

Town Council Tax (precept 21-22) to rise on average by 56p per month

Taking the results of the Town Council Tax survey we conducted late last year into account, and the estimated income the Council will receive due to the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the Town Council Tax (precept) level has been set at £1,293,034 for the 2021/22 financial year, an increase of £89,846 on last year's precept figure.

Approved at the Full Council meeting on 9 February, the precept level of a Band D property charge will increase from last year's figure of £112.88 to £119.65 in 2021/22; an increase of £6.79 per annum – 56p per month.

This will raise a total of £1,293,034, with the Council allocating £111,414 from its general reserve to support its 2020/21 expenditure.

Speaking at the Full Council meeting, Town Council

Leader Cllr Keith Baker said: "This pandemic has caused huge financial stresses for the Town Council and I would firstly like to thank the Town Clerk and her team of Council Officers for their diligence and determination to continue to provide an excellent service in what has been quite unmanageable circumstances.

"We responded to these financial challenges by asking local residents how much of an increase in the Town Council Tax they could accept. Unprecedented across the Borough, we received a response from one in five households and I would like to thank those who took part. 95.5% of the respondents accepted the lowest increase option, however, the Council has been able to keep the increase to less than a third of this at only 56p per month."

Woodley Town Council Budget Estimates 2021/22

Budget Estimates 2020/21				Budget Estimates 2021/22		
Income	Expenditure	Net Exp		Income	Expenditure	Net Exp
264594	975346	710752	Strategy and Resources	154089	912295	758206
497693	677624	179931	Leisure Services	225854	623694	397840
	33093	33093	Planning & Community Services		33422	33422
			Furlough Income	50000	0	-50000
	311506	311506	Capital and Projects		264980	264980
762287	1997569	1235282	Total Revenue Exp/Income	429943	1834391	1404448

	£	Budget Summary 2021/22	
Reserves estimated to cover loss of income	122755		
Estimated furlough income	186179	Estimated opening balance 1 April 2021	468963
		Precept	1293034
		Less: Net Expenditure Budget 2021/22	1404448
		Budgeted balance as at 31 March 2022	357549
		Reserves allocated to cover lost income:	111414

In 2021/22 the Band D property charge will increase to £119.65

Council meetings

In response to the Local Government Act 1972 and Coronavirus Act 2020, Section 78, all of the Town Council Meetings are currently being hosted virtually via Zoom and can be viewed on our YouTube channel (please search for Woodley Town Council). To join a meeting as a member of the public, please email Matthew Filmore (matthew.filmore@woodley.gov.uk). Council Meeting agendas and minutes are also available on our website: www.woodley.gov.uk.

Schedule:

Planning & Community – 23 March, 20 April, 18 May, 15 June

Leisure Services – 13 April, 1 June

Strategy & Resources – 27 April, 8 June

Full Council Meeting – 11 May, 22 June

The Town Electors meeting has been postponed to later in the year.

Woodley Town Council and colleagues would like to wish Linda Matthews, Committee Officer, a very happy retirement. We'd like to thank her for her years of service managing the committee meetings, producing agendas, minuting the meetings and for all the other services she has provided, including supporting our Town Mayors and organising our Citizens' Awards event.

Woodley Town Council would like to wish our creative designer Margaret Macknelly a very happy retirement and thank her for her years producing the Herald and other items; often at very short notice or with last minute changes. It has been a pleasure to work with Margaret.

Woodley Town Council, The Oakwood Centre, Headley Road, Woodley RG5 4JZ
Tel: 0118 969 0356 Email: admin@woodley.gov.uk www.woodley.gov.uk

***Please note all information was correct at the time of publishing**

Resident Spotlight: Woodley Bowling Club



Situated in Woodford Park, Woodley Bowling Club has had a great presence in the community since it was founded in 1964. Over the years, Woodley Bowling Club has increased its membership for both men and women and gained affiliation to The Royal County of Berkshire Bowling Association and Bowls England. In the early 1980s, as membership increased, club members built the current clubhouse, which was further extended to its present size during the early 1990s. The Ladies Section was formed in 1983 and takes a very active part in the Club's bowling calendar. Unfortunately, the Club has been affected by the Covid 19 pandemic and chose not to open during 2020 to protect the health

and safety of its members. The reopening of the club in 2021 has also been put on hold under the current restrictions. However, once the restrictions are lifted the club will re-open and welcome new and old members to take advantage of the facilities and sign up for coaching sessions. The Council recently agreed to a new 20 year lease with the club. The green is maintained by Woodley Town Council and two of its seven rinks are reserved for the general public to hire via Woodford Park Leisure Centre. Anyone interested in taking up the sport of Lawn Bowls are welcome to contact the following committee members for further details: Lin Ringer - 07580 055827 or Geoff Atkinson - 07580 154458.

Woodley United FC fundraising success

Woodley United Ladies has raised money and donated 'Cake Donation' boxes as part of a wider club initiative during the most recent lockdown to raise money for charity and local causes. One of the organisers of these events, Head of Football Development and Ladies Assistant Manager, Nuno Antunes said "It was a great opportunity to get everyone together over zoom, and give something to those who have worked so hard through this pandemic. The idea came from our Royals Manager, Christian Parker, to organise a quiz night for his squad and raise some money, and from there on it expanded out to other senior squads. "We identified that this would be a great opportunity to say thank you to all those who have tirelessly put their lives at risk to care for others, and without forgetting anyone, the likes of NHS Staff, Care Home Workers and all other groups within the Critical Workers group." Some of the funds raised will also go towards the Movember Charity.

The team also created 'Cake Donation' boxes, inspired by and in association with local Café Robyn's Nest as another way of saying "thank you", with the first set of boxes delivered to Royal Berkshire Hospital.



We would like to say a huge thank you to all of our residents who have gone above and beyond to support each other during the Covid 19 pandemic, delivering food or medicine and offering all types of help to those in need. Stay safe.



T: 0118 969 0356 E: admin@woodley.gov.uk www.woodley.gov.uk

Woodley Food Bank

Woodley Food Bank experienced its busiest year in its seventeen-year history during the Covid 19 pandemic. With many people needing to shield, isolate or struggling financially while being furloughed or out of work, demand significantly increased, with new volunteers joining. Richard Davies, Woodley Food Bank co-ordinator, has been thrilled by the level of community support. "Whilst we've had more demands on our services than ever before, the support we have had from the community has been incredible. We've had more donations than ever. It really does show the strength of the Woodley community." Being able to access the Food Bank easily has been vital and the service has received many comments of thanks: "I can't put into words what this means to me. Thank You." Donations of tinned potatoes, long life milk and fruit juice, cooking oil, custard, tinned rice pudding and sugar are particularly needed.

Further information can be found at: facebook.com/WoodleyFoodbank/ or call 07806 658995.



Updates to maintenance yard

We will shortly be installing a new electrical supply to the Maintenance Yard in Woodford Park. This follows a complete power failure to the site due to the old supply cable becoming damaged over time. The works should take place during March and will involve trenching across the grass to the rear of the leisure centre and 3G pitch. The installation will be funded from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

Friendship Alliance

The Friendship Alliance is tackling isolation and loneliness in Wokingham Borough with:

Age UK Berkshire offer services that help with ordering groceries, small tasks around the home, providing information and getting home from hospital
0118 959 4242

Involve Community Services run a Community Navigation Scheme, which connects you to local groups and services as well as a Cancer Support Network
01344 304404

The Link Visiting Scheme helps older people find friendship through regular telephone calls, home visits, small friendship groups and assistance in getting online
0118 979 8019

The Wokingham Volunteer Centre provides a Transport Scheme to help people get to their appointments, the shops or social outings. They also run a Gardening Scheme for elderly or disabled residents
0118 977 0749

We also run a **weekly online Café** for a friendly chat and send a newsletter about local groups and services
07464 834949



Berkshire Vision

Berkshire Vision supports hundreds of blind and partially sighted adults and children and has Sight Loss Support Officers, which can offer help in your home. It has an extensive programme of remote and face to face activities and adapted sports. Remote activities do not need internet access and include quizzes, history talks and murder mysteries. Sports range from gentle exercise through to tennis, golf and even rock climbing, while social activities include walks, picnics and theatre trips. It is hoped that these will be available again once the Covid 19 restrictions are lifted.

For more information please visit www.berkshirevision.org.uk or ring Richard on 0118 987 2803. To know more about its Children's and Families please email Carol on children@berkshirevision.org.uk. To volunteer, please contact Gill on volunteering@berkshirevision.org.uk

We would like to expand the information provided on our website regarding walks in and around Woodley. Please send us your suggestions for local walks and particularly accessible walks that are wheelchair-friendly. Please send your walks to: admin@woodley.gov.uk



We are sorry to announce our decision to cancel this year's Carnival.

These continue to be incredibly difficult times for many people and until we can ensure our event is safe for all in the community to enjoy we have made the decision to cancel.

We are hopeful to return on 11th June 2022 and will continue to assess the feasibility of future events as the year progresses.

Keep safe

Woodley Carnival Committee

WANE

To be kept informed of the reformation of the Woodley and North Earley forum (WANE), please contact the acting chair at: marionshaw@earley-tc.gov.uk

Oakwood Centre

Under the current lockdown restrictions, the Oakwood Centre remains closed, however it will be used as an overflow centre for Covid 19 vaccines as and when required.

New recycling bags across the borough

Wokingham Borough Council is replacing the former black recycling boxes with new waterproof recycling bags to help with its target of 70 per cent recycling by 2030. The decision is in response to paper and card reprocessing plants no longer accepting wet materials. The waterproof recycling bags have a weight at the bottom to prevent them blowing away and are made of long-lasting materials, which should last for up to five years. They also weigh less than the black boxes, making handling easier. Please use the recycling bags as soon as you get them. If you need more than two bags, please use your black boxes initially, but only for non-paper/card items such as cans, tins and plastics.

A history of football in Woodley

We are planning to produce a display of football in Woodley in conjunction with Woodley United FC. We would love any photos or press cuttings you have of Woodley clubs.

Woodley Town Centre

The Covid 19 pandemic has presented many challenges to running Woodley Town Centre, however, the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative (WTCMI) has done its best to reconcile the competing pressures of applying normal commercial and financial sensibilities with the need to ensure that the town centre remains vibrant and attractive, while adhering to the restrictions and keeping residents safe.

Woodley Town Centre Events 2021

Although it is difficult to plan with any certainty for 2021, WTCMI has put the following events in the diary and outlined plans that can be implemented quickly should circumstances change.

Woodley Vegan Market on the 3rd Sunday of each month

Sunday French Market on Sunday 6 June 2021

A Spookily Spectacular Halloween Event on Sunday 31 October 2021

Christmas Lights and Carol Concert Saturday 27 November 2021

Christmas Extravaganza Sunday 5 December 2021