

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

THE FIRST TIER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT – NEAREST TO YOU THE TAX PAYER

A message from Councillor Julie Grocutt, Mayor of Stocksbridge

Dear Resident,

Why it is important to provide additional funding for your Town Council via the Council Tax

As local people we all recognise and understand that it is important to have local services that are easily accessible as we are located at the northern most point of the City. As one of only three areas of Sheffield to have a Town or Parish Council, we have the advantage of the locally elected Town Council Members, being in a position to stand up to the City Council, in regard to all the decisions they make. We have the authority to persuade and influence on behalf of our area, ensuring that when decisions are reached, the impact on our area has been properly considered and taken into account. In short the Town Council gives you a voice, a voice that stands up for the area we all live in. The Town Council also provides additional services, over and above what Sheffield City Council has a lawful duty to provide. To do this we precept a sum of money, collected for us by Sheffield City Council via the Council Tax, which we then use to protect and improve the quality of life for our whole community. Council Tax bills for 2019/20 have started arriving through letterboxes. As can be seen on the bills, the element of precept collected by Stocksbridge Town Council has risen by 3%. The table below highlights the impact in monetary terms on each band property. The reason for the increase is due to the reduction in Council Tax Support Grant received from Sheffield City Council and the continued financial support given by the Town Council to 4SLC to run the swimming pools at Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre.

The amount shown is the actual **ANNUAL** increase:-

PROPERTY BAND	ANNUAL AMOUNT	ANNUAL INCREASE	PROPERTY BAND	ANNUAL AMOUNT	ANNUAL INCREASE
A	£21.91	£0.64	E	£40.16	£1.16
B	£25.56	£0.75	F	£47.46	£1.38
C	£29.21	£0.85	G	£54.77	£1.60
D	£32.86	£0.96	H	£65.72	£1.92

Your Town Council will continue to work with other organisations and local community groups. We are fully committed to furthering the welfare and other opportunities in our area. Protecting our beautiful open countryside and heritage, supporting local community groups and activities across the area is and will remain a priority.

With the roll-out of the participatory budgeting scheme, everyone including local children will have a real say in how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is spent. This is money levied on developers to pay for local community improvements. Any constituted group can apply for this funding. At an event in May, all residents from 8 years old will be invited to vote for the projects to be granted the funding. This is an exciting new project that will ensure the CIL is spent on the community's priorities. Without the Town Council, it would not be possible to operate this scheme. This scheme will run alongside our grants scheme which will continue to benefit local groups. Our work last year has included, marking the centenary of the end of World War I. It was humbling to see our community come together and support our call for the poppy display on the Clock Tower Gardens and parade on 11th November. We supported the senior citizens Christmas Party, sports clubs, Children's groups and the Leisure Centre to name but a few. Authorising grants to the value of £12,028. We are now recognised as a Fair-trade Town and are working for status as a Dementia Friendly Town.

Your Town Councillors are Volunteers; we do not receive any payment for our duties. As local residents like you, we are involved in all aspects of community life across Bolsterstone, Deepcar and Stocksbridge. We support this area because we care about it. In May a new council will be elected, anyone living in the area can put themselves forward to be elected onto the Town Council.

With Very Best Wishes *Julie* - Chairman, Councillor Julie Grocutt, South Ward (Bolsterstone & Whitwell estate)