

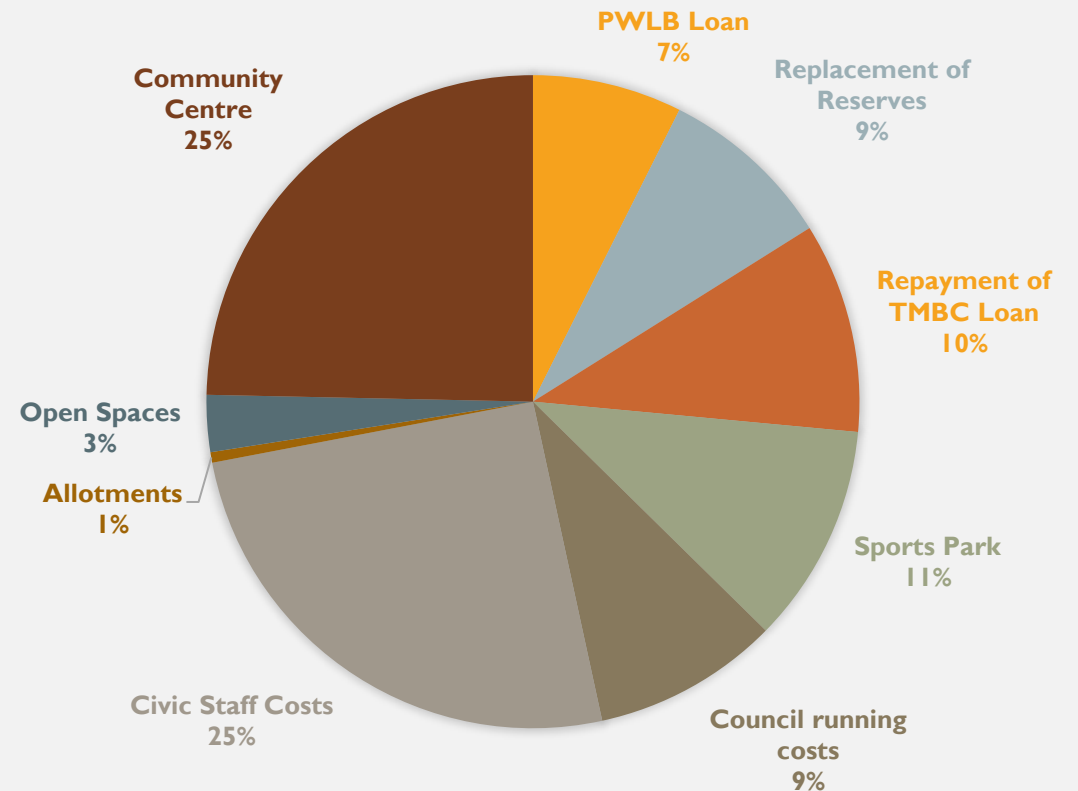
KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCIL

HOW WE SPEND YOUR COUNCIL TAX

Precept 2021-22

- The parish council is funded through the council tax system. Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council collect the funds from each household in the parish, known as the 'precept'.
- The amount for 2021-22 is £484,279
- This equates to £115.22 per year on an average band D property.
- An increase of £21.82 per band D household for the year.

EXPENDITURE BUDGET 2021-22



WHY HAS KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCIL HAD TO RAISE ITS PRECEPT FOR 2021-22?

- The council conducted an independent financial investigation to verify the reasons why it had been left in such a challenging position. The findings showed the unbudgeted spending made by the corporate body between 2016-2019 which depleted all financial reserves and exposed the council to high levels of risk.
- The council has now implemented a recovery strategy. This includes:-
 - ✓ A cost-cutting review across the entire council, with measures taking effect immediately.
 - ✓ Subletting the Sports Park to an experienced sports and leisure provider to remove political interference and achieve financial efficiency for the taxpayer and encourage community sport for all.
 - ✓ A new reserves policy with a full capital renewals programme and appropriate contingency levels.
 - ✓ Creating a more robust risk assessment and business plan model for all new activities to prevent unruly spending.
 - ✓ A training plan for all councillors to ensure full understanding of the role of elected members and the policies and procedures that apply to them, in order to prevent regulations being breached in the future.
 - ✓ A three-year budget plan to ensure minimum increases in future years.

You can read the full report here https://www.kingshillparish.gov.uk/Finance_4467.aspx

THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON THE PARISH FINANCES

- The COVID19 pandemic has seriously compounded the financial issues of the parish council.
- The new policies that had just began to bear fruit for the council were thwarted by the lockdown.
- The council has lost almost £200,000 of income that would ordinarily have been generated, due to the pandemic.
- As the council is already publicly funded it has not been able to claim all of the business grants that are available so the council has sought an interest free loan from the borough council to maintain cashflow until the year end.
- The council continues to lobby the government to assist parish and town councils to pass on more financial assistance to relieve the burden on the taxpayer.

THE YEAR AHEAD 2021-22

The council extends its thanks to Liberty Property Trust for the s106 obligations that are taking shape this year:

- ✓ a fabulous new hall at the Community Centre is ready to open, when the pandemic restrictions permit.
- ✓ brand new tennis/netball courts, 2 km trim trail and rugby pitch are also on their way.
- ✓ the sports pavilion is to be extended to provide more changing room facilities for the growing community..

The parish council will focus on responding to the issues raised by residents including speeding vehicles, the effect of housing development on our parish (including Broadwater Farm) and the effects of climate change.

Contact us online at www.kingshillparishcouncil.gov.uk
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