



EXPLANATION OF INCREASE IN THE PARISH PRECEPT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS

At the Surrey Association of Local Council's (SALC) Autumn Conference held in October 2018, Trevor Leggo, the CEO of SALC, stated that parish precepts have, on average, doubled in the last ten years. Jonathon Owen, the Chief Executive of NALC (National Association of Local Councils), who addressed the Conference, urged parish councils to build on the numerous innovative projects and services being undertaken due to the austerity measures imposed on the principal authorities, which are having a huge impact on the delivery of services.

Table 1: Increase in Worplesdon Parish Council's precept over the past ten years

2009/2010 Precept	2019/2020 Precept	Total Precept if 2009/2010 had doubled	Percentage increase over the past ten years	2009/2010 Band D Rating	Increase in Band D Rating over the past ten years	2019/2020 Band D Rating	Value of Band D Rating if WPC's precept had doubled over the past ten years
£119,500	£226,915	£239,000 (100%)	89.887%	£33.82	£31.99	£65.70	£67.64 (100%)

Not all households contribute council tax (single residents receive a discount and residents on benefits may not pay any council tax). The Parish Council receives a grant from the Borough Council to make up this short fall in council tax. This is called the Local Council Tax Support Scheme grant (LCTSS).

Despite the disappointing hike in the precept, Worplesdon Parish Council is on a par with the average parish council precept which was [£64.05 in 2018/2019](#).¹ It should be borne in mind, that Worplesdon is a large Parish covering 35sq miles.

The introduction of the Localism Act 2011 has seen the devolution of the following services from the County and Borough Councils to the Parish Council:

- Cleaning of bus shelters
- Ditch clearance (of certain ditches in the Parish)
- Vegetation clearance – including sightlines
- Siding out of pavements (removing the overgrowing vegetation which encroaches over the pavements) • Litter picking
- Placement of litter bins (and dog poo bins)
- Highway sign cleaning
- These tasks are carried out in addition to maintaining the Parish Council assets located across the Parish.

Currently the Parish Council delivers 15 – 16 grass cuts per year. If this service were to be carried out by the County Council, only 2 cuts would be provided per year. The work of the Parish Council has increased exponentially over the past five years, not least because of the amount of work that has gone into the Local Plan, in a bid to protect the Green Belt within the Parish from proposed development, that would have seen the number of properties within the Parish boundary almost double from 3,500 to approximately 6,250.

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https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700668/Council_tax_levels_set_by_local_authorities_in_England_2018-19_revised.pdf

In terms of council tax for the police, schools and social services these functions are not provided by the Parish Council and therefore any reduction in the Parish precept would have no impact on the delivery of those services.

In the last ten years, the Parish Council has:

- Provided the Community Car Park in Wood Street Village
- Purchased Harry's Meadow (Jacobs Well) and Nevins Copse (Wood Street Village) for the benefit of local residents
- Updated playground equipment in all of its play areas
- Has employed additional members of staff (30 hours per week Assistant Clerk and 25 hours per week Groundsman)
- Carries out devolved services on behalf of the principal authorities
- Ensures the grass cutting is carried out 15 -16 times per year
- Has actively sought to protect the Green Belt within the Parish from development
- Provided additional litter bins, which the Groundsman empties
- Has replaced a number of bus shelters
- Awarded grants to local organisations to the value of £14,886 (over the past four years)
- Provides public tennis courts at heavily discounted prices
- Furthered road safety initiatives including the pedestrian refuge for Aldershot Road, Speed Data Recorder and Vehicle Activated Signs in addition to the Community Speed Watch Scheme (currently being resurrected).
- Had installed, and meets the cost of, free wi-fi in the Worplesdon Memorial Hall.

The volume of work with which the Parish Council now deals has increased significantly. The facilities in which the office staff previously had to work were not fit for purpose and were in breach of employment and health and safety legislation and Public Liability Insurance on the domestic premises could no longer be obtained, which meant that, in the event a member of the public were to injure themselves at the staff's homes, the members of staff would be held personally liable. The new office has provided a facility in which day-time meetings can be held. This has in turn reduced the time staff spend travelling to meetings and has also seen a drop in the mileage claims. It also enables the Parish Council to engage regularly with the local police.

The Parish Council intends to rent office space for the foreseeable future. Should a developer be able to provide an office/meeting facility under a S106 Agreement for £1, the Parish Council would be willing to take on the free hold of such a building.

Table 2: Comparison of council tax in other Guildford parishes 2019-2020

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Parish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Albury	1,305.17	1,522.71	1,740.23	1,957.76	2,392.81	2,827.88	3,262.93	3,915.52
Ash	1,303.01	1,520.19	1,737.35	1,954.52	2,388.85	2,823.20	3,257.53	3,909.04
Effingham	1,312.68	1,531.46	1,750.24	1,969.02	2,406.58	2,844.14	3,281.70	3,938.04
Normandy	1,326.74	1,547.88	1,769.00	1,990.12	2,432.36	2,874.62	3,316.86	3,980.24
Ripley	1,305.13	1,522.66	1,740.18	1,957.70	2,392.74	2,827.79	3,262.83	3,915.40
Worplesdon	1,301.06	1,517.91	1,734.75	1,951.59	2,385.27	2,818.96	3,252.65	3,903.18
Town area								
Guildford	1,257.26	1,466.81	1,676.35	1,885.89	2,304.97	2,724.06	3,143.15	3,771.78