



Council Tax 2018-2019

Thatcham Town Council provides a wide range of services to residents in the parish of Thatcham.

This leaflet has been put together to explain how much money the Town Council requests (the precept) from the Council Tax paid to West Berkshire Council and how it is spent.



For the financial year 2018-2019 Thatcham Town Council has submitted a precept of £717,085 which represents no change from 2017-2018. An average Band D property, as can be seen in the table below, will be charged £80.27 this year. There is a small increase in this measure from 2017-2018 due to a corresponding reduction in the tax base.

	Budgeted Expenditure & Income	
	2017-2018	2018-2019
Expenditure	£900,906	£901,653
Income	£183,821	£184,568
Net Expenditure	£717,085	£717,085
Precept	£717,085	£717,085
Number of Band D Taxpayers	8972.44	8933.38
Precept divided by number of Band D Taxpayers	£79.92	£80.27

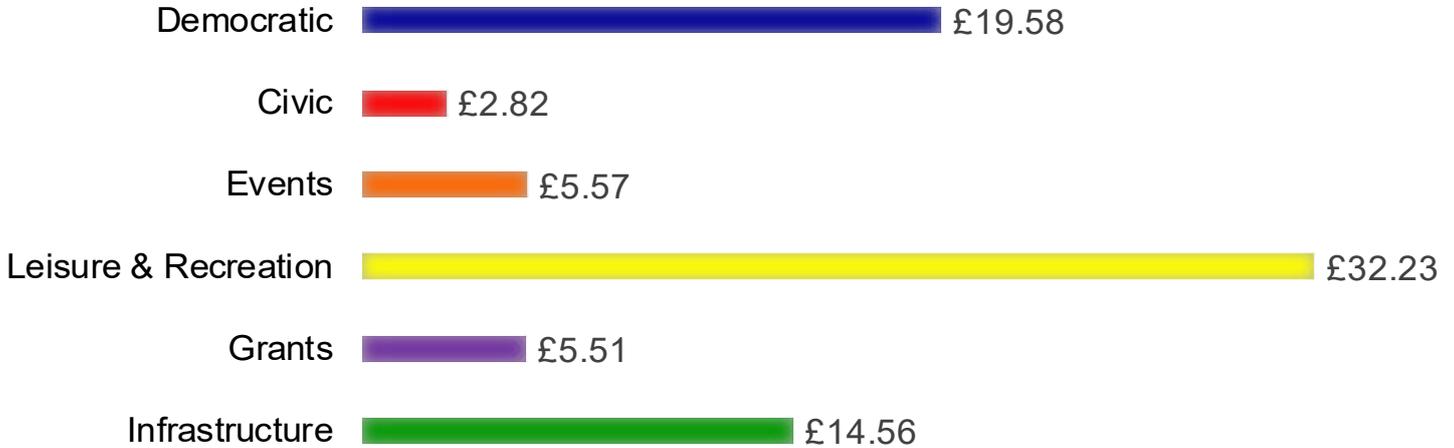


www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01635 863592



Below is an overview of how the £80.27 will be spent in 2018-2019.

The calculations given are for a home in Band D.
Your bill is unlikely to show this exact amount and will vary depending on the Band your property is in.



Democratic

Thatcham Town Council comprises of 18 Councillors representing 4 Wards. Councillors are elected every 4 years, the last elections having been in May 2015. All 18 Councillors provide their services on a voluntary basis and do not receive any salary, although they do receive a small annual allowance of £100 for expenses.

The Council is served by 11 x Officers, employed to manage the Council's service provision from the Council Offices in Brownsfield Road. The team is headed by the Town Clerk, supported by the Community & Civic Manager, Services Manager, Responsible Financial Officer and Finance Officer and a team of Administrative staff.

All Town Councillors meet at Full Council meetings. Many functions of the Council are delegated to Committees. The main Committees being Finance & General Purposes, Recreation & Amenities and Planning & Highways.

Town Council meetings are open to members of the public and press. Agendas are posted on the Council's 9 community noticeboards and on the website. Notifications are also posted on the Town Council's Facebook page.

Civic

The Town Council is chaired by the Town Mayor who is elected each year at the Annual Meeting in May. The Mayor has a small allowance each year to support their activities in the community.



Events

The Town Council has again allocated finances for the provision of Community & Civic events in the town including Thatcham Family Fun Day on 24th June, United Service of Remembrance on 15th July, Fun on The Broadway on 30th August, Thatcham Festival from 6th to 19th October, Armistice Day & Remembrance Parade on 11th November, Christmas Lights on 7th December and the Civic Carol Service on 9th December, 2018.



Leisure & Recreation

The Town Council either provides directly, or in association with other organisations, a great range of recreation facilities within the Town including:-

- Frank Hutchings Community Hall, Burdwood Community Centre and the Pavilion and football pitches at The Moors.
- London Road Cemetery
- Henleys Allotments
- Thatcham's weekly market
- Play areas in nine locations.
- Open spaces such as Siegecross, Pound Lane and Dunstan Green.
- Old Bluecoat School - leased to the Old Bluecoat School Trust.
- Pavilion and cricket field in Brownsfield Road - leased to Thatcham Town Cricket Club.
- Henwick Worthy Sports Ground - joint management with West Berks Council.
- Thatcham Library - partnership funding.
- Kennet Leisure Centre - partnership funding.

During the year 2018-2019 Thatcham Town Council expects to see completion of the transfer of various assets from West Berkshire Council to the Town Council, including Moorside Community Centre and playing field, along with various play areas and open spaces. These transfers have been accounted for in the Town Council's budget for 2018-2019.



Grants

Thatcham Town Council provides financial support to a variety of local organisations that provide services of benefit to the residents of Thatcham through grant funding; these include regular contributions to Thatcham Youth and Citizens Advice West Berkshire.

Community grants are also provided twice a year. These grants are administered via The Good Exchange (formerly FindMeAGrant). Organisations that received financial support from Thatcham Town Council in 2017-2018 were:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ABC to Read | Age UK Berkshire |
| ASD Family Help | Berkshire MS Therapy Centre |
| Bus of Hope | Dingley's Promise |
| Enterprise Inspiration | Headway Thames Valley |
| Hoarding Disorders UK | Homestart West Berkshire |
| Newbury & Thatcham Hospital Building Trust (The Rosemary Appeal) | |
| Parkinsons UK | Pied Piper Pre-School |
| Sport in Mind | Sue Ryder |
| Thatcham Photographic Club | Thatcham Rugby Football Club |
| West Berkshire Advocacy Project | |

Infrastructure

The Town Council owns the public conveniences in Thatcham Broadway. In addition it is responsible for providing and maintaining a number of street furnishings around the town, such as; benches, notice boards, litter bins, dog bins, grit bins and some street lights. The Town Council also maintains St. Mary's Churchyard.

In 2017-2018, Thatcham Town Council was delighted to reintroduce CCTV cameras to the town centre. A scheme which has proved highly valuable to the local Police team as well as some residents.

The Town Council also introduced the role of Environmental Officer to provide a proactive and reactive response to environmental issues around the town, such as; graffiti, litter, dog fouling, fly tipping, fly posters etc.



 **Thatcham Town Council**
Brownsfield Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HF
T: 01635 863592
W: www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
E: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

  
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