

## PARISH COUNCIL TAX – WHAT YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY

The Parish Council in Carlton in Lindrick is very much aware of the importance of communicating to Local Council Taxpayers exactly what services are provided locally and how these services are paid for. Getting good value for your money is a priority and ensuring quality services is a day to day objective.

The net cost to the Parish Council in providing local community services is £148,000 per annum. This money is raised by making a property Council Tax Charge of £95.00 per year which you will see on your Council Tax Bill. The £95 charge applies to Band D properties and this amount will vary slightly if your property is in a different Council Tax Band. The charge is collected by the Bassetlaw District Council along with other Council Tax Charges.

Government initiatives over recent years have encouraged Local Authorities at all levels to be more accountable and for many years your Local Council has endeavoured to keep residents informed on what we do and how Council Tax Monies are allocated.

Detailed below is an analysis of how the £95 Annual Council Tax is spent and what services are supported. The analysis shows what percentage of the £95 is allocated to each service and what that means in relation to how much per week is allocated to provide the local services listed.

Following the analysis you will find explanatory notes on the service provision for each of the Parish Council's responsibilities.

% of Expenditure	Description/Service	Parish Precept £95 Per Annum	Weekly Charge
14.3	Playing Fields O/Spaces	13.59	0.26
2.2	Section 137 Grants	2.09	0.04
0.12	Chairman's Budget	0.11	0.00
16	Staff Costs	15.2	0.29
11	Youth Centre	10.45	0.20
1.2	Village Fete	1.14	0.02
3.5	Admin/Meeting Rooms	3.33	0.06
4.1	General	3.9	0.08
0.6	Play Equipment	0.57	0.01
17	C Centre General Includes	16.15	0.31
6	C Centre Maintenance	5.7	0.11
1.5	Footpaths, Bridleways	1.43	0.03
4	Burial Ground Maintenance	3.8	0.07
8.8	Burial Ground Reserve	8.36	0.16
6	Burial Ground Improvements	5.7	0.11
3.3	Loan Repayment	3.14	0.06
TOTAL		£94.66 approx	£1.81 per week approx.

Quite often, members of the local community are understandably confused as to which services are provided by which Local Authority. The above figures relate totally to the net expenditure being met by your Parish Council and an explanation as to how the money is used to support the services listed is detailed below.

**1. Playing Fields – Open Spaces** - weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 26p per property

This charge provides the money for the Parish Council to employ Contractors to maintain highway grass verges, garden areas at the Civic Centre, the Youth Centre, Lambert Gardens and other environmental maintenance work. In recent years this charge which supplements some work undertaken by the County and District Council's has resulted in excellent standards being achieved although adverse weather conditions do occasionally make the job more difficult.

**2. Section 137 Grants (Grants to local organisation)** weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish 4p per property

This charge enables the Parish Council to support local organisations who are benefiting the local community. The Parish Council supports the Carlton News in the provision of an excellent local Newsletter Publication and many other small grants are made. Recently the Parish Council has agreed to meet accommodation costs at the Civic Centre for a local service which enables local residents to embark on a healthier lifestyle. The initiative has the support of local G.P's who can refer appropriate patients for participation in activities to improve their health. The grants budget enables the Parish Council to support these activities.

**3. Chairman's Budget**

This is a small allocation of £200 per annum which is in place if the Council wishes to send floral tributes to commemorate recently deceased former members who have given previous service to the Council and community. This budget is used also to purchase wreaths to commemorate those lost in action serving their Country in wartime.

**4. Staff Costs** – weekly Council Tax Council Charge for the Parish – 29p per property

This figure represents the cost of employing two part-time employees at the Civic Centre to undertake the work of the Parish Council.

**5. Youth Centre** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 20p per property

Most of you will know that the Parish benefits from having an excellent Youth Club in Lawn Road. The Youth Club is held in property owned by the Parish Council and this allocation enables the building to be maintained in addition to supporting the work of staff and volunteers at the Centre. The Parish Council has an excellent record in working in cooperation with the Notts County Council to secure and develop this valuable community service for young people. In addition, the Vintage Club meets on a weekly basis for more mature residents to have a social "get together" and to enjoy some of the facilities at the Club.

**6. Village Fete** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 2p per property

This allocation supports events arranged at the local fete held on the field alongside the Civic Centre in July of each year. The event is organised by the Civic Centre staff and is largely self-financing but this relatively small allocation serves to support the event especially if bad weather interferes.

**7. Admin/Meeting Rooms** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 6p per property

This charge covers the cost of legislation updates, Audit Fees, Health & Safety Inspections and advice, room hire for meetings, website costs and all Councils Insurances and Subscriptions.

**8. General Costs** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 8p per property

This is a charge in reserve for legal advice provision which could be required in relation to all Council activities and to support unanticipated requirements arising from risk assessments on all Council resources.

**9. Play Equipment** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 1p per property

This is a charge which ensures Safety Inspections on all Parish Council Play Equipment. Professional advice is obtained by the Council in order to minimize any accident potential.

**10. Civic Centre General** - weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 31p per property

The Civic Centre is owned by the Parish Council and Managed by a Board of Trustees who employ staff to support services at the Centre. This allocation ensures the provision of an excellent local facility which is available to local organisation, societies and to local families for accommodation required for family occasions. In addition, the Trustees and Staff endeavour to organise a variety of Community Events for local residents and other organisations make use of the premises to provide their services at a local level. The Board of Trustees act purely on a voluntary basis but this budget allocation helps to support staff and running costs at the Centre.

**11. Civic Centre Maintenance** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 11p per property

The Civic Centre is owned by the Parish Council. The Council has a duty to maintain the facilities in good order and this provision ensures the safety and efficiency of the building.

**12. Footpaths and Bridleways** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 3p per property

As most of you will be aware, the Parish has a network of footpaths and bridleways. Most rural areas have similar networks. Although clearance work, maintenance and signage on the paths is the responsibility of the Notts County Council, their budget cuts have meant that the maintenance work undertaken by the County is limited to a minimum requirement. The Parish Council therefore arranges for extra work to be undertaken in an effort to maintain the network to a good standard for local users.

**13. Burial Ground Maintenance** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 7p per property

In recent years the Parish Council has become responsible for grounds maintenance at the Church. Contractors who also undertake grass cutting and garden work in the rest of the village also maintain the burial ground. This allocation meets the annual cost of the required work.

**14. Burial Ground Reserve** – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 16p per property

Most of you will be aware that space at the Church for interment purposes is becoming limited. The Parish Council has a legal duty to provide land and resources for interments to continue within the Parish. If the provision cannot be met, families would have to arrange for the interment of deceased loved ones to be undertaken in other towns or parishes. The

Parish Council is currently in the process of purchasing land for the purpose which will serve the local community for many years to come. This allocated reserve will contribute towards development of the land and the costs of legal and planning fees which will need to be met.

15. Burial Ground Improvements – weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish 11p per property

The Council owned burial ground at the Church and adjacent to the A60 Highway is in need of improvement works. Adverse weather conditions often create unreasonable surface conditions for pedestrians. Vehicles and plant equipment employed on the site also add to the potential for adverse ground surfaces. This allocation will enable the Parish Council to undertake an improvement scheme which will also improve access for the disabled to the site.

16. Loan Repayment - weekly Council Tax Charge for the Parish – 6p per property

The Capital Cost of land purchase for the continued provision of burial facilities within the Parish is £60,000. It is normal practise for smaller Council's to obtain loan facilities of this nature from the Public Works Loan Board who provide financial resources to local authorities at competitive interest rates. The Parish Council has included within its present budget this allocation which will mean that provision has been made for repayment of the loan without increasing the annual Council Tax Charge of £95.

Finally, residents need to be reminded that the £95per annum Council Tax Charge has been "frozen" for the 4 year period 2014 to 2018. Your Parish Council will continue to co-operate and work with others who have experienced severe budget cuts in recent years in order to maintain good standards in our areas of responsibility. The joint working principle is very much supported and promoted by your local Parish Council who continue to be in discussions with the County and District Councils and representatives of the Health and Voluntary Sector in order to maintain a viable community service.

The Parish Council meets at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month (except August, when we do not meet) at the Civic Centre in Long Lane. Members of the public are encouraged to attend. If you have any observations or queries relating to the Parish Council and its responsibilities please do not hesitate to contact Peter Goulding (Clerk) at the Civic Centre, Long Lane, Carlton in Lindrick, Worksop, S81 9AP or on 01909 541127.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Parish Council has commenced a procedure for the establishment of a Neighbourhood Plan. Such a plan is dependent on responses to consultation with the local community so that local views can be considered.

Details on consultation arrangements and how you might become involved will be published through the columns of the Carlton News and on notice boards throughout the Parish. If you feel you may be interested in future plans for the Parish, keep an eye open for publication arrangements.