

Seaford Town Council - Press Release

Seaford Town Council met on 26th January to discuss the budget for the next Financial Year and set the Town Council element of Council Tax paid by residents.

The Council analysed its projected financial performance for the current year and the proposed budget for the next Financial Year (April 2017 to March 2018). Council Officers have worked hard this year to make in excess of £69k worth of savings or additional income. This has helped alleviate the pressure of the unexpected expenditure during the year, which included the by-elections held in October 2016 at a cost of £24k and the necessary road improvement works to Southdown Road at £126k. Despite the hard work of the Officers to make savings where possible, the Council's General Reserve levels are still considerably lower than hoped and the budget for the coming year therefore must include transferring a sum to replenish the Reserves.

Additional means of generating income and making savings are being developed, including the new Martello facility incorporating toilet and shower facilities as well as two concessions, which will bring a total annual income of £30k plus. Additional Beach Huts for rent on the seafront, could fetch an estimated £20k per annum plus the possibility of a further concession in the same location, potentially bringing £10k per annum in rent. It is predicted that once South Hill Barn is renovated and a functioning venue, this could achieve in excess of £40k per annum in rental in year one, going up to £100k per annum. These capital projects are funded through capital sales i.e. sale of land and/or newly built beach huts, and therefore do not come at a cost to the taxpayer. They do however ensure that in addition to the day-to-day management and maintenance of assets and facilities, the Council is continuing to strive for improvements for the town and the town's economy.

The Council approved the 2017/18 budget and set a Precept level of £654,466; this equates to a Town Council element of Council Tax of £69.01 per year for a Band D property within Seaford. Each household receives a Council Tax demand letter, issued by Lewes District Council, which will identify what Band each individual property is and its Council Tax level.

This figure of £69.01 represents a 5.5% increase on last year's Council Tax demand, which is the equivalent of an extra £3.60 per year. Seaford remains, for multiple years now, with the lowest level of Council Tax in the local area and the Council endeavours to ensure that continues to be the situation.

The full budget is available to view on the Council's website at <http://www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/Budget.aspx>



Seaford Town Council

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