

## Paddock Wood Town Council

### What do you get for your Council Tax?

The Town Council has now set its budget for 2021/2022. Despite the difficulties of the last year the council is not increasing the Council Tax for the coming year.

The Council has approved precept of £460,593.00 for 2021/22. This equates to a 0.3% reduction in the previous year's precept (or 51p on a band D property.)

What does the Town Council element of your council tax bill fund?

Paddock Wood Town Council owns and pays for the upkeep of the following sites:

- 5 playing fields plus pavilions
- 5 children's play areas & the skateboard park
- Foal Hurst Wood, Orchard Meadow & Green Lane Spinney
- The New Cemetery & Closed Church Yard
- The War Memorial & Town Centre Benches
- Town Council offices & St Andrews Hall at St Andrews Playing Fields
- Town Council workshops at the Memorial Field
- Open spaces at Cobbs Close, White's Corner & Mount Pleasant
- Five balancing ponds
- 3 allotment sites
- 5 bus shelters

The above sites are looked after by a full time Estates Manager & two full time groundsmen based at the Memorial Field. The Estates Committee meets monthly to agree future work.

The Town Council also funds the hanging baskets and planters in the Town Centre as well as the Christmas lights and trees. It leases the Day Centre from the Borough Council and is responsible for the running costs and maintenance of the building. The Town Centre toilets are also funded by the Town Council.

Included in the figure above is £60,000 for the new Community Centre. The Town Council has been setting aside a sum each year since 2015, and now has sufficient allowed in the annual budget to cover the repayments for the loan without further increases. The repayments will be £59,600 at current rates. The interest rate will remain fixed for the term of the loan. An application for planning permission was submitted at the end of December 2020.

The Planning & Environment Committee meets twice a month to comment on local planning applications. Due to the increased amount of development the Town Council has paid for a professional planning consultant to assist with its representations to the Borough Council. A further £10,000 has also been allowed to continue with the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Council assists with and funds the cost of the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade. It has also purchased and maintains 4 defibrillators.

The Council made a £10,000 grant to the Community Advice Centre in 2020 and will do so again in 2021. A contribution of £9,700 is also made towards the running costs of Putlands Sports and Leisure Centre.

Previously, grants have also been made to the Paddock Wood Lions towards the Carnival & Rocking in the Rec, as well as a donation towards The Paddock Wood Lights Up event. A grant fund is also available for local groups to apply for funding.

The council is administered by a full time Town Clerk and a part time Deputy Clerk & Administrative Assistant based in The Podmore Building St Andrews Road.

Full details of the Town Council's budget and all its activities can be found on its website [www.paddockwood-tc.gov.uk](http://www.paddockwood-tc.gov.uk)

Or by contacting the Clerk on 01892 837373, [clerk@paddockwoodtc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@paddockwoodtc.co.uk)

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