

Parish Council meeting FebruaryMarch 2017
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The Norfolk County Council budget which has been agreed in such a way to ensure we maintain all essential services
Extra money has been allocated to bridge gap in overspend.

Children's services £11million overspent. 1300 children in care (Looked after children) Schools have direct grant from central government. We do not run the schools but run social services for children and any child excluded from school. We provide alternative schooling for this group who are disruptive and have a range of often dysfunctional family setups. It is very costly in these special schools

- 87% of Norfolk schools are now rated Good or Outstanding

- Adult Social Care: £11million over budget!
- Unable to make the savings we needed
- Used reserves but getting near the bottom
- Having to look at Council Tax which is what we have been asked to do. No increases for a number of years and minimal last year.

Adult social care is costing more as demands on the service are increasing. People live much longer, which is great if you are healthy. However, many live with long term conditions or dementia and it is essential we provide the support

Prevention essential. Social services Swifts and Night owls
Adult social services try and prevent admissions to hospital by providing short term support in an emergency both avoiding admissions and helping get people back home

Government support grants will be replaced by Business grants. By 2020 Business grants will be paid direct to County Councils rather than to central government. Will need strong economy to meet challenge

Our government grant for 2017/18 had been calculated on the assumption that Adult Social Care, will need to increase council tax by 2- 3 % this year with a maximum of 6% during next 3years to support adult social care

Plus (1.8% in 2017/18) for the increased costs of delivering services.

Total increase 4.8% this year has been agreed by full council

Every committee is planning for 2017/18 based on the assumption that council tax would increase overall by 4.8%

Without increase we would have to achieve further £12.7 million in savings which would start to impact on essential services

- The proposed 4.8% increase in council tax for 2017/18 comprises a social care precept of 3% and a CPI increase of 1.8%.
- The 4.8% increase will bring in an extra £16million to the county council.

- For a band, D council tax payer, the increase amounts to an additional £1.10 a week.
- In total, next year, the county council's services will cost a band D household £1,247.95 for the year, or £23.93 a week.

New Homes bonus. £4.5 million given to Districts in the past to encourage them to build more new homes, will from this year go to County Councils to support Adult Social Care

We will start the new financial year without a deficit but will have to look at all services to ensure we get the best for the money we have. Protect essential services and prioritise what we do and how we do

Highways:

Removal and repair of numerous raised areas which have developed across the full width of the A143 between Kirby Cane/ Ellingham junction and the Stockton Round about. Work starts this Sunday for a week or so. Work will be done during the hours of 7pm and 7am to reduce disruption.

We have announced the constructive of a new roundabout and bus lay-bys at Hales with funding from our Highways Budget. This is a project I have been particularly passionate about from the first day of becoming a County Councillor, when I heard of the dangers at the junction and the difficulties for passengers catching a bus on the main highway, risking life and limb, literally.

The Loddon roundabout is also due to start by the end of this month with South Norfolk paying for its construction up front before house are built. The cost will be reclaimed from the developers when they have completed a certain number of new homes

Children's Services

Improvement in the management of looked after children has been significant despite what is reported in the EDP. Morale has improved and a new Director is ensuring that necessary changes are implemented at pace, something which was not happening under the direction of the previous incumbent

We continue to work together to ensure that Norfolk remains a great place tom live and work
Margaret Stone