



Cricklade Town Council Council Tax 2010/11

Since April 2009 you have been paying your Council Tax to Wiltshire Council. This goes towards the services provided by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Police Authority, Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services and the running of your own Town Council. The proportion collected by Wiltshire Council which goes towards the Town Council's expenditure is known as the precept – by far the smallest proportion and less than 10% of your overall Council Tax bill.

What you get for your money

- The management of the Town Council and its budget
- A Tourist Information Point
- Information and guidance about Wiltshire Council services
- Consultation, assessment and representation on local planning applications
- Work to ensure that Cricklade is consulted and represented on proposed development strategies, traffic calming, flooding and car parking issues
- Work towards securing funding and implementing new projects
- Up to date information about local events through the Town Council Website, Notice Boards, the Town Guide and the Chronicle
- Maintenance of the CCTV system in the town
- Administration of burial records, spaces, memorials and plaques
- Grant support for a number of local community groups and organisations

And what you really notice everyday.....

- Day to day maintenance and upkeep of the grounds around the Leisure Centre, recreation grounds, Fairview Fields, the Millennium Wood, Saxon's Rest, Bath Road Play Area, the Skate Park, the Cemetery, St Sampson's and St Mary's Churchyards and other open spaces
- High Street enhancements and award winning floral displays
- A clean and tidy town



How's it all organised?

Cricklade Town Council has 15 Town Councillors who carry out business through 4 Committees with the Full Town Council meeting every 6 weeks.

Committee	Main Responsibilities
Policy & Resources	Council policies, financial issues, assets and grant awards
Community & Leisure	Play areas, community projects, cemetery matters, Britain in Bloom and floral displays, groundsmen requirements, community competitions, street furniture, etc.
Planning Conservation & Transport	Planning applications, conservation issues, climate change, traffic/transport issues, environmental issues including flooding
Personnel Sub-committee	Personnel and staffing issues

Your Staff - There are currently 6 paid officers headed by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk and 2 groundsmen are full time employees with 2 Assistant Town Clerks and an Administrator working part time hours.

Some of what your Town Council has been up to in 2009/10

- A Community Garden – Saxon's Rest - was opened in October
- A CCTV system has been installed
- Allotments were established – 21 plots
- Given support to Cricklade Bloomers and their impressive win at South West in Bloom
- Negotiated and signed a lease allowing access to Council-owned land opening up a future long awaited and much needed car park area
- Awarded grants totalling £6,170 to Cricklade Bloomers, the Jenner Hall, Cricklade Business Association, the Scouts, Victim Support, Thames Pre-School, Parsonage Farm Residents Association and the Cotswold Canal Trust.
- Re-opened negotiations on the transfer of Long Close to the Town Council
- Completed enhancements to the War Memorial with up lighting
- Managed the Open Door Community Centre
- Worked towards a new Town Guide



Some of what the Town Council will try to do in 2010/11

- Seek funding streams for the development of the Town Centre car park
- Continue negotiations through our Wiltshire Councillor for the adoption of the Eastern Roundabout to enable it to be enhanced as an impressive entrance to Cricklade
- Continue negotiations on the transfer of Long Close to the Town Council and then its subsequent enhancement
- Work with Wiltshire Council and Highways on enhancements to High Street North
- Work with local young people on a project to extend the Skate Park
- Support the production of a Parish Plan led by a Steering Group of local people the result of which will lead the Town Council's Forward Plan as well as feed into wider county-wide strategies. This will also provide evidence of need in the town to support funding bids
- Support Cricklade Bloomers in our entry in the Britain in Bloom national finals
- Offer a civic welcome to Sucé to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Town Twinning Association

Challenges Ahead

The new Wiltshire Council has been in place a year. There have certainly been some changes in the move from 3 tiers to 2 tiers of local government and it will be some time before we see services properly settling down. Harmonisation exercises are taking place in an effort to ensure Council Tax payers across the county are offered best value in the fairest way possible. For example, this means there may be changes in the way refuse is collected or car parking charges levied in line with other towns. There will also be some changes in the way services are delivered to us which may involve a more direct approach to Wiltshire Council rather than going through the Town Council. At the same time, there could be opportunities for the Town Council to take on services, land or built assets and manage them locally. Cricklade Town Council is working very closely with the new Unitary Authority to ensure that services to residents in Cricklade are maintained or improved, not reduced.

How Councillors decided what to spend your money on in 2010/11

Councillors have little influence over some expenditure - tax, National Insurance contributions, utilities, rent for Ockwells, etc. Elsewhere in the Town Council Budget they are able to make cuts and savings - next year prudent saving has allowed for some capital payments (up to £14,650) to be paid from reserves. There is scope too for generating income with some chargeable services such as photocopying, hire of the Meeting Room, etc. The last year has been a tough one for local residents and businesses and though some Town Councils felt it necessary to raise precepts quite substantially, Councillors in Cricklade have decided to raise the Council Tax here by only 3.1% to **£216, 778**.

CRICKLADE TOWN COUNCIL



Cricklade Town Council Budget 2010/11

Where the money goes	2010/11	2009/10
Policy & Resources Committee	£206,055	£195,816
Planning Conservation & Transport	£6,150	£1,150
Community & Leisure	£40,805	£39,925
Total budgeted expenditure	£253,010	£236,891

Where the money comes from	2010/11	2009/10
Precept (from Council Tax payers)	£216,778	£210,282
Income	£18,008	£19,356
Reserves	£14,650	£4,100
Underspend	£3,574	£3,153
Total budgeted income	£253,010	£236,891

What this means for you

SUMMARY	2010/11	2009/10
Annual Council Tax (Band D) <i>The precept figure (£216,778) is divided by the number of Band D households (1599.68) to calculate the Band D costs</i>	£135.51	£131.43

For the average Band D Council Tax payer this represents an increase of £4.08 per year or 8p per week.

Future Financial Planning

Cricklade is a small town of 5,000 residents – a small town which has proudly achieved a lot and has some big ambitions. Our priority remains to try to meet the needs of residents. Also, it's clear that the town is attracting more visitors who should in turn bring money into the town creating a more vibrant local economy. To attract more visitors we will have to look at the sort of facilities they will expect. That may include enhancing some of the town's assets, such as Long Close and providing more car parking. To achieve all of this the Town Council will seek external funding but it is possible that a rise in the local precept may be inevitable over coming years.

The Town Council is always pleased to receive questions, comments or suggestions from the residents. Please come along to the Annual Town Meeting where more detail about achievements and plans for the future will be discussed.

Annual Town Meeting
7.00pm on Monday 26th April 2010
United Church, Calcutt Street

If you require any further information about the Town Council, we would be pleased to help. Contact details are:

Tel: 01793 751394
Fax: 01793 752515
Email: admin@cricklade-tc.gov.uk
www.cricklade-tc.gov.uk