

Bodmin Town Council – Council Tax increase

The precept for Bodmin Town Council (the amount of money that BTC asks Cornwall Council to charge on its behalf within Council Tax) is going up in 2017/18. The rise on a Band D property equates to 8.51% per year (in real value terms that's 19p per week).

The increase is due to a number of reasons - some are new costs being taken on by BTC, some are budget cuts, and some are to help cover new projects within the town. Details of where the increased precept will go are listed below:

- Absorption of the reduction in Council Tax Support grant of 16.65% (£18,500).
- Reinstating the Shire Hall PWLB Loan Repayment scheme.
- Following the installation of a new CCTV system, there are monitoring and maintenance costs of £22,794.84 per annum, committed for a 7 year period.
- Financial support for the future of the Town Museum.
- Further match funding for a BMX/Skate park facility (£20,000 in 2017/18).
- Complete urgent tree works following a tree report, and to replant areas where trees have been cut down (£10,000).
- Additional funds for play area improvements within the town (extra £22,000 on 2016/17).
- Project works to improve, drain, clean and repair Priory Pond (£10,000).
- Extension on the Parks Department depot to ensure replacement equipment and machinery is protected and kept properly.
- Refurbishment of Priory Car Park Toilets (£25,000).
- Match funding to help support the replacement of the Coldharbour pavilion for the Youth Football Team.
- Review of staffing requirements/allocation from 2016/17
 - Not fill/employ two posts which were agreed in 2016/17 (Properties Officer and Events Officer).
 - To employ an Executive Support Officer to support the Town Clerk and work on projects that the Council wishes to fulfil into the future. This is following the retirement of the previous Town Clerk, as the existing deputy role had not been maintained.
 - Maternity cover.
 - Further investment, following the recommendation of the Parks and Open Spaces Review, in one full time gardener and an apprentice.
 - Rationalisation of a contract to bring in-house the litter picking for the Parks and Open Spaces, to include weekends which are not currently covered, thereby improving the service.