

Stenson Fields Budget Report for financial year 2021/22

Expenditure.

Over the past financial year expenditure increased from £31408 to £45111.

Most notable items contributing to this increase from the previous year was the purchase of play equipment at Ledbury Chase (£14042) and the associated VAT due thereon (£2695).

Some expenditure items were lower, such as the DALC subscription (£784), room hire (£285) emptying of dog/ waste bins (£1652) and lengthsman's costs (£512).

All other expenditure items were reasonably within budget.

As a result, at the start of this financial year Council now holds around £12898 in reserve.

Income.

Unaudited figures show a shortfall balance of (£664) brought forward from 2020/21 plus income totalling £58673, less expenditure of £45111, which equates to healthy balance of £12898.

The most notable item of increased income was the district council s136 grant, which increased from last year's figure of £16546 to £23907; this £7361 difference was spent on the new play equipment at Ledbury Chase.

Another increase in receipts was the VAT repayment of £675. Miscellaneous receipts were lower at (£1293).

The independent internal audit is being conducted in the next few days.

This year.

Last year Council requested a greatly increased level of precept from District Council due to requests of previous years having been maintained at an unsustainably low amount. Council has asked for a slightly lower amount in the forthcoming year of £28000, meaning reserves have been improved to a more viable level.

We continue to believe that parishioners should consider this as still representing good value for the service provided.

Precept.

Council has asked SDDC for a decreased level of precept (£28000); added to this the Government's Local Council Tax Support Grant award is c£736.

The Precept of £28000 divided by 4047 parishioners = £6.91pa 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 9 years ago and the scheme continues. 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.

SF Council Tax base.

Our CT base i.e. number of liable properties increased from 1489 last year to 1499 in the forthcoming year; however, this should increase as more occupations at Deepdale Lane and the Infinity Garden Village are taken up and as building progresses.

SDDC has adopted a new council tax reduction scheme for working age claimants that will be reflected in eligible people's 2022 - 2023 council tax bills that will be distributed to local homes from March 2022.

The scheme supports working age residents who are on a low income by reducing the amount of council tax they have to pay in line with their income. The council tax support scheme for those of pension age is a national scheme and is not affected by the new scheme.

The new scheme features the following changes which will apply to council tax charges and support from 1 April 2022. (Any council tax charges and any support awards up to 31 March 2022 will be under the 2021 - 2022 council tax reduction scheme):