

## Mirfield Town Council Budget & Precept 2022/2023

Mirfield Town Council this week set its budget and the level of precept (local tax) for the forthcoming municipal year.

This follows the agreement by council last year following the Mayor's proposal, that the budget would be funded from the reserves the town council held, to recognise that due to the pandemic, grants and other spending had not taken place and the Council was in the fortunate position of being able to fund its budget for one year from the reserves.

The Town Council will again retain funding for the maintenance of Eastthorpe gardens in the town centre, provision of hanging baskets, Christmas illuminations and may, subject to completion of the required grant applications and scrutiny by council, fund major events in Mirfield.

The Town Council is committed to supporting community groups to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen and through its Armistice and Memorial Committee, support, facilitate or arrange other significant events.

The success of partnership working is recognised by the creation of a community fund and the Town Council will match fund defibrillators, community and commemorative benches, support the establishment of neighbourhood watch and community groups.

Mirfield Town Council has a proud history, stretching back more than 25 years, of backing our communities who seek to defend themselves from major developers and this year that is recognised through a Regeneration and Community support fund.

Council will also continue supporting the planting of trees for community and environmental benefit.

It is clear that in taking these steps, maintaining our commitment, improving the environment in Mirfield and placing the Town Council at the heart of Mirfield, we can run an efficient and community-oriented Council with a budget of £108,000.

Having set the budget of £108,000, allowing the council to operate. It was resolved this year, to set a precept or tax levy, which makes this achievable.

It was estimated that council will end the financial year with funds available from last year's budget, due in most part to the continuation of the pandemic, restricting activities. The Mayor, once again proposed that this unspent allocation was not left in reserves as unallocated spending, but used to reduce the amount raised from residents through the precept.

Approving this proposal means that allocating these funds to the budget, reduces the amount required from a precept. Therefore, a Band D tax payer will only pay £8.51 instead of the £15.84. per household had the proposal not been accepted and a full precept used to subsidise the budget.

When proposing this, it was mentioned that Kirklees Council have in the region of £115 million unallocated reserves which if allocated, could greatly reduce everyone's council tax.

For information, in other parts of Kirklees where there is a town/parish council, the table below shows their Band D precept.

<u>Part of the Council's area</u>	Parish Precept £
Parish of Denby Dale	26.03
Parish of Holme Valley	27.18
Parish Of Meltham	48.69
Parish of Kirkburton	15.76