

Thame Town Council – Precept Leaflet 2020–21

Introduction

How does the precept work?

Thame Town Council provides public services to the residents of the town of Thame and the village of Moreton. We deal with local issues in the parish on behalf of these residents and to do this we raise our own form of council tax which is known as a precept. The precept is collected on our behalf by South Oxfordshire District Council and is included in your council tax bill. In preparing its budget for 2020-21, Thame Town Council has again looked hard at where it can make savings (both in terms of cuts and further efficiencies), while at the same time providing the projects, functions and services that the community of Thame expect to be delivered.

In 2020–21 Thame Town Council will continue to...

- Support and protect local services and facilities
- Protect and review the future continuity of the acclaimed Thame Neighbourhood Plan
- Do all it can to ensure the future prosperity of the town
- Maintain the public assets of the town including its playgrounds, open spaces and the Town Hall
- Fund contributions to the Thame Town Music Festival, the Thame and District Day Centre, a Youth Worker, the Red Kite Family Centre and the renewal of the Thame Neighbourhood Plan.

To assist in those expectations, the Town Council will...

- Primarily call on its Capital Reserves for capital projects, rather than funding through the precept, for the fifth year running
- Increase its staffing costs to help make sure we have the capacity to deliver what is expected.

The proposed 2020–21 precept

Given the new houses being built in Thame, the tax base has increased, which helps to keep the overall tax burden down, as it is shared more widely. The net impact of all the above change is that for the financial year 2020-21 the underlying precept increase for normally provided projects, functions and services is 1.94%.

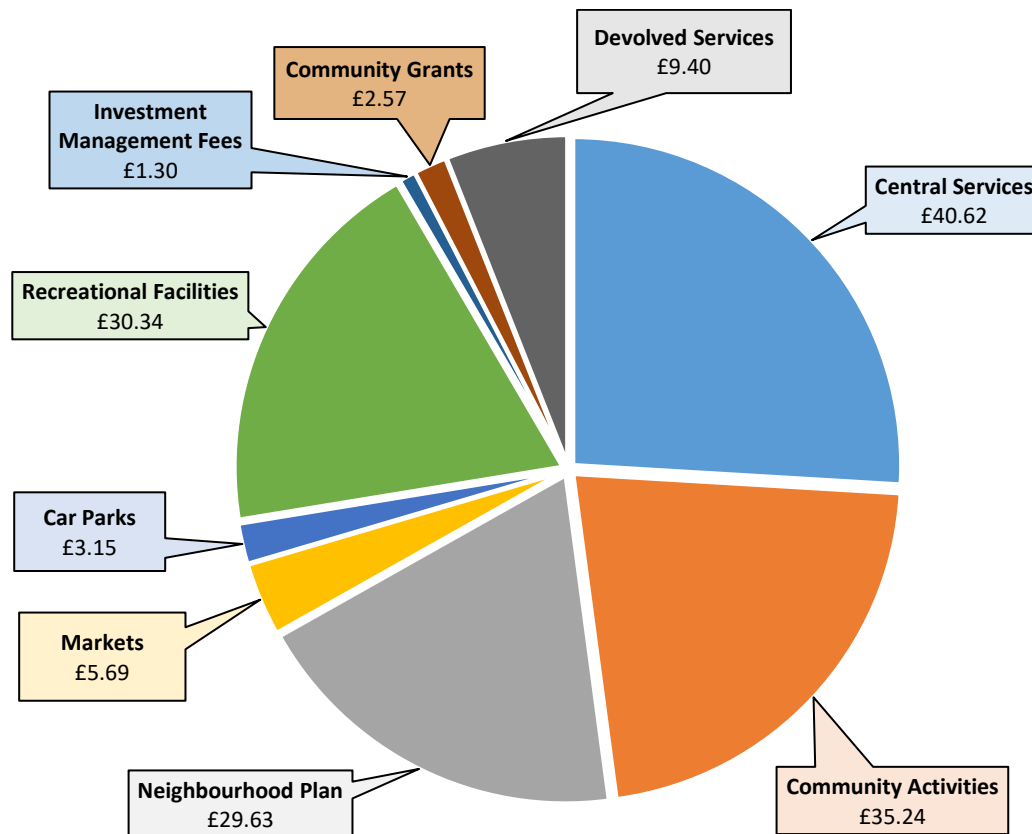
In 2020/21 Thame Town Council's precept will be £762,653.

Budget Summary

In 2020-21 the average whole household (i.e. Band D) will contribute £157.94 per annum (£3.04 per week), through the precept portion of Council Tax, towards the funding of all the projects, functions and services that Thame Town Council provides for the community.

Band D Household – Annual Contribution for 2020/21

The pie chart below shows the breakdown of what contributions a Band D Household will make in 2020/21 towards the Town Council's activities. Figures are shown per annum.



Key

Central Services - Including staff / member costs, office / depot costs, insurance, democratic services, civic support, professional fees, vehicles / equipment.

Community Activities - including meeting space, Christmas, town fairs, town maintenance, open spaces, CCTV, festival support, Remembrance, Town Centre management, Information Centre etc.

Neighbourhood Plan – professional fees, consultancy, Green Living Plan support, printing

Markets – weekly Charter Market and monthly Farmers' Market

Car Parks – High Street & Upper High Street car parks. Zero budget impact as expenditure and income balance out.

Recreational Facilities - including Cuttlebrook, Elms Park, Memorial Gardens, Recreation Grounds, Skate Park, Playgrounds, St Mary's Churchyard etc

Devolved Services - Thame and District Day Centre, Red Kite Family Centre, Thame Youth Projects

Investment Management Fees – Management of Capital Reserves

Community Grants – annual grant award scheme, grants to Citizens Advice and Lighthouse Thame

Thame Town Council's 2019–20 Achievements:

Central Services

- Held local elections in May and welcomed 4 new Town Councillors
- Supported the Mayor of Thame in raising £10,776 for two local charities
- Appointed new Asset Manager and Town Clerk
- Relunched the Monthly Councillor Drop-In Sessions
- Grew the number of subscribers to the residents' (weekly) and business' (monthly) newsletters
- Began preparing for new website accessibility regulations

Community Activities

- Successfully brought the production of the annual Thame Town Guide in-house
- Supported various community events including the Carnival, Thame Town Music Festival and Thame Tidy.
- Tendered for new Christmas Lights in the town centre
- Marked the 75th D-Day Anniversary with commemorative boot-print stickers
- Became a Box Office for sales of Thame Players tickets
- Organised the annual Christmas Lights Switch-On and Street Fairs

Neighbourhood Plan

- Tendered for consultants to assist with the progression of the revised Thame Neighbourhood Plan (TNP2)
- Continued to gather evidence in preparation of TNP2
- Defended the TNP in planning matters
- Supported the development of the Green Living Plan in a multitude of ways

Markets

- Took part in Love Your Local Market and supported the weekly market with its annual Community Day
- Continued to promote the monthly Farmers' Market and encourage footfall
- Hosted a French Market, World Village Market and Summer Street Market in the town centre

Recreational Facilities

- Cleaned the Thame and Moreton War Memorials
- Maintained the town's playgrounds and open spaces

Grants

- Awarded over £11,000 in grant aid to local community groups, plus free use of the Town Council's facilities

Devolved Services

- Welcomed the new Youth Worker for Thame who started in September

Capital Projects

- Replaced / repaired five bus shelters within the town via S106 money
- Installed new town entrance signage

Give us your feedback

Thame Town Council is committed to continuing to deliver the projects, functions and services that residents, workers, and visitors to the town expect, at a price that the residents are prepared to pay, and we thank everyone for their ongoing support in that work.

Your Town Council would like to hear your views and any comments you may have on the services that are provided or what you would like to see provided in the future.



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