

WALTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL – BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2021-2022

As Walton Community Council prepared its budget for the year, foremost in its mind was what the Council can do with the community's limited resources to make living in the Walton area a more pleasant experience.

Walton Community Council's plan, put simply, is about services for people and services for the environment, underpinned by good governance. There is always much to do in maintaining the excellent environment, landscaping and amenities the Council already has and in addition, allocating funds to the Council's ongoing program of play area renewal.

Walton Community Council has a firm focus on community engagement, with a fully dedicated council officer and committee with funding to deliver activities and events for the benefit of all age groups in the community. Last year's scheduled community events were badly affected by the Covid19 pandemic with most activities being cancelled, but the Council was pleased to deliver some limited Easter and summer play sessions for children of key workers and some socially distanced family activities. The Council hopes for a better year ahead.

Walton Community Council is also continuing with the refresh of its Neighbourhood Plan which started in 2020-2021 and has been successful in its bid for funding to cover the costs. On another planning matter, in early 2021-2022 Walton Community Council will be responding to the SE:MK Strategic Urban Expansion Supplementary Planning Document, recognizing the significant impact the proposed infrastructure and transport links will have on the area. The response to the SPD will require the Council to invest its resources and use some monies from its reserves to fund appropriate professional advice.

High on the Council's agenda this year is the acquisition and refurbishment of Walnut Tree Pavilion and Sports Ground. It is important that the area does not lose this facility so the Council has allocated sufficient reserves to cover running costs for the year whilst a full programme of refurbishment goes ahead.

The Council takes a cautious approach on our expenditure plans and maintaining reserves as a sensible contingency for uncertain times, or perhaps opportunities that lie ahead. As always, the key to the Council's success will be public participation in our regular surveys, to tell the Council how it is doing, and where it can do more.

Walton Community Council's 2021-2022 budget was agreed at the Full Council meeting held on 2nd December 2020 and its precept of £409,307 on 6th January 2021.

[Walton Community Council - Full Council meeting 2 December 2020 - Agenda](#)
[Walton Community Council - Full Council meeting 2 December 2020 - Minutes](#)

and

[Walton Community Council - Full Council meeting 6 January 2021 - Agenda](#)
[Walton Community Council - Full Council meeting 6 January 2021 - Minutes](#)

Walton Community Council's budget for 2021-2022 is £464,512.

The full economic impact of Covid19 is still unknown, but due to the potential hardship and uncertainty around the pandemic, the Council agreed to reduce the total precept request from £417,900 in 2020/2021 to £409,307. This meant that the Average Band D precept could be kept at current 2020-2021 levels of £98.44. The Council also agreed to use £31,800 of its working balance to support the budget and make up for the shortfall between income and expenditure.

The total expected income for the Council for 2021-2022 is as follows:

INCOME	
Precept	£409,307
Other income	£23,405
MKC matched funding towards refurb Sullivan Crescent play area *	£10,040
Allotments	£4,275
Hire of sports facilities - Browns Wood & MUGA	£4,100
Summer & Easter activities (children & youth)	£2,500
Third age & family coach trips	£1,200
Bank interest	£500
Summer Fayre & Xmas Celebration	£490
Newsletter advertising	£300
TOTAL INCOME	£432,712

The running costs of the Council, the events and activities it is funding in 2021-2022, and the community facilities it maintains are summarised as follows:

EXPENDITURE	
Governance	£41,150
s.137 grants to community organisations ¹	£30,000
Councillor costs – elected councillor allowances, co-opted councillors' travel expenses, councillor training	£6,950
Audit fees	£2,700
Annual parish meeting	£1,500
Office costs & overheads	£224,962
Staff costs – payroll, training, clothing & PPE, travel expenses	£165,100
Rent & room hire	£28,612
Office costs / overheads – general expenses, mobiles, telephones & broadband, stationery, IT support	£10,550
New financial & booking system software (one-off cost)	£7,500
Professional fees - general & HR	£5,600
Insurances	£3,500
Memberships & subscriptions	£2,300
Financial software	£1,800

¹ s.137 grants are grants to charity, voluntary or community organisations that work with or provide a service that is beneficial to the residents of the local area

Community engagement		£50,000
Summer & Easter activities (children & youth)	£15,000	
Newsletter	£10,000	
Youth club	£8,000	
Youth involvement	£5,000	
Third Age services	£5,000	
Fitness sessions	£2,000	
Residents' Survey	£1,500	
Online education	£1,000	
Parish Guardians	£1,000	
Community engagement – general	£1,500	
Community events		£21,600
WaltonFest (youth music event)	£6,000	
Summer Fayre	£5,000	
Xmas Celebration	£4,100	
Open-air cinema	£2,000	
New events 2021/2022	£1,000	
Third Age Summer coach trip	£850	
Xmas coach trip	£800	
Family coach trip	£750	
The Big Lunch	£600	
Bands in the Park	£500	
Community facilities		£113,750
Play Areas refurbishment (* see MKC matched funding)	£45,080	
Environmental topping-up services	£16,000	
Strategic landscaping	£15,850	
Security for MUGA & Browns Wood car park	£10,250	
Dog & litter bins/cleaning	£6,500	
Walk To School Graphics	£6,070	
Landscaping contingency	£5,000	
Neighbourhood Services	£5,000	
Conservation Volunteers Program	£4,000	
Facilities management		£300
Browns Wood utilities (s.106 monies are being used for other facilities management) ²	£300	
Fixed assets		£5,750
Equipment purchase, repairs, van maintenance & running costs	£5,750	
Allotments		£7,000
Utilities, landscaping, repairs & maintenance	£7,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£464,512

² s.106 monies are financial contributions levied on new developments to the local authority, as part of the planning process, to provide or fund infrastructure, services or other measures to mitigate the impact of the development. Where appropriate, monies can be drawn down by Town & Parish Councils.

2021/2022 RESERVES

De Minimis reserves [6 mths operational costs]	£120,956
Ringfenced reserves (community assets)	£95,000
Earmarked reserves (Walnut Tree transfer)	£65,200
General reserves	£100,000
TOTAL PROJECTED RESERVES	£381,156