

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For immediate release**

### **GODALMING TOWN COUNCIL SETS THE 2022/23 PARISH PRECEPT**

At Godalming Town Council's meeting of the Full Council held on Thursday, 13 January 2022, Members agreed the Council's budget and approved by a majority vote to set a Parish Precept requirement for 2022/23 of £928,755. This represents an increase from 2021/22 of 30.5p per week for a Band D property.

In presenting the Council's budget, Cllr Paul Follows, Leader of Godalming Town Council, said "Following an extremely challenging 22 months that saw the Town Council stepping forward to support the community response to the Covid-19 pandemic and having to adjust to a significant loss of revenue caused by the enforced closures of the town's community centres, the Town Council has agreed an increase in its Band D precept of 30.5p a week (4.3p a day). The Council's precept not only cover rises in inflation and government imposed staffing costs but also supports new services for the town. These include the opening of a new youth club and drop-in centre for the town's younger citizens and improving the Council's ability to maintain the green environment and the public realm of the town.

Cllr Follows continued by stating that "For less than a third of the cost of a cup of coffee per month in a town centre café, Godalming Town Council is dealing with the concerns raised by so many residents over the last 13 years at the lack of a youth club and safe space for young people of secondary school age."

The Council had wanted to take this programme forward in 2021 but the reality of Covid-19 and the restrictions it imposed meant that its plans had to be put on hold. However, with the last 2 years highlighting how much the pandemic has impacted on the well-being of the young, Councillor Steve Williams, Vice-Chair of the Council's Policy & Management Committee said "I am delighted that, following our consultation with residents, we are now proceeding to establish facilities for young people in our town and fund a full-time youth worker. This is an important step so that the young people of the town will, in future, have a place of their own to socialise and meet friends safely."

For all meeting dates, agendas and minutes please visit: <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/agendas-minutes/>

Ends...

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