



# MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## FINANCE 2016/2017

In January 2016, the Community Council set their Budget for the Financial Year April 2016 to March 2017. From this Budget the Precept for the new financial year is set and the billing authority (Monmouthshire County Council) is advised. Monmouthshire County Council collects the Precept, from residents, on behalf of the Community Council.

Monmouthshire County Council 'Council Tax', which you pay each year, is made up of contributions to the County Council, the Community Council Precept and the Police Authority Precept.

When setting the Budget and Precept, the Community Council takes in to consideration the cost of running the council; Administration, staffing, training and general costs associated with the running of the Community Council.

Consideration is also given to the cost of running services, maintaining and restoring community assets e.g. War memorial, Procurators House, bus shelters, emptying of dog bins, play parks, tennis courts, health & safety inspections and general maintenance costs.

New projects, and improvements to existing ones are also taken in to account, with suggestions for new projects or improvements to existing ones coming from feedback and input from members of the public at the various consultation events, Community Council surgeries, and stalls at various open events i.e. Neighbourhood Policing Team Open Day as well as feedback received by email, telephone or in person. Suggestions form part of the Community Council's Development Plan which is continually being updated. The Council work from this to Plan to develop, benefit and improve the well-being of the Community.

The Community Council also set aside monies to award small grants to local community organisations and groups, and to engage with the Community.



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## So what is the Community Council's budget for 2016/2017?

The Community Council are mindful of the financial climate, and the call on everyone to pay more – for everything. The public purse is no different. The Community Council has therefore worked hard to ensure that this year's budget has the minimum impact on residents.

The Community Council budget for 2016/2017 has therefore been set at **£150,000**. Although this is an increase of £840 (0.56%) compared to the 2015/2016 budget of £149,160 in reality due to the Monmouthshire County Council 'formula' for Community Tax Base the actual impact means that a Band D household will pay approximately **£0.55p less** than they did this year.

When setting the budget, the Community Council strove to achieve high standards whilst continuing to maintain and improve services to the Community and its assets – we know there will be additional expenditure this year (War Memorial & Procurator's House restoration work) with some of the cost hopefully borne by various grant funders.

The Council are mindful that in 2017/2018 Monmouthshire County Council intend to devolve some of the services they provide to Town and Community Councils - we will have to find the money to take on these services, or be faced with either reduced or cut services. For example the County Council are looking to reduce the number of 'cuts' they do on grassed areas – if we want to maintain the standard we currently have, we will have to contribute to, or take on the shortfall – we will have to find the money to pay for this.

With the prospect of devolution of services looming in the future, we need to take this opportunity to let you know, that in 2017/2018 we will more than likely need to increase the Precept, and what you pay. We will not be able to maintain such a small increase as we have this year.

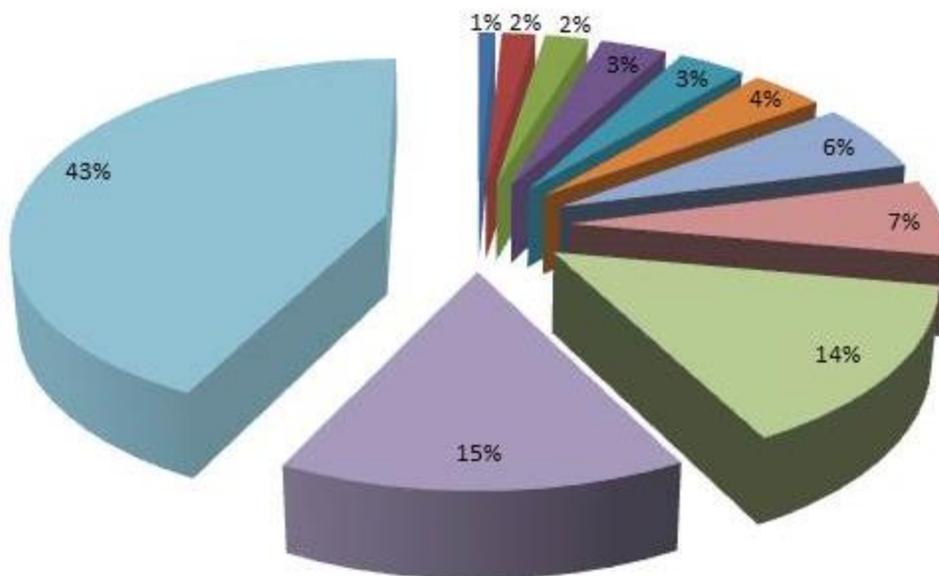


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## So how will this year's Community Council Tax be spent?

For every £1 the Community Council spends.....

- 1p - will pay for hall hire, leases eg allotments, play areas
- 2p - Will contribute to civic events, community engagement, Newsletters
- 2p - will be put aside for future project expenditure,
- 3p - Will pay for community grants
- 3p - will be spent on play schemes and support worker for local children & Youth
- 4p - will be spent on audit, insurance and legal fees
- 6p - will be spent of summer floral displays, grass cutting and Xmas lighting
- 7p - will be spent on stationery, training, expenses,
- 14p - will support the development of the Community Centre
- 15p - will pay for services and maintenance and restoration of Community assets
- 43p - will be spent on servicing and administering the running of the council, including litter picking





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## How will that affect residents?

Let's just put this in perspective.....

To a Band D household (the average Band) a Community Council Precept of £150,000 will equate to **£51.484 per annum** – that's **£0.99007 per week** (less than £1 a week going to support the work of the Community Council). Remember, the remainder of your Monmouthshire County Council 'Council Tax' goes to the County Council itself and the Gwent Police Authority.

Due to the level of 'Community Tax Base' approved by Monmouthshire County Council for this new financial year this actually means that a Band D resident is actually paying less to the Community Council for this coming year than they did for 2015/2016 (it was £52.04 - £1.0007).

Monmouthshire County Councillors met on 21<sup>st</sup> January to debate, and agree the Council Tax rate for households in Monmouthshire. Council Tax (the part paid to the 'County Council') will increase by **3.95%** for Monmouthshire ratepayers in the 2016/2017 financial year. See the South Wales Argus report at:

[http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/14223258.Monmouthshire\\_council\\_tax\\_to\\_rise\\_by\\_3\\_95\\_per\\_cent\\_for\\_2016\\_17/](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/14223258.Monmouthshire_council_tax_to_rise_by_3_95_per_cent_for_2016_17/)

Despite the amount of Council Tax that you contribute to the Community Council will be very slightly less than you paid last year, the fact that Monmouthshire County Council are increasing the amount you contribute to them by 3.95% will mean that the overall amount of 'Council Tax' combined (County, Community & Police) will be more this year.

Finally, the Community Council would like to re-assure you that they will continue to monitor expenditure and make every attempt to make savings where they can, and work towards keeping any increase in future Budgets and Precepts as low as possible.