

Stondon Parish Council
Budget and Precept 2024/25

Each year the Council must review costs and the services it provides.

Budget and Spend overview.

Item	Budget for 2024/25	Estimated end of year 2023/24
Income/Receipts	£28,245	£39,478
Expenditure:		
Admin and Operations	£69,715	£54,827
Open Space Maintenance	£33,250	£29,114
Highways and Amenities	£2,800	£1,590
Buildings and Amenities	£14,000	£14,998
Other costs	£17,084	£20,956
Total Expenditure	£136,849	£121,485
Income over Expenditure	£108,604	£82,007
Precept	£108,916	£88,039
Band D Equivalent	£73.00	£64.73

Why is there an increase on the Precept from 2023/24 to 2024/25?

The budgeted costs to be incurred by the Council in 2023/24 have risen significantly with the increasing challenges in relation to inflation. Raw materials and labour make up the bulk of our costs. We must allocate reserves to ensure we can cover any contingency and setting money aside for specific projects and facilities.

We review the level of reserves each year and endeavour to ensure they are appropriate. Some of them have been allocated against specific tasks, these are restricted reserves.

The increase of £8.27 per annum is a small increase when considered as part of the overall Central Bedfordshire (CBC) Council tax of around £2,278 (this assumes the proposed increase suggested by CBC of 4.99%).

So where does the precept go?

The council owns and manages about six hectares of Community Parks, Allotments, play areas and open spaces. There are seven play areas in the village and various open spaces including Pollards Way and The Pastures.

There are also assets around the village that are owned by the council. These include some picnic tables, seats and salt bins.

Every year some funds are set aside to give out as grants to voluntary and charitable organisations who apply to the council and can demonstrate that their organisation helps people in the community and need financial support.

So, what are the councils plans for 2024/25?

For the coming year the council has allocated significant budget funding for the development of a new Community Centre. The majority of the build cost is coming from funds the Council asked Central Beds Council to collect on its behalf, these are called S106 funds.

These funds should cover the cost of the build, but we need to ensure that any unforeseen shortfall can be covered. Currently, we do not anticipate any.

We are also in the process of improving the pond in Pollards Ways open space and Meadowsweet. We have plans to improve other small open spaces in the Community.

We are working with Mulberry Homes to deliver and take over the open space at Loganberry Way, once they have completed all their works.

Bloor Homes site, north of the Dog Track, and Redrow will eventually pass over management of their open spaces to the Council, avoiding the need to costly management companies.

The Neighbourhood Plan, after a few hiccups, is moving forward and this can help with the management of development to ensure it looks good and in the right locations.

Like everyone else the council is finding that some costs are going up, and contractors have passed on some of their increased costs to the council. The council continually works to ensure that best value for money is always obtained whilst still providing the best service possible to the public.

Where do I go if I have any other questions?

If anyone has got specific questions about the budget or precept you are very welcome to get in touch with the clerk who can discuss these with you. Please email clerk@stondon-pc.gov.uk with your specific questions. There is a lot of information on the council's website <https://stondon-pc.gov.uk>.