

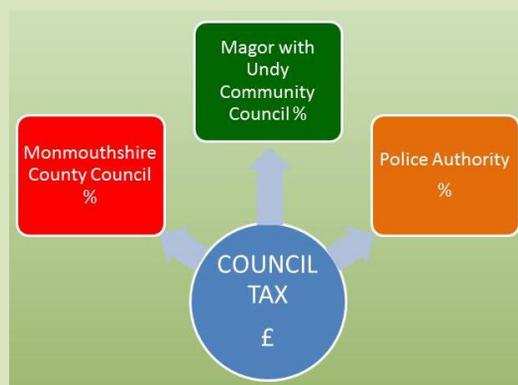


MAGOR WITH UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINANCE 2017/2018

In January 2017, the Community Council set its Budget for the Financial Year April 2017 to March 2018. 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. The 'Council Tax' that you pay to Monmouthshire County Council each year is made up of contributions to the County Council, the Community Council and the Police Authority.



When considering the amount of the Precept and Budget, Councillors need to consider the cost of running the council, administration, staffing, training, insurance, rents, leases and general costs as well as those costs associated with delivering services and maintaining 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 major improvements to existing ones, are also taken in to account along with a pot of money to award small grants to local community organisations and groups, and to engage with the Community.

Throughout the year, Councillors took on board suggestions, feedback and input from members of the public which helped draw up a draft budget for 2017/2018 projects. The Community Council then asked members of the public by way of drop-in surgeries and an on-line survey what they thought of the proposals.

So what did you think of the proposed 2017/2018 draft budget?

WHAT DID YOU SAY? WHAT WILL WE DO?



The Community Council consulted you on several projects, and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated or gave feedback in any way.

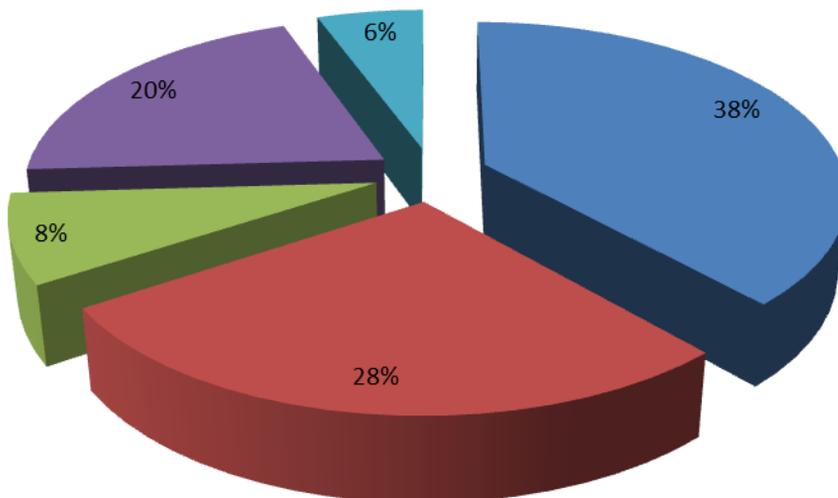
As a result of this, the Community Council has set its Budget for 2017/2018 at **£170,129** and its Precept at **£160,000**. (The Community Council will cover the difference of £10,129 from expected income and its reserve funds.)

For a Band D household, the Precept this year will equate to just over £1 per week contribution to the Community Council. This will enable the Community Council to continue to administer the Community assets, provide services and support community groups and organisations.

SO WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

For each £1 spent.....

- administration and staffing (including statutory payments/pension)
- commitments eg. existing services, insurance, rent, leases, maintenance, assets etc
- major repair/renovation projects on community owned assets
- new projects for 2017/2018
- grant monies (including youth provision)



What does the future hold for the Community?

The Community Council is facing some major renovation and repair works to some of its assets.

Council is aiming to renovate the War Memorial in time for the centenary of the end of the First World War, and work needs to commence on the Procurator's House, which has been shrouded in Heras fencing (for your own safety) over the last two years. The tennis courts too, are in need of major refurbishment.

Council has been aware of these impending works for some time, and has been putting aside monies each year, thus reducing the impact on each household when the works commence. Council will also apply for grant funding to assist in the cost of these major works.

Monmouthshire County Council has started to devolve some of the services they provide to Town and Community Councils and, in the near future, we may 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; similarly, they may decide to reduce the road sweeping schedule throughout the villages – we will have to contribute or take on the shortfall or lose this service.

With the prospect of devolution of services looming in the future, we need to take this opportunity to let you know that, in the future, and possibly in 2018/2019, 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.

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.

Cllr Donna James
Chair
Magor with Undy Community Council