

# 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):