



New Romney Town Council – Press Release



Precept 2017-18

New Romney Town Council can confirm that it has set its Precept for 2017-18 at £222,797.00, noting the need to ensure that adequate financial provision has been made to offset continually rising costs to the Town Council which are regrettable but yet unavoidable and to be able to continue to engage in a number of on-going large-scale capital projects which will bring new amenities to the Town – notably the provision of a new community hall and sports pavilion and a commemorative bandstand for the enjoyment of local residents, the desire and need for which have been clearly evidenced through public consultation which resulted in an overwhelmingly positive response to both projects.

The Precept requirement for 2017-18 will, regrettably, result in an increase in the Town Council element of the Council Tax which, in real terms, equates to an increase on the average Band D Council Tax Bill of £23.21 per year or £1.93 per month (£0.45 per week).

New Romney Town Councillors were, once again, very mindful of the current economic climate when recommending committee budgets despite ever-increasing costs to the Council. However, the current uncertainty regarding further increasing costs on the High Street in light of Brexit and the need to prepare adequately to deal with the financial impact of further unexpected price rises in goods and services was duly acknowledged.

New Romney Town Council is a very pro-active Council which prides itself in working hard to improve and enhance the local area for the benefit of the local community. However, it has been of note that it has, historically, been and continues to be very restricted by its own very tight budget. It has, therefore, acknowledged, that in order that the Council can continue to engage in progressing and implementing a range of capital projects for the benefit of its residents, there is a need to set its precept at a realistic level. This will allow it to deliver sympathetic and much needed enhancements to the Town's general amenities whilst also continuing to meet its other financial obligations, which includes the maintenance and upkeep of a large portfolio of public assets, including three grade two listed buildings which are of great historic importance to the Town in addition to meeting the annual financial burden of a wide range of routine and other Town Council business.

New Romney Town Council has, therefore, set a Precept that, taking account of the substantial and unavoidable financial challenges which Brexit and the bedding in of auto-enrolment has presented and allowing for the ability to continue its work to improve and enhance the locality for the benefit of its residents whilst ensuring that it is still able to meet all routine financial obligations, has resulted in only a small increase to local tax-payers.

Councillor Patricia Rolfe, Mayor of New Romney, observed: 'Despite ever-increasing financial pressures, New Romney Town Council has set a realistic budget for 2017/18 which takes account of the need to adhere to Government imposed legislation and

respond to the current fiscal uncertainties in the light of Brexit. Importantly though, Council members have a duty to ensure Council-owned assets and amenities are both maintained and, where possible, enhanced. The recent public consultations that were undertaken provided the Council with a clear mandate from the local electorate to progress key capital projects that would benefit the area. This Precept will help us to begin to do that.'

For further information, please contact:

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