

Stenson Fields Budget Report 2019/20

Expenditure.

Over the past financial year expenditure decreased from £29291 to £26119. Most notable items contributing to this reduction from the previous year were the purchase of new playground goalmouth matting at Fox Close (£3972), repairs to the Fox Close gym equipment (c£400) and 4 new notice boards (£3200). VAT costs were also lower by £1610.

Some expenditure items were higher such as administration (£400 due to new laptop and accessories), new website (£466) and a new waste cart (£702).

All other expenditure items were reasonably within budget.

As a result, at the start of this financial year Council now holds around £24k in reserve.

Income.

Unaudited figures show a total balance brought forward from 2018/19 plus income of c£50500, less expenditure of £26119 which equates to a healthy balance of c£24380.

The most notable item of increased income was due to the VAT reimbursement of £2082. SDDC's s.136 concurrent functions grant increased from last year's figure of £16221 to £16546 which council will receive this month. The independent audit will be conducted soon.

This year.

Council requested the same level of precept from District Council and considers this to represent good value to parishioners.

Precept.

The Precept of £3000 divided by 4047 parishioners = £0.74pa per parishioner. Figures are based on the 2018/19 electoral register and so include new occupations at Saxon Gate and elsewhere.

The Government's regulation over a revised tax base (Local Council Tax Support Scheme) was introduced 7 years ago. It is a replacement benefit system to help pensioners, disabled and low-income households. This provides a discount for such recipients that reduces the overall number of properties liable for Council Tax. Review of this will occur during 2020 but in the meantime the scheme continues.

SF Council Tax base.

Council asked SDDC for the same level of precept as in the previous 7 years (£3000); added to this the Government's Local Council Tax Support Grant award is c£736.

Our CT base i.e. number of liable properties increased from 1493 last year to 1500 in the forthcoming year; however, this will increase as more occupations at Deepdale Lane and the Infinity Garden Village are taken up and as building progresses.