

As Council Tax bills for the year ahead begin dropping onto doormats, you will see the usual itemisation to show how the main amounts of money are put to use. GLPC wanted to explain to you, the resident, through our website annual Chairman's statement what this means for all of us in our Parish, please take time to read through and rest assured, the team are here to answer any of your questions you may have.

## **THE PRECEPT AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

The precept is the amount payable to Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) to cover the costs of running and maintaining properties, green spaces, sports grounds and allotments managed by us. The precept is also used for a wide variety of community support activities and events in the Parish. Our Parish has a proud community and sense of belonging which GLPC works hard to nurture - by offering services we believe enrich the lives of residents and support the community to develop further.

The precept is also used to staff the GLPC office, and pays for our two rangers, who work exceptionally hard to ensure the Parish is kept tidy, and that environmental issues are dealt with.

It supports several partner initiatives, including our Love Where You Live campaign which is all about supporting those residents who identify issues that bug us all, the overhanging hedges, blocked drains, long time litter, speed on estate roads, this is the hands-on activities that we would like to increase over the next few years.

We also work to provide larders, and support Community Fridges which deliver low-cost quality food and reduce landfill waste with Sofia/Fareshare.

We work with community partners to deliver advice, guidance and support on issues including mental health, benefits and other outreach requirements.

Our physical presence in the south of the Parish enables us to collaborate with other groups working hard to support residents, including Big Local Conniburrow, Cross and Stables and Keeping Kids Off the Streets.

We also undertake a huge amount of work to combat antisocial behaviour which blights our Parish; from everyday litter, fly-tipping and dog waste to graffiti removal and enforcement.

In Milton Keynes, GLPC is leading the way in combating fly-tipping; our use of live cameras yields results – a number of offenders have been successfully prosecuted, and intel gathered has been used by the police to tackle drugs and antisocial behaviour.

We agreed with residents concerned about road safety issues in parts of the Parish and worked with the Police and Milton Keynes Council (MKC) to help orchestrate schemes to make our roads safer.

GLPC now offers residents an online booking system to accommodate our growing facilities and has a bigger presence on social media; so, you can see what we're doing, when we're doing it and how.

While the country is in lockdown, some of our assets aren't available for use, but we are continuing to maintain these places and refurbish where needed. Maintenance of our open spaces continues, so that when the country reopens Parishioners can quickly re-engage with the services they rely on, and the activities they love.

It has placed an added monetary pressure on the Parish, which has had to employ new services for residents during these challenging and unprecedented times.

We hope the above information explains how the precept is used in many ways for the betterment of our Parish.

But with costs rising and available funding falling, we have had to revisit our plan for the future.

## **THE CHALLENGING TIMES AHEAD**

GLPC funds have been hit by the reduction in income in recent times. There is pressure from MKC for local Parish Councils to shoulder more of the burden of service provision and GLPC has found itself with a large hole in its budget; we have already lost £29k from the venues we manage, MKC cut funding to Parish Councils by £15k and MKC predicts that £10k will be lost in uncollected council tax due to the pandemic effects.

As MKC looks to address their income issues, landscape and environmental services are likely to be affected and we need to put a plan in place to cover any shortfalls.

That means the Parish Council (GLPC) must raise £54k just to stand still, and standing still is not something we can do at this time.