source of income for the Parish Council. An increase will be applied to the Precept to cover the reduced funding by the borough.

The Council is also looking at different ways to improve the environment and lives of its Parishioners – for example by looking at ways to calm traffic through the various villages that make up the Parish using vehicle activated signs, renewing the older equipment at the Castle View Play Area and looking at how to improve parking in several areas where this is clearly becoming a problem.

## **Income Generation**

The Council has also allocated funds towards three longer term projects which, if successful, should generate income for the Parish which will reduce the Council's reliance on the annual precept. Firstly, to improve the car-park at the Recreation Ground to make it more accessible and to take the pressure away from parking in Norris Close when the various clubs are using the facilities. Secondly, to improve the drainage of the football pitches which should extend the playing season and the income generated by the recreation ground by the various clubs. The final goal is to replace the recreation hall with a multi-use building that should become a focal point for the community.

## **Parish Size**

Last year Badbury Park and Coate were removed from the Parish of Chiseldon as a result of Swindon Borough Council's Community Governance Review. Therefore the number of residences paying the precept has reduced from 1,144.4 Band D equivalent to 996.4 Band D equivalent. Since there are fewer residences contributing to the total precept, the amount charged to each property would have increased even if the Parish had kept its Total Precept value the same as last year.

## **Feedback from the Community**

Following the transfer of services from Swindon Borough Council to the Parish; the Parish Council have been able to tailor the level and frequency of service according to the needs of the community. This improvement has been recognised by many residents who have provided a steady stream of positive feedback.

The parish Council are also engaging with residents on several projects involving traffic and road safety, which will tackle some of the priority issues within the Parish and it is hoped that the increase in the precept will assist us in continuing this work for the community.

## **What does the Council Own/Do?**

The Council owns several assets in the Parish that it must maintain:

- The Old Chapel (Council Office) Butts Road.
- The Cemetery in Butts Road and Sir Henry Calley Memorial Garden at the Church grounds.
- The Recreation Fields and Sports Pavilion off Norris Close.
- The Recreation Hall off Norris Close.
- The Allotments off New Road.

The Council also owns the following assets, which are leased to local organisations:

- The Chiseldon Museum building in Butts Road.
- The Tennis Courts off Norris Close.

The following are some of the responsibilities that the council carries out:

- Grass cutting of council owned greens and verges within the Parish.
- Hedge trimming in specified areas and ground level tree maintenance with hand tools in council owned areas.
- Maintenance of the Castle View Play Area.
- Some litter picking on main routes and public areas in the Parish.
- The running of the Recreation Ground and Fields.
- Providing feedback as a statutory consultee in planning applications.
- Maintaining public areas and working with the Borough Council on Highways Issues.
- Representing Parishioners views to the Borough Council.
- Assistance to the WARP voluntary organisation who maintain the Washpool.

## **Questions and Queries**

If you have any queries regarding the Parish Precept, please feel free to attend one of our Full Parish Council Meetings or a Finance Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Parish Clerk on 01793 740744 or by email at [clerk@chiseldon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@chiseldon-pc.gov.uk)