



**A Message to Council
Tax Payers from Bradfield
Parish Councillors**

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Introduction

Bradfield Parish Council is funded by receipt of a precept from Council Tax payers. In addition other income is received from a variety of sources which includes rent from properties and fees for services such as burials at Birtin Cemetery.

In the financial year 2013/14, the Government imposed changes on the Council Tax Support Grant (CTSG). The Parish Council was supported by a grant from Central Government (via the Sheffield City Council) that covered the shortfall of Council Tax collected. For 2015/16 the CTSG from Sheffield City Council was reduced by 28% in line with the reduction Sheffield City Council receive from Central Government. Sheffield City Council have noted that they intend to reduce the CTSG passed onto the Parish Council by 20% for each of the five following financial years due to expected Central Government cuts. This will result in no CTSG for the financial year 2021/2022.

In order to avoid a large increase in any one financial year the Parish Council are to continue to phase in an increase. For 2019/20 this will continue with a 2% increase on the precept collected for the Parish Council. Please see below a table which shows the property bands A to H, together with the actual annual amount to be paid to Bradfield Parish Council; as can be seen **an average council tax bill (band D property) has a 82 pence increase for the year.**

The overall amount to be collected from the precept will be £246,372. The Parish Council have set a budget of £272,850 for 2019/20 compared to £268,470 for 2018/19. Reserves meet any difference between the budget set and the precept collected.

BAND	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	ANNUAL INCREASE £	BAND	2018/19 £	2019/20 £	ANNUAL INCREASE £
A	27.39	27.93	0.54	E	50.21	51.21	1.00
B	31.95	32.59	0.64	F	59.34	60.52	1.18
C	36.51	37.25	0.74	G	68.46	69.84	1.38
D	41.08	41.90	0.82	H	82.16	83.80	1.64

This allows the Parish Council to operate and maintain a number of buildings and facilities throughout the Parish, for example:-

- Coronation Park, Dungworth Park and Pavilion, Birkswood Bank, Kaye Meadows Allotments and Sensicall Park
- Birtin Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance, Oughtibridge
- The Grade 2 Listed Council Offices at Low Bradfield, which houses the unique Bradfield Parish Archives, Family History research facilities and includes a disabled toilet facility.
- Low Bradfield public toilets
- Several bus shelters
- Vehicles and equipment.
- Numerous wayside seats, notice boards and stone boundary signs

The Parish Council employ part time a Clerk/Finance Officer; an assistant to the Clerk; a Parish Archivist, 2 part-time caretakers, 1 full time groundsman; 2 assistant groundsmen and are to employ one groundsman apprentice based at Coronation Park during 2019.

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD

Bradfield Parish Council has a Local Council Award – Foundation Level. This is a quality award with benchmark minimum standards. Accreditation shows that a Council meets these benchmarks and it demonstrates to the local community and partners that the Parish Council are able to deliver efficient services.

What else do we do?

- Have partnership agreements with Action for Stannington and Steel Valley Project for maintenance and improvements around the Parish and also a partnership agreement with Oughtibridge Gala Events and Donations Charity.
- Have become a partner of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership alongside the Sheffield Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Water, SCC and others. The Partnership has secured a £3.4m Heritage Lottery grant, much of which will be invested in the Parish over the next 4 years.
- Award grant aid to many local groups/projects, particularly focused on supporting activities which build the capacity of Parish community groups to support themselves. The objective of Bradfield Parish Council's grants programme is to support and encourage a diverse range of community activities, initiatives and events that meet the needs of Bradfield Parish residents. Grant policy guidelines, an application form and other details can be found on our website or obtained from the Council offices.
- Offer free mono photocopying facilities to groups who supply their own paper.
- Have an active workforce throughout the Parish.
- Provide illuminated Christmas trees at 13 locations within the parish.
- Hold Parish Archives which date back to the 17th Century which have now been digitised and can be accessed on line at www.bradfieldarchives.co.uk. This work was funded by the East Peak Innovation Partnership (EPIP).
- Constantly fight on your behalf to protect the environment, the Green Belt and the rural identity of the Parish and we continue to closely monitor the proposals for large scale developments, review all planning applications within the Parish and make recommendations to the relevant planning authorities.
- The Parish Council continues to facilitate a Citizens Awards Scheme aimed at recognising individuals and groups whose work has benefited the Parish.
- Respond to various Central Government discussion documents and Sheffield City Council's proposed policies on all aspects of life in Sheffield – planning, environment, transport, education, health and industry.
- The Parish Council are also landlord to or tenant of several buildings or land throughout the parish to which we contribute to maintenance. These include Storrs Park, Low Bradfield Community Orchard, Low Bradfield Picnic area, Bowcroft Cemetery, Stannington, the Low Bradfield Post Office Building and Millennium Green, Oughtibridge.

The Parish Councillors

There are 13 Parish Councillors who are elected for a four-year term. The next elections being May 2019. From October 2009 Councillors have been entitled to receive a personal allowance of £50 per year and an allowance of £30 for computer consumables and to claim mileage costs. The majority of Councillors do not claim the allowances. The Chairman of the Council is also permitted to have a personal allowance to cover out-of-pocket expenses. These expenses are externally audited.

Other than this Councillors give their time as a service to the community. They also serve as

- Trustees for various charities
- Representatives on local groups, throughout the Parish such as Village Community Associations. Councillors are willing to attend community meetings if invited to do so.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council Meetings are held on the last Wednesday in the month, with the exception of August and December. They commence at 7pm at the Council Offices on Mill Lee Road, Low Bradfield. Public participation is encouraged. Committee and Sub-Committee meetings are also held, details of which can be obtained from the Council Offices and from the Parish Council website and noticeboards. Minutes and other Council information can also be viewed on the website.