

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
The first tier of Local Government — closest to residents and our communities
A message from Councillor Joseph Staniforth, Mayor of Stocksbridge

Dear Resident,

Why we fund the Town Council via the Council Tax

We all recognise the importance of having local services within easy reach of our communities, especially when our community is so far away from the City Centre and transport links so poor. The Stocksbridge Town Council area (including Deepcar and Bolsterstone) is one of only three areas of Sheffield to have a Town/Parish Council. The public elect eight local Members of the Town Council to persuade and argue on behalf of our community, and make representations on the issues that matter most in the local area. The Town Council regularly represents the views of local people to organisations such as Sheffield City Council, ensuring that our local voice is properly heard and considered when decisions are made that affect the whole city.

Larger authorities are tasked with the provision of statutory services, however the Town Council provides additional services to the local community in a variety of ways to contribute to the social fabric of our area. In order to do so we levy a small precept on local properties, which is collected via Council Tax by Sheffield City Council on our behalf and then used to improve and protect the quality of life across our whole community.

We recognise that many people are facing a squeeze on their finances due to a number of factors around the increased cost of living and taking this into account Town Councillors have decided that the precept should not increase for the upcoming financial year. This third freeze in a row means that the precept contributed by local householders has not increased since 2020-21. The table below shows the annual amount paid by properties in each Council Tax Band:

Property	Band	Annual Precept	Property	Band	Annual Precept
A		£22.57	E		£41.36
B		£26.32	F		£48.88
C		£30.08	G		£56.41
D		£33.84	H		£67.70

Your Town Council works closely with local community groups and external organisations, and is committed to pursuing local priorities such as championing local causes, supporting community groups and protecting our treasured landscape by defending our natural and built heritage.

My fellow Town Councillors and I are continually delighted by the resourcefulness and resilience of the residents of our area. Following on from the period of the pandemic it has been a pleasure to see groups, organisations and residents starting to flourish throughout our area again, with fetes, fairs and galas returning along with plays, parades and sporting events, all well attended. As always, on behalf of the Town Council I would like to thank everyone involved in organising events and supporting our community to be the lovely place it is. I would also like to thank everyone involved with Valley Medical Centre, Deepcar Medical Centre, Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre, Stocksbridge Community Care Group and all the local schools for continuing to provide the community with excellent services.

Your local Town Councillors are volunteers and we do not receive payment for the duties we undertake; we are involved in community groups across the local area because, like you, we love this area and want to support it. We are always open to listening to residents' ideas on how we can improve the area or regarding problem issues that are developing. Our contact details can be found on the Town Council website: www.stocksbridge-council.co.uk and full Town Council meetings are held the second Thursday of most months and are open to all members of the public to attend.

With kindest regards for the year ahead,

Joseph Councillor Joseph Staniforth

Mayor of Stocksbridge and Councillor for the West Ward (Smithy Moor and Garden Village)