



Office Hours  
Monday to Friday  
9am - 3pm

# CHUDLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Chudleigh Town Council: Precept for 2018/19**

After lengthy discussions Chudleigh Town councillors have taken the decision to increase the precept for 2018/19 to £141,747 from its current level of £132,332. A Band D household in Chudleigh currently pays £1,765.50 in Council tax, of which £79.56 comes to the Town Council. This increase will mean that the Band D property contribution to the Town Council will rise to £83.54 per annum. This equates to an increase of £3.98 per annum or 33 pence per month.

Cllr Underwood, the Chairman of the Town Council and Mayor, said that "In the current economic climate we do realise that any increase in Council Tax bills will be unwelcome. However, we are finding that as the services provided by the County Council are reducing, increasingly, residents wish Chudleigh Council to take up the slack. For example, this year the Town Council has organised and paid for the cutting of roadside verges and the spraying of weeds in urban areas. The cost to the Council was close to £2,500. We fully expect to spend more this year as the County Council have cut back even further and their drain clearance services reduce to once per annum, so again we expect the need to back-up that service.

This increase in the precept has enabled us to freeze our cemetery and room hire charges. We wanted to do this because we believe that both the cemetery and the activities at the Town Hall are services valued by local people. The Town Hall hosts the pre-school and after school clubs as well as a huge range of community group activities. There is also a diverse range of leisure activities run from the Town Hall and we hope that the freeze on their charges will help the organisers minimise any charge increases to their users, thus benefiting everyone.

There is an ever-increasing demand from community groups for grants from the Town Council to enable them to continue and expand their services to the public. Next year we intend to increase the amount we issue in grants by 40%."

He went on to speak about the range of projects that the Town Council was pursuing. "This year we have installed an outdoor gym at Millstream Meadow, worked with the Sports Centre to provide a landing site for the Devon Air Ambulance in the town and commenced a quarterly newsletter delivered door to door so that people know what we are doing on their behalf. Before the end of the financial year we expect to have installed a new play park at The Gardens and a new bus shelter at Millstream Meadow. We are also pursuing the purchase of the allotment site at Exeter Road so that the site is guaranteed for future generations as well as continuing the pursuit of our environmental responsibilities"

If you require any further information on the Town Council budget for 2018/19 please contact John Carlton, the Town Clerk on 01626 853140 or by e mail at [clerk@chudleigh-tc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@chudleigh-tc.gov.uk)