

# Thame Town Council

## BUDGET 2016-17

Thame Town Council provides public services to the residents of the town of Thame and the hamlet 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 2016-17, the Town Council has 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.

**This year has been particularly challenging, through:**

- the withdrawal of a significant grant from Central Government by South Oxfordshire District Council;
- the impact of significant changes to employer (and employee) National Insurance Contributions through Central Government changes to the pension regime.

Thame Town Council has no control over these items and must accept the additional impact to its budget of more than £30,000.

**At the same time, Thame Town Council is expected to:**

- take on more from the austerity hit Oxfordshire County Council through the Localism and devolution agenda;
- protect and ensure the future continuity of the acclaimed Thame Neighbourhood Plan;
- do all it can to ensure the future prosperity of the town by increasing still further the vitality and vibrancy of the Town Centre;
- maintain the public assets of the town including its playgrounds, open spaces and the Town Hall.

**To assist in those expectations the Town Council has:**



Allocated additional funds of £5,000 to assist Thame Market in maintaining and increasing its vibrancy

Proposed to employ a part time Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Officer to assist with ensuring that the Neighbourhood Plan is delivered as required, as well as to save on external consultancy fees



Allocated additional maintenance funds to reflect the ever increasing costs of maintaining the town's public assets

Created a Localism Fund of £8,000 so that critical work that would otherwise have been executed by the County Council can still be carried out



Created a new fund of £14,000 to secure the release of a further £14,000 of funding from the District Council for town centre economic development projects and possibly a market town coordinator

Proposed to employ a local apprentice as a part time member of the Maintenance Team to assist with additional grounds maintenance work



The Town Council also has plans for capital spending to improve infrastructure within the town. This includes work towards the rebuilding of the Cricket Clubhouse, a loan to the rugby club and improvements to Elms Park. Much of this will be funded through developer contributions (some of which will need to be forward spent). These costs will be initially funded by pulling down on Capital Reserves, rather than increasing the precept.

Smaller capital items are normally funded through the Rolling Capital Fund, which is added to each year via the precept. The contribution to the Rolling Capital Fund is reduced this year due to other cost pressures but this cannot be sustained beyond the short term.

The net effect of all the above change is that for the financial year 2016-17 Thame Town Council has resolved to increase the precept that is paid by Thame residents by £12.34p per annum or just under 24p per week (for the average Band D household).

The Town Council is committed to continuing to deliver the projects, functions and services that residents, workers, and visitors to the town expect and we thank everyone for their ongoing support in that work.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

### EXPENDITURE

	2015-16 Budgeted	2016-17 Proposed
Central Services	£521,623	£545,660
Community Activities	£94,243	£134,668
Car Parks	£35,663	£33,315
Markets	£8,750	£13,760
Grants	£20,000	£20,000
Recreational Facilities	£9,580	£17,523
Churchyard	£7,500	£7,500
Investments	£15,000	£15,000
Capital Projects	£65,959	£34,408
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£778,138</b>	<b>£821,834</b>

### INCOME

	2015-16 Budgeted	2016-17 Proposed
Central Services	£7,960	£8,186
Community Activities	£54,742	£71,934
Car Parks	£39,440	£33,315
Markets	£71,958	£71,458
Recreational Facilities	£1,884	£1,607
Churchyard	£4,125	£4,125
Investments	£42,000	£35,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£221,839</b>	<b>£225,625</b>

<b>Precept Raised</b>	<b>£535,505</b>	<b>£596,209</b>
<b>Precept per Band D Household / annum</b>	<b>£124.65</b>	<b>£136.99</b>

# ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of the Town Council's achievements this year include:

- Part-funded and managed the construction of a new skatepark facility
- Commissioned a retail impact study
- Campaigned against cuts to children's centres, adult social care and bus subsidies
- Assisted in the receipt of a number of awards for Thame town centre
- Executed a consultation on improvements to Elms Park
- Monitored planning for strategic and windfall sites in relation to the Thame Neighbourhood Plan
- Recruited a new Town Clerk
- Published tenders for a new website and a vibrancy study
- Supported the launch of the Thame Community Charter
- Organised a flypast at the Remembrance Day service
- Facilitated the return to the town centre of the New Years Day hunt
- Adopted a sports facility strategy
- Supported Chinnor RFC and Thame Cricket Club with grant funding for facility improvements
- Supported Music in the Park, Thame Carnival, Thame Food Festival, Thame Arts & Literature Festival, Open Doors and Tidy Thame
- Assisted on a public art project at Cotmore Wells
- Hosted the annual Christmas Switch-on event
- Managed the two annual town fairs
- Welcomed two continental markets to the town centre
- Awarded 7 Town Awards at the Annual Town Meeting
- Supported the annual Senior Citizen's Christmas Tea Party
- Awarded £17,800 in grant funding to local organisations
- Formed the Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee
- Relaunched Councillor Saturday Surgeries
- Hosted two planning appeal inquiries at the Town Hall
- Installed a flag pole in the town centre
- Hosted the count of the Local Parish Elections at the Town Hall
- Joined the Twitter, Flickr and Vimeo online communities

## GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK



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. Comments may be emailed to [info@thametowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@thametowncouncil.gov.uk) or via telephone on 01844 212833.

**A:** Town Hall, High Street, Thame, OX9 3DP

**W:** [www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.thametowncouncil.gov.uk)

**T:** 01844 212833

**F:** 01844 216094

 @ThameTC

