

Upper Beeding Parish Council

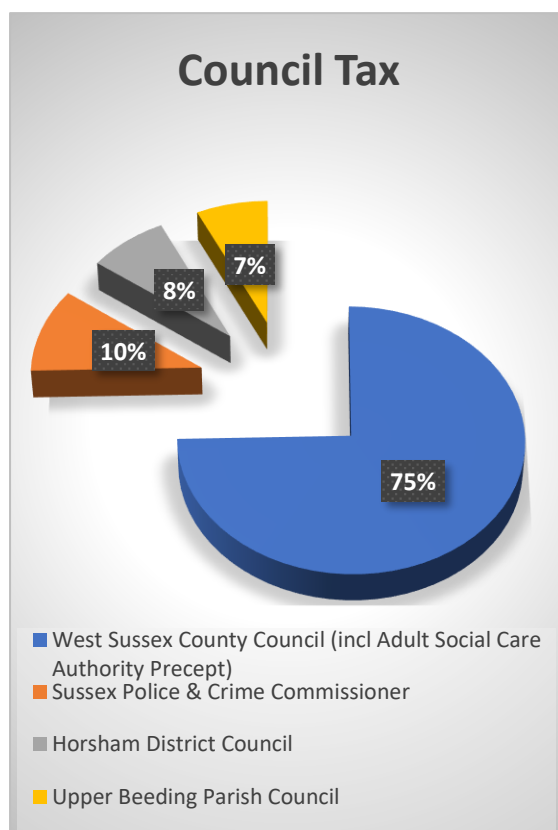
Spring 2021 Newsletter

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

In this edition we give an overview of the Parish Council Finances. The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Cllr Bob Harber, explains the budget and precept process.

FINANCE

Parish Councils are responsible for managing their own budgets and are mainly funded by an annual payment, or precept, collected by the District Council. This forms part of your Council Tax. This system has been with us since 1993; it replaced the Poll Tax, which swept away the old system of Rates.



West Sussex County Council, Horsham District Council, Upper Beeding Parish Council and the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner all

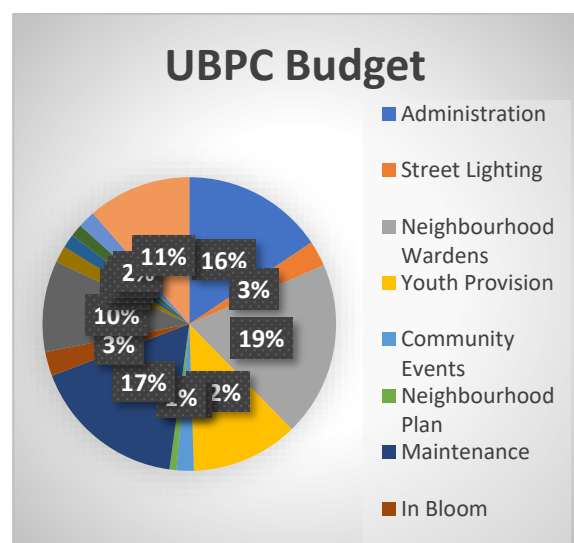
produce budgets detailing the amount of money needed to run services for local people.

The chart on the left shows that in 2020 Upper Beeding Parish Council received 7% or 7 pence in every £1 of your overall Council Tax; the major share goes to West Sussex County Council.

Each Autumn, Upper Beeding Parish Council plans its spending – its Budget - for the financial year which begins on 1 April. Our Budget for 2021/22 and our precept will be stationary. We are keenly aware of how difficult this past year has been, so we have worked very hard to keep spending as low as possible.

Despite the precept request remaining unchanged, the amount residents will be asked to pay will be slightly higher due to the way the Tax Base is calculated. The increase will be £1.92 per year, about 4p a week for a Band D property.

The diagram below shows how the precept is spent; if you would like further information the detailed budget is on our Parish Council website.



WELCOME TO HYDE STREET GREEN: YOUR NEW COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Hyde Street Green is the new name for the open space in Hyde Street.

Despite the freezing weather our lovely volunteers planted 6 new fruit trees. The trees and tree guards were donated by families in memory of residents Michael Moorhouse and Joyce Weller. This has started our community orchard for all to enjoy for years to come. Six fruit trees, 3 apples, 2 pears and one plum, were planted at Hyde Green by our volunteers. We continue to develop the area as a community amenity. If you would like any further information or would like to make a donation towards the project please contact us.



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Signs from the Government suggest that delayed Neighbourhood Plan referendums will take place this year. We hope this will happen in May, at the same time as elections for WSCC Councillors. We will publish details widely as soon as they are known. Your vote matters as a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan gives more local control and funding direct to the community.



SMALL DOLE SKATEPARK



The Skatepark in Small Dole is coming to the end of its useful life. There is a need to have a long-term plan as to its future, possible location and replacement. The Council does not and will not have the funds for a replacement Park, so external funding would need to be sourced. It is suggested that a group of focused individuals, including some Councillor interest, might be the way to approach a project of this size.

As an interim measure, for replacement could be some time into the future, and it is recognised as a bit of an eyesore on Mackley's Field, it was suggested and agreed at a recent site meeting that a fresh coat of paint would make the park look more attractive for the residents of Small Dole who see it every day. To that end it was suggested that a work party of older users could be organised to repaint all the vertical surfaces, with the Parish Council supplying the materials for the job.

Therefore, we look to you users to put your names forward to volunteer for the task. We would plan a day once the weather has improved and the timber faces have dried out sufficiently to absorb the paint.

If you are interested in the continued use of the facility and being involved please do please contact our Parish Clerk Celia Price via Facebook or the Website.

UPPER BEEDING VILLAGE SIGN

The village sign is being refurbished, but before it can be replaced, the post needs repair. Unfortunately, this is more complicated than originally hoped. However, it won't be too long before it is restored to its former glory.

COUNCILLOR PROFILES

Bob Harber has lived in the village since 2002; married to Colette he has been a Parish Councillor for 16 years. His previous roles include economics lecturer and cycle trainer.

Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council, Chair of the Finance Committee and active on the Facilities Committee, Bob can often be seen around the village and is currently leading a project to improve accessibility for residents by looking at the condition of footpaths, dropped kerbs, crossings and street lighting. He is also championing a Community Led Highways Scheme to see a new footpath leading from Manor Road to Henfield Road.

Bob is a member of the Planning Committee and attends Community Committee meetings.

Representing the Parish Council at several organisations including the Village Hall, Greening Steyning and the Joint Parishes Cemetery at Botolphs. Bob is an active Parish Councillor and can be seen volunteering at events such as the 'Make a Difference Day' held in 2020 where volunteers assisted the Beeding in Bloom team tidying flower beds getting ready for the summer as well as getting his hands dirty planting fruit trees at the new Community Orchard at Hyde Street Green.



Many of you may recognise Debbie Wood, she has been at The Hub as Community Seniors Worker for the last seven years and can often be seen around the village.

Debbie grew up in the Isle of Wight but moved to Sussex upon appointment to Sussex Police where she served for thirty years.

Having moved to Steyning with her husband twenty-six years ago, Debbie's children went to local schools and she has a passion for the area and those who live in it. She is particularly interested in making the lives of those that live with diverse needs just that little bit better by developing and signposting local support groups.

Debbie joined the Parish Council in May 2020 and is an active and vibrant member of the team. As you would expect Debbie has a particular interest in the work of the Community Committee and is the project lead for making sure the Parish Council works towards becoming Dementia Friendly. Debbie is also actively involved with the Community Orchard project.

A key link between the Parish Council and The Hub, Debbie is also working on a project for a Community Allotment.

In her spare time, you may see Debbie walking her gorgeous new puppy Lily.

VOLUNTEERS

Your local village council is ambitious to improve our environment, greenery, and pathways.

But the COVID pandemic has hit local government finances hard. Increasingly, only essential services will be financed by hard-hit county and district councils.

So, we are going to need your help. You have read how volunteers helped establish the community orchard at Hyde Street Green. Can you help us to further improve the Green by clearing unsightly shrub and brambles?

We also have other projects too!

Walking along Shoreham Road to Dacre Gardens, you will have seen how overgrown it has become. The path is now very narrow and barely wide enough to push a buggy. The County Council will not have the funds to clear this path, so we will be looking for volunteers to restore it to its original width. This will make for a safer and more pleasant stroll.

We have many similar projects, but we don't have the resources to achieve these without your help. We really do need you!

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

We want to support local businesses and organisations through these difficult times by giving you the opportunity to advertise to every household in the Parish Council area at a reasonable rate. For £20 you can advertise in this newsletter and that will include a free listing on our new website business page.

The Clerk will be pleased to give you further information.

BEEDING IN BLOOM

As we start to see signs of Spring, thoughts go to the summer hanging baskets.

Each year the floral displays cost around £5,000, with the Parish Council contributing around £3500. Beeding in Bloom volunteers keep the costs down by doing as much of the planting and maintenance as possible and raise funds for the remainder. But the pandemic severely restricted fundraising last year. To maintain the high standards that we have come to love we really do need to raise more funds. If you are a local business or resident and would like to be a sponsor, please do get in touch with our Clerk, Celia Price.



Beeding in Bloom

Tip Top Rubbish Clearance

David Coates **07895 735 531**

House - Garden - Garage
Domestic and Commercial
Fully Licenced



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