

Pangbourne Parish Council Precept 2024-25 Financial Year

How your money is used

As 2024-25 Council Tax bills are being sent out, you may have noticed that Pangbourne Parish Council has increased its Precept this year by 51.9%. This sounds like a very large increase, however hopefully the detail below should go some way to explaining the reasons for this one off increase.

Although we strive to keep spending within a reasonable budget, our prime purpose is to provide and maintain good services to the village, which can only be done at a cost.

Alongside the Precept (the amount we collect in taxation), we generate income from hires and grants and in other ways and these help to offset the amount of taxation, but our main source of funding still remains from the Precept.

This is a small element of the Council Tax charged to householders for the Parish Council and in 2024-25 the Parish Council element of your tax bill forms just approx. **5.7% of your total bill.**

West Berkshire Council still forms the largest part of that bill at approx. 79% of the bill, with the remainder split across the Police and Fire Services.

For 24/25 Pangbourne's Parish Precept this equates to :

£290,340	Total Budget (£271,346 ex vat)
£209,746	Precept (the amount requested of tax payers)
£61,600	Other Income (includes fees for hall hire, allotments, the cemetery and any grants, or community infrastructure levy (CIL) or any other income received.

This represents taxation on the average Band D household of:

Parish Bill Band D	Basis	Increase on Last Year
£ 131.40	per year	£44.91 increase per year
£2.53	per week	£0.86p increase per week

Why the Increase?

Pangbourne Parish Council has gone through a significant period of change, facing steadily increasing costs over the last 10 years or so for a number of reasons. Amongst these are the services and functions which have been devolved by West Berkshire Council or which the parish has been asked to contribute towards.

In addition, certain Parish Council services were also not being delivered to a good enough standard and this has also been addressed. This has increased running costs year on year.

Staffing levels at the Parish Council were extremely low and several roles were undertaken by volunteers /semi volunteers which are now salaried positions. The Parish Council has been using its reserves to fund these, however with the sudden current inflationary pressures and with spending from reserves over time, this has become unsustainable.

Furthermore, work to analyse the finances of the parish by comparison with those of similar sized parishes (with similar responsibilities) within West Berkshire District highlighted a number of issues.

Pangbourne Parish is defined in the West Berkshire Hierarchy as one of six “Rural Service Centres” in the District. These are settlements identified as having services and amenities which serve a wider area than just their local residents. We are fortunate to have these amenities located for residents in the village.

When Pangbourne is compared with these other rural service centres , it was clear that the parish has been operating on both **the lowest cash precept** and also **the lowest per household cost** of all 6 of these centres, which has had the effect of running services extremely tightly and making it increasingly hard to serve the local community efficiently and well.

Since 2014 we estimate that National Precept Averages have risen approx 80% . Pangbourne Parish has increased its Precept 51% over the same time period until 23/24.

Below is an illustration of the services the Parish Council Operates .

2024-25 BUDGET

