

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

2014/15 PRECEPT

No-one likes to start the New Year with unwelcome news but there will be a significant increase in Council Tax precept this year (the year from 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015).

The Council already has a high precept because it has to maintain the Parish Hall, the Old Carnegie Library (including snooker tables), the Cemetery and street lighting in the Village — assets exceeding £1.7 million. These facilities add benefit to the Village but of course they do need money spending on them regularly. The Council has invested considerable monies in improving and enhancing its facilities over the last three years for the benefit of its users. From the 1st April 2014, the Council will be providing the necessary finance to Wrexham County Borough Council, for one year only, to fund the six play areas in the Village, the grounds maintenance in the Memorial Park and the Bryn Tabor School crossing patrol.

The Council has complained to Wrexham County Borough Council about the whole process, involved in what is termed Community Facilities, in that it believes it has been backed into a corner in view of the very short time allowed for a decision whether to fund or, ultimately, finish the services in question. The Council is, however, in a similar position to a number of Community Councils throughout Wrexham. Over the coming year, the Council will carry out a thorough review of usage, facilities, costs, along with further input from Wrexham County Borough Council and potential community involvement. The budget has had to be estimated in the case of play areas to allow for repair and maintenance and capital costs. I can assure ratepayers that any under-spend on the Community Facilities budget will be carried forward to 2015/16.

The increase, in precept, will be approximately 14%, which will mean a Band D Council Tax-paying household in the village paying an extra £12.34 for the year or 24 pence per week. This is the second increase in six years (see table below):

- 2009/10 Precept = £142,274
- 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 Precept = £139,429
- 2013/14 Precept = £146,350
- 2014/15 Precept = £167,300

Taking the six years in total this has meant that the annual increase in precept equates to about 2.75% per annum which is similar to the average Retail Price Index for that period.

The Council has controlled its finances through on-going efficiency savings and good management. To make sure that we spend the precept wisely and carefully, the Council exercises strict budgetary control. The Council has managed to find budget savings of approximately £4,000 to offset the increase in the Precept for 2014/15.

Residents are also encouraged to attend Council meetings which are held on the second Tuesday each month at 7.30pm in the Old Carnegie Library on Park Road (opposite the Memorial Park). If you have any questions or concerns please telephone 01978 756890/or e-mail clerk@coedpoeth.com.

Councillor Michael Dixon (Chair)

Approved