

EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL



21, Wood Street, Earl Shilton, Leicestershire, LE9 7NE.

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Dear Resident/Council Tax Payer,

Re: Earl Shilton Town Council Precept (Budget) Request – for Financial Year 2019/20

Your Town Council have, for the forthcoming financial year 2019/20 requested a precept sum of **£271,579** which will form a very small element of your overall annual individual council tax bill. May I remind you that the vast majority of domestic council tax goes to Leicestershire County Council, to the Police/Fire & Rescue Services Authority, a very much smaller amount to your Borough Council and then a smaller amount still to your Town Council. The comparative figures for the previous, current and next financial years are as follows:

Planned	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18	FY 2018/19	FY 2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Precept	200,656	214,687	246890	271579
Other Income	12,550	12,050	16144	16660
Total Planned Income	<u>213,206</u>	<u>226,737</u>	<u>263034</u>	<u>288239</u>
Expenditure				
Admin, Finance incl. Staff costs	138,835	157,851	175867	184852
Public & Civic Events	29,800	25,400	26200	26100
Parks & Cemetery Upkeep	43,800	26,100	42960	53800
Grants & Awards	37,200	20,700	26800	23450
Total Planned Expenditure	<u>249,635</u>	<u>230,051</u>	<u>271827</u>	<u>288202</u>
Planned use of <i>General Reserves</i> (to balance the Precept)	36,429	3,314	8,793	-37

Notes: For a **Band D (usually a 4 bed detached home)** council tax property the **annual rise** in the Town Council element paid is **£6.96** only. For Bands A, B & C properties the increase paid will be pay less. Band E (larger) properties will pay a little more than the £6.96. The Band D increase of £6.96 on yearly bills does represent a percentage rise of 8.78% however we hope you will appreciate in absolute pounds and pence this is a small increase spread over 12 months. **Additionally**, because of the increase in the number of (new build) dwellings paying Council Tax in the Town, the material **absolute increase in the Precept is only £21,925** and not £24,689 simply because there are more Council tax payers to share the burden of costs for services all residents enjoy. Note also that the absolute and percentage increases for 2019/20 are significantly less than last year's increases.

2. The Town Council's aims, objectives and reasoning for the coming year are to:

a. Maintain the expected and popular **Town & Civic events** including:

- A themed *Picnic in the Park* – QE II the Hall Field Park– Sun 09 Jun 19.
- *Shilton by the Sea* (3 days of family fun) – Wood St Park 30 Jul – 01 Aug 19.
- *The Town Show* – Sat 31 Aug 19 at the Age UK Building on King's Walk.
- *Remembrance Sunday* – 10 Nov 19 at the Wood St Town War Memorial.
- *Christmas 'Lights' event* – Fri 29 Nov 19 - Wood St: King's Walk/The Hollow.

You will note that expenditure in this cost centre has been carefully controlled without a loss of amenity and you may be assured that, where reasonable, charges are made to public and vendors alike to keep costs down.

b. Continue to support:

- The **Community House** on Peggs Close with, usually, a small donation to help fund the nearest *Citizens Advice* service.
- The continued part funding of providing a full time *Early Intervention Worker* to help prevent our young people from falling into substance misuse or rescuing them from it.
- A very active Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator at a modest increase in cost.
- Limited grants for Earl Shilton Volunteer Community groups.
- The long awaited joint venture with the Borough for free Town centre wi-fi.

c. Admin and Staff costs have risen because of expected rises in *cost of living/potential incremental increases* for staff salaries and the restructuring of the ESTC Groundcare Team, i.e. there will not be, in the FY 2019/20, an employee on *Apprentice* terms. The single largest and unavoidable cost catered for is a potential '**contested**' election in May 19. The Town Council's share of this democratic function and due to the Borough Council is **£6k**.

d. Parks, Open Spaces & Cemetery. This cost centre has seen the largest increase in investment. This continues a medium and long term trend to prudently make provision for these much valued assets that all Towns people can share and enjoy. Reserves, ad hoc external grant funding and Developer Section 106 monies will be used wherever possible, e.g. providing new equipment for playparks at no extra cost to the taxpayer however, the single largest increase in this coming year's precept is for much needed **tree works**. Ranging over its parks, open spaces and the Cemetery the Town Council is responsible for well over 300 hundred mature trees. A professional survey has to be carried out and known works are already planned for. Accordingly, the Precept has been increased by £10k, at least for this coming year.

Yours sincerely,

ME Jackson
Town Clerk
for Council



20 Feb 19