



UPPINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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To Local & National Media

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Ref: Uppingham Precept for 2019/20

Uppingham Town Council continues to work hard for the benefit of the local community. With this firmly in mind Council has continued to improve and maintain the Town Hall fabric. Much needed redecoration and refurbishment of the main hall floor were completed in Autumn 2018. This is part of an ongoing planned maintenance programme put in place, having mothballed the project to completely overhaul and redevelop the site. The works where funding is being sourced this coming financial year, include improving access from High Street East and creating more storage in the hall to accommodate an increasing number of hirers and classes.

Tod's Piece will be the main focus for Council in 2019 having consulted in the Autumn with the community about where monies should be targeted for a significant phased improvement programme. This will include improvements to access and the play equipment. Council will be put out to tender and subsequent design ideas will be shared to gain community feedback and support. Later phases have been mapped out such was the level of feedback about this vital green space in the heart of Town.

Council is mindful that any large-scale projects of the sort highlighted above, are robustly planned and deliver value for money. The funding for these will come from a combination of allocated reserves and the majority from grants. Council will also be able to draw on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments that are being generated from the new development in Uppingham. Where to prioritise CIL monies is something that the Council will gather views on from the community very soon.

In the current year Council opted to freeze the precept. For 2019/20 they have agreed an increase of 11.26% for households which in simple terms equates to a £7.75 increase over the year or £0.15p per week for a Band D home.

Quote from Mayor, Miranda Jones: *"I am encouraged that the increasing interaction between the Council and Uppingham residents continues to guide our prioritisation of activities and expenditure throughout the year. We are currently working on a strategic 5-year plan to ensure astute management of all our resources for the benefit of the Town. You can be assured the Council will extract maximum value and benefit from its revenue and precept, including the improvement and maintenance of important community spaces and venues. Council are keen to press ahead with the refreshment of the town's Neighbourhood Plan and more news will be shared imminently. The Town Council has worked carefully to enhance the town's profile within the region and to ensure its voice is heard at County Council level. Thank you for your continuing support."*

Any questions should be sent to Neil Wedge (Town Clerk) to the above address or email.