



MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

YOUR COUNCIL TAX

The Council Tax you pay helps towards a variety of services. The largest proportion is for those provided by Wiltshire Council - education, roads, car parks, bin collections, social services and planning right across the county. Then comes your contribution towards Wiltshire Police Authority and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services. A small proportion of your Council Tax (known as the precept) and less than 10% of the overall annual bill is for the running of your own Town Council which provides your most local services here in Marlborough.



WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

- Maintenance and management of Town Council-owned assets – Town Hall, various commercial and residential properties, Marlborough Common, The Green, Salisbury Road Recreational Ground, Elcot Lane Playing Fields, Skate Park, Children's Play Areas, The Priory Gardens, Wye House Amenity Gardens, St. Mary's Churchyard, Stonebridge and Coopers Meadows, Allotments, War Memorials, Town Floral Displays, Football Pitches and the Cemeteries as well as more than 1500 trees
- Consultation and assessment of all relevant planning applications
- Administration of burial records, cemetery space, plaques and memorials
- Christmas lights
- Event management – Royal Visits, Christmas Lights Switch-on Event
- Administration of a Small Grants Scheme
- Emergency Planning
- Local communication via the website, social media, newsletter and notice boards,
- Work towards securing external funding and implementing new projects
- Information about Wiltshire Council services
- Liaison with other external agencies
- Civic work around Military links, Remembrance Day Parade, etc

HOW'S IT ALL ORGANISED?

Your Town Council has 16 Town Councillors – all volunteers and not paid – who carry out business through Full Council and Committees which meet regularly. They also represent the Town Council at more than 20 different local organisations. Councillors are supported by a small team of staff members headed up by the Town Clerk.

The Council works with a number of different organisations, supporting various events and initiatives – Action for the River Kennet, Chamber of Commerce, Kennet Valley Arts Trust, Richmond Fellowship, Royal British Legion, Transition Marlborough, the Marlborough Brandt Group, Merchants House, the Golf Club, Bowls Club, the Tennis Club, Rugby Club, Marlborough Boxing Club, the Model Aircraft Club, Common Users Group, Cooper's Meadow User's Group, Marlborough History Society, 4th Military Intelligence Battalion, the Air Training Corp, schools and many more.

TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

In the last couple of years it has awarded grants to local groups including the Greatwood Charity, Jubilee Centre, Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust, Home Start, Alzheimer's Society, Macular Support Group, Marlborough Amateur Boxing Club, 1st Marlborough Guides, Marlborough Gardening Association and Vitalise.



SOME OF THE NEW PROJECTS THE TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE WORKING ON IN 2016/17



- Production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Marlborough with the neighbouring parishes of Mildenhall, Preshute and Savernake
- Taking on of the George Lane Toilets from Wiltshire Council
- The opening of a new play area at Orchard Way
- Working with our Youth Council towards a new play area at Cooper's Meadow
- Launch of a Shopmobility Scheme in partnership with the Area Board and The Mobility Store

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Each year, Councillors scrutinise Town Council budget lines carefully to ensure best value but, there are costs over which there is little or no control – tax, superannuation, national insurance, utilities, business rates, etc. The Town Council receives no revenue funding from central government and a council tax support grant passed on from Wiltshire Council will no longer be paid from 1 April 2017.

Central government has put in place measures that impact hugely upon the resources of principal authorities such as Wiltshire Council where a number of savings and cuts are in place - £25m savings have to be identified over the next year. In turn, this financial squeeze has resulted in more services being devolved to town and parish councils (i.e. grass cutting and litter picking). There is no funding to accompany these services or the various asset transfers being offered. Marlborough Town Council is in the process of taking on the George Lane toilets and has expressed an interest in taking on other buildings too. Decisions to move ahead with these have been based on retaining them as community assets to ensure that the town can keep on providing services for its residents and help maintain a thriving local economy.

In order to cover the likelihood of taking on more services over the next few years and to meet budget requirements, Councillors have made a decision to raise the precept by 4.96% for 2016/17.

WHAT ABOUT USE OF GENERAL RESERVES AND SAVINGS?

The Council could have used its reserves to meet costs or keep down the precept but, this could not be sustained year on year. Under audit regulations, general reserves must be kept at a certain level. No increase in the precept would mean Councillors having to consider withdrawing planned projects and not taking on services or assets from Wiltshire, thereby losing them.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR POCKET IN 2016/17?

Expenditure	2016/17 (£)	2015/16 (£)
Town Hall, properties & buildings	163,559	164,381
Open spaces, amenities & cemeteries	251,550	234,895
Civic, democratic, planning & administration	259,487	253,030
Total gross expenditure	674,596	652,306
Less		
Income	162,113	163,933
Council tax support funding - Wiltshire Council	2,669	14,829
Budget requirement (precept)	509,814	473,544

To calculate the annual amount to be paid, the precept figure is divided by the number of Band D households in the town (3,252.83). So, £509,814 is divided by the number of Band D households to calculate the Band D annual precept - £156.73 (an increase on the 2015/16 figure of £7.40p or 61p a month or 14p a week).

The table of Bands A – H sets out what this will mean for all bands of households. The lowest is looking at a rise of £4.94p and the highest at an increase of £14.80p a year.

Year	Band							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2015/16	£99.55	£116.15	£132.74	£149.33	£182.51	£215.70	£248.88	£298.66
2016/17	£104.49	£121.90	£139.32	£156.73	£191.56	£226.39	£261.22	£313.46
Difference for each Band £	£4.94	£5.75	£6.58	£7.40	£9.05	£10.69	£12.34	£14.80
Difference for each Band %	4.96%	4.95%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%	4.96%

MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16 WILL BE PUBLISHED IN APRIL 2016

Further details can be obtained from the Town Clerk at Marlborough Town Council, 5 High Street, Marlborough, Wilts SN8 1AA

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