



Bulletin

February
2018

The Parish Newsletter for everyone in Ash, Hodsoll St, New Ash Green and Ridley.

ASH-CUM-RIDLEY PARISH COUNCIL 2018—2019 BUDGET

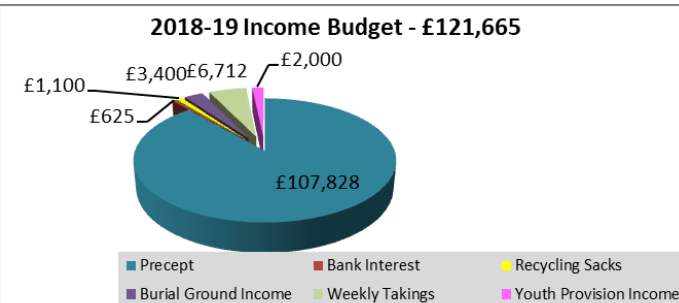
The legislation issued on behalf of the Secretary of State, which restricts the increase in tax demands applies to County, Borough and District Councils and no equivalent principals apply for Town and Parish Councils. This is currently under debate and in future, Town and Parish Councils may also fall under the regime.

Ash -cum-Ridley Parish Council's precept is the second lowest in monetary terms (2017-18) out of 30 Town and Parish Councils in the Sevenoaks District. While the percentage increase for 2018-19 is 12.74% on a Band D property, in monetary terms, this translates to an increase of £5.01 for the year.

In previous years when setting its precept, the Parish Council have been conscious of economic hardships and in recognition of this made the decision to draw on general reserves to balance the budget, as per table below. (Negative figures reflect the value to be drawn from General Reserves). The Parish Council cannot continue to draw on these reserves.

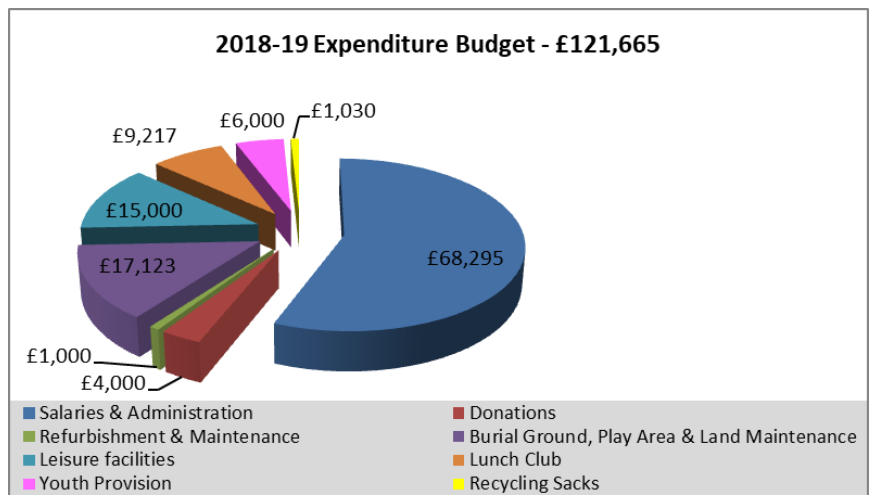
	2011-12	2012-13	*2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Annual Precept	£67,000	£68,500	£75,000	£78,000	£80,500	£90,562	£95,090	£107,828
% increase	2.29%	2.24%	9.49%	4.00%	3.20%	12.50%	5.00%	13.40%
Band D Per Annum	£26.22	26.86	£29.98	£32.78	£33.80	£37.61	£39.33	£44.34
Band D Increase	2.10%	2.44%	11.62%	9.34%	3.11%	11.27%	4.57%	12.74%
Increase per annum in £	£0.54	£0.64	£3.12p	£2.8p	£1.02p	£3.81p	£1.72p	£5.01p
Budget +/- General Re-serves	-£5,705	-£2,165	-£6,683	-£7,496	-£7,705	£4,792	-£9,968	£0

*The increase of 9.49% in 2013-14 was due to Sevenoaks District Council's decision not to pass on the Government Support Grant to Parish and Town Councils, in our case this amounted to £4,782. Had this grant been received, the precept increase would have been 2.5%.



Due to cut backs from the senior councils, parish councils have had to take on some services in order that they continue. For example, Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council both contributed to the provision of two senior and one junior youth clubs a week. Both councils have withdrawn this support and the Parish Council now fully funds one senior youth club and contributes towards the junior club. Two family fun days are provided in the summer.

The very popular Thursday Lunch Provision for residents over 60, is predominately supported by a Grant from Kent County Council Adult Services, however the grant has been reduced and in the near future will be withdrawn completely and will rely entirely on funding from the Parish Council. The parish council also supports Ash Green Sports Centre, a community gym, and racket sports facility based in the grounds of Milestone Academy, a playground facility and land maintenance. Grants are awarded to village halls within our parish and other local community organisations. We are actively seeking land for a new burial ground and in the process of introducing a Memorial Garden in the current burial ground for the interment of ashes. An earmarked reserve has been created for this with an annual contribution. The annual contribution to the Northfield Management Committee has been reduced and the Committee are drawing on reserves to keep contributions to a minimum.



ABANDONED VEHICLES IN VA PARKING SPACES

Sevenoaks District Council, as enforcing authority, has powers to deal with abandoned vehicles as set out in various pieces of legislation which is summarised below.

The District Council has responsibility for investigating any reported abandoned vehicles within its area even those on private land. However, in certain circumstances they may not be able to remove them. When reports are received the first thing that is done is to check with the DVLA to see if the vehicle is taxed or declared SORN (Statutory off road notice). Checks are also done with the police to see if they have any interest in the vehicle. An officer from Sevenoaks District Council may then inspect the vehicle to see if in their opinion it appears abandoned. They will take various things into consideration when reaching their decision which will include if the vehicle is taxed or declared SORN, it's condition for example, are the tyres flat, has it been vandalised, it's location and whether it appears to have been in the same position for any length of time.

If the vehicle is not taxed, is on the Highway and they consider it appears to have been abandoned, they will affix a notice to it giving the keeper 7 days to tax or remove it. If there is no contact from the keeper and it's still there after 7 days and has not been taxed, the Council can have the vehicle removed. However, if a keeper comes forward and states that the vehicle is not abandoned, then the Council has no legal powers to remove it. This then becomes an enforcement issue for the DVLA to deal with.

If the vehicle is not taxed and has not been declared SORN and is on private land without the landowner's permission and the officer considers it may have been abandoned, they will affix a notice giving the keeper 15 days to remove the vehicle. If there is no contact from the keeper and it is still there after 15 days the Council can have the vehicle removed providing the landowner agrees to this. However, if the keeper comes forward and states the vehicle has not been abandoned, then the District Council has no legal powers to remove it. This would then become a private matter for the owner of the land to deal with.

If the vehicle is taxed on the Highway or on private land in addition to putting a notice on the vehicle, the Council will formally write to the keeper on record. If the vehicle has been declared SORN and is on private land, then the Council has no legal powers to remove it as abandoned.



Contact Sevenoaks District Council: 01732 227000

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT WARDENS

Are you passionate, enthusiastic and up for a new challenge? Do you like meeting new people, want to learn new skills and provide valuable support to local residents? Kent County Council, working in conjunction with the Kent Association of Local Councils are recruiting **Volunteer Support Warden's** in selected areas. The role will be challenging but rewarding and you'll be making a real difference to local communities. For more information contact Community Wardens on 03000 413455 or visit: [Volunteer as a support warden](#)



SIMPLY SINGING

I am pleased to announce that myself and a group of lovely volunteers have launched a new group within Hartley aimed at anyone who enjoys singing for pleasure. This is not a choir but a gathering of people who simply want to sing. I am grateful to a volunteer who is willing to play the organ for the group. The group will meet together every 3rd Thursday of the month. All are welcome at The Wellfield Community Lounge, Wellfield, Hartley. Looking forward to seeing those who enjoy a good old sing a long. For more details please call: **Jackie West KCC Community Warden on 07811271259**

ASH PARISH CHURCH

We are looking for someone who is a competent keyboard player and is willing to accompany the choir and congregation at the 10:30 service on most Sunday mornings. An ability to attend choir practices on Friday evenings would be an added bonus but not essential. There may be opportunities to play, if available, at weddings and funeral services from time to time. The church organ is now quite elderly and our long-term aim is to replace it with an up-to-date model so the organist would also have an important part to play in deciding what we should buy. The role is essentially voluntary but a small allowance would be payable, depending on the amount of time the person is prepared to commit. **Please contact John Harding (01474 874770, john.a.harding@btinternet.com)** for a preliminary, no obligation discussion if you are interested

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



CASUAL VACANCY

We are pleased to welcome Mr Mark Manley to the Parish Council. Mark will represent the New Ash Green North West Ward and will sit on the Planning, Sports Centre and Youth Committees.

TRAFFIC MIRROR

The Parish Council has installed a traffic mirror at the Olivers Mill bus stop. This was requested to aid safe crossing of Ash Road as there is a blind spot for cyclists and pedestrians



COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Parish Council has awarded grants to: Citizens advice, North & West Kent; Kent Tree & Pond Partnership; NAG Junior Football; Rural Age Concern Darent Valley; Victim Support and the Village Trust (Youth & Community Centre)

SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE

In partnership with Hartley Parish Council, a Speed Indicator Device has been



purchased with a grant from Kent County Councillor David Brazier and will be moved between locations in both parishes.

NORTHFIELD

An off-road ride available for any local rider to join. £20 Key deposit and £5 annual fee.

Opens Spring 2018

Application packs available from Ash Green Sports Centre Telephone: 01474 707164

DIARY DATE

Annual Parish Meeting – 10 May 2018 at Hodsoll Street Village Hall commencing at 8pm.

Guest Speakers:

Mr Gareth Johnson MP
D Munn, Public Rights of Way
Cllr D Brazier, KCC Chairman

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Plans for a Memorial Garden for the interment of ashes in Ash Burial Ground are progressing.

Drawings have been completed and finer details will be agreed before planning permission is sought.



THURSDAY LUNCH CLUB

OVER 60? Come and dine with us.
12.00

Every Thursday at the Youth & Community Centre
Our diners enjoy a freshly cooked quality two course meal prepared by our professional cook.
The £5.00 charge includes tea or coffee.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk on 01474 702760

USEFUL NUMBERS

Kent Count Council	03000 418181
Sevenoaks District Council	01732 227000
Kent Police - emergency calls	999
Kent Police—non emergency calls	101
Anti Social Behaviour Officer	01732 227000
Community Warden	07811 271259
Citizens Advice	03003 309001
Arriva Northfleet	01474 535138
West Kent Mediation	01732 469696
Ash Village Hall	01474 874693
Hodsoll Street Village Hall	01732 823707
NAG Youth Centre	01474 872441
NAG Library	01474 872506
NAG Village Association	01474 872691

REFUSE SACK DELIVERIES

A roll of black refuse sacks and a roll of clear recycling sacks are delivered to every household every 20 weeks.

Should you require additional sacks, these can be purchased from Ash Green Sports Centre.

Garden Waste Sacks £14 for 25

Recycle Sacks £0.50 per roll

Dog waste bags and holder—free while stocks last.

Open Monday to Friday 9am—9pm

Saturdays 9.30am—5pm and Sundays 9.30am—2pm

Call 01474 707164

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: 01474 702760

Email: info@acrpc.org.uk

Website: www.hugofox.com/community/ash-cum-ridley-parish-council-12628



NEW YEAR TRAINING PLAN



ENQUIRE ABOUT YOUR
FREE 12 WEEK
TRAINING PLAN*



CALL US ON 01474 707164

£75 FOR PLAN, 3 MONTHS
GYM USE + CLASSES*

£60 FOR CONCESSIONS
EXCLUDES YOGA



* OUR USUAL RATES APPLY TO GYM USAGE
AND MEMBERSHIP

ASH GREEN SPORTS CENTRE AND GYM

FREE inductions and work out programme. Help to attain your fitness goals.

Nutrition advice on request.

Gentle Exercise, Circuit Training and Yoga classes.

Monday—Thursday supervised gym sessions for 14—15 yr olds.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIPS

ADULT GYM	£29.50
CONCESSIONS	£22.00*
JUNIOR (Supervised)	£17.00
CASUAL SESSION	£5.50

RACKET SPORTS

BADMINTON 1 HOUR	£8.00
SQUASH ¾ HOUR	£7.50
TENNIS 1 HOUR	£5.50
TABLE TENNIS ¾ HOUR	£5.25
Plus non member fee	£1.50

JUNIOR BADMINTON

Aged 9-16? COME ALONG TO OUR JUNIOR BADMINTON CLUB ON
THURSDAY EVENINGS BETWEEN 6 - 7 PM

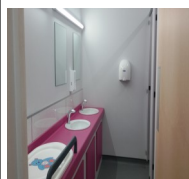
TERM TIME ONLY. PROFESSIONAL COACHING £5 per session

Contact us for more details on 01474 707164

Run and Managed by Ash-cum-Ridley Parish Council

NEW ASH GREEN YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Over the past year the Centre has been undergoing a complete make over. Thanks to a generous legacy from the late Peter Masson, our former treasurer, and large grants from Ibstock Cory Trust and Cory Environmental Trust the building which had remained almost unchanged since it was built in 1979 has been transformed. Externally the Scouts used a grant to fence in the grounds which allowed the Trustees to use the grant from Ibstock Cory to relay all the paths and lay an artificial grass play area,



which has been enhanced by some beautiful murals of the seasons created by Chris and Penny from the NAG Art Group. Internally all the windows including the roof lights have been replaced with double glazed units, new doors installed and the final part of the refurbish-

ment, replacing the old toilets has just been completed. There are new ladies, gents & disabled toilets off the lobby and a completely new ensuite toilet for the hall.



The Centre is used by the Scouts and Parish Youth groups in the evenings during the week, has lunch clubs for the older citizens run by Age Concern on Wednesdays and the Parish Council on Thursdays. The Preschool currently runs Monday to Thursday from 9am until 3pm in the hall with a toddler's Musical Bumps group on Tuesday morning and Citizens Advice on Thursday mornings and the Silvera dance school on Saturday mornings. The Centre is available to hire on Saturday from 3pm or evenings and all day on Sundays. Bookings can be made on Thursday mornings at the Centre.

GROW YOUR OWN



New Ash Green has its own allotments, so if you want to grow fruit and vegetables that are free of insecticides and herbicides - and taste great - you can. People from the age of 3 to 84 grow fruit, vegetables and flowers on the village's allotments. Some like the outdoor exercise, others enjoy the sociability of the site, and more and more families are there to spend time together in the fresh air and teach their children about the

natural world.

The allotments are run by volunteers and are behind the Black Lion pub on Ash Road, Hartley. Courtesy of the

landlord, parking is available (as is his pub and his coffee shop) there is mains water on site and various plot sizes are available. The full-size ones suit those with plenty of time and energy; half-plots will provide most of a family's fruit and veg needs for the year and obviously require much less work. There are also some small plots available for those whose time or energy is limited or who simply want to try growing on an allotment to see if it's for them.

And the cost? You could have a full plot for just £24 for the whole year, a half-plot for £13 and a starter plot for just £8 (plus a one-off charge of £3.50 in all cases for a key to the allotment site).

Interested? Phone the secretary on 07740 151242 or email: newashgreenallotments@outlook.com



Help is on hand from your local
Mind.

Www.westkentmind.org.uk
01732 744950

Information given, volunteers welcome
and donations needed.



Neighbours/Community problems
Parent/Teenager Mediation
Workplace Mediation
Homeless Mediation
01732 469696
Email: theoffice@wkm.org.uk



Outreach at New Ash Green
Every Thursday morning
At
The Youth & Community Centre
North Square, DA3 8JY
Advice line 03003 309001