

# Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



## The news on council tax is not so bad as Burbage asks for less than £1 more

**NO-ONE** has been looking forward very much this year to the raft of increases in household outgoings expected to land soon on doormats, as local authorities announce their tax demands.

Changes that have nibbled relentlessly at revenue from centralised sources means there's not an authority in the country which hasn't wrestled with tough decisions on its finances. Councils relied on funding from various sources to help them meet the cost of services and facilities which are threatened by tightened purse strings.

Burbage Parish Council has battled to soften the tax bill burden, offsetting some of the revenue losses by seeking alternative or additional funding for major projects. It has now agreed a 2017/18 budget which will ask the average householder in the parish for less than £1 more than they paid in council tax last year. The village precept - the amount levied towards the cost of services and facilities provided by the parish council specifically for Burbage people - has been pitched at £383,505 (£363,319 in 2016).

Using the benchmark of a typical band D property, that works out at an annual parish tax of £67.16 (£66.20 last year) – an increase of just £0.96 or 1.45%.

Revenue losses began to bite with serious effect last year, but current successes in the hunt for other funding have included grants to aid the redevelopment of the Millennium Hall and assistance in the production of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. A bid for open spaces development funding, if successful, will help in a refurbishment of the sports pavilion at the Hinckley Road recreation ground.

- TAX calls from Leicester County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council are added to the Burbage parish levy. Together with demands from police and education authorities in Leicestershire, they make up the biggest part of the total bill households will get on 1st April.
- CHARGES applied by the Burbage council for some services (room and pitch hire, burial fees, allotment rentals etc..) will increase by an average 2% in the 2017/18 year.

## Up front, your Millennium Hall is acquiring a smarter look

**VISITORS** to the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road are asked to take care, and put up with some inconvenience, while workmen construct a new entrance porch to the ever-busy community building in Britannia Road. Improvements will result in an enclosed reception area at the frontage of the hall, which will be better for them and for Parish Council staff working from offices alongside the new lobby. There will be new automatic doors to the foyer area and a service hatch to the reception counter, along with CCTV cameras to improve security.



**THE** elected membership of Burbage Parish Council is: Sketchley: Stan Rooney (chairman), Mike Hall, Amanda Wright, Christopher Ashton. Lash Hill: Ann Hall, Howard Wilkins, Stuart Bray, Mark Nickerson, Anne Stevens. Stretton: Peter Morris, David Inman, Liz Rooney, Keith Lynch. Tilton: John Moore, Richard Flemming, Lucie Hoelmer, Noel Robinson. St Catherine's: Peter Wallace, Mary Sherwin, Andrew Clayton (vice chairman).

**COUNCIL** and committee meetings at the Millennium Hall in Britannia Road normally start at 7.30pm and follow this rota, subject to change if clashing with Bank Holidays: First Monday of month – Parish Council; second Monday, Planning Committee; third Monday, Finance & General Purposes Committee; fourth Monday, Planning Committee. Meetings in the weeks ahead: Monday, 6th February, Parish Council; Monday, 13th February, Planning; Monday, 20th February, Finance and General Purposes; Monday, 27th February, Planning. Monday, 6th March, Annual Parish Meeting (7.00pm) followed by Parish Council (7.30pm); Monday 13th March, Planning; Monday, 20th March, Finance and General Purposes; Monday, 27th March, Planning.

## Activity sessions that fit in with some family fun

**ACTIVE** Family Week, an initiative that aims to encourage children and their parents or guardians to do more energetic things together, will include a programme in Burbage next month. On Monday, 13th February, a Streetdance session for youngsters aged 5-11 years is lined up at the Millennium Hall from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. That's followed (5.30pm to 6.30pm) by Dodgeball sessions. Booking is required for both of these (contact **07746 634128**) and the first session is free. An Active Family Club programme, offering a free multi sports session for all ages, takes place at the Millennium Hall on Tuesday, 14th February, 9.30am to 11.30am. Call **01455 255908** for details. A county-wide partnership scheme rolling out the family fun is headed by Leicester-Shire and Rutland Sport – check out full details of the week-long programme at [www.lrsport.org/beactive](http://www.lrsport.org/beactive)



## Here's fair warning, if you will talk at the wheel

**A NATIONAL** campaign to make sure people know about tough new penalties for driving while using a mobile phone – they come into force on 1st March – has been supported by Leicestershire Police. Drivers seen using mobiles at the wheel have become a number one complaint from those who follow the rules and the county initiative has seen Special Constables patrolling in unmarked cars to tackle some of the culprits. From next month they face a £200 fine and six penalty points on licences, with no option of a driver awareness course. Young drivers



risk having their licence revoked following a first offence. One recent survey found nearly a third of motorists questioned admitted using a handheld phone behind the wheel. Jonathan Clarkson, for the Leicestershire and Rutland Road Safety Partnership, said: "Despite our best efforts to educate motorists to the dangers of being distracted, Leicestershire Police

recorded 2399 mobile phone offences in the past three years. We fully support this campaign and hope it helps reduce the numbers of those killed or seriously injured on our roads."