

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



Council asks for a little bit extra ...to pay for more in Burbage

VILLAGE households face a 2% increase in their tax demand from Burbage Parish Council this year.

The council is increasing its precept – the levy paid towards the cost of services and facilities provided by the parish – to a total of £401,026.94. For a band D property in Burbage, the 2018 tax call will pitch the parish portion of the household council tax bill at £68.51 per annum.

The Burbage levy is added to tax calls from Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, education and police authorities. They make up the biggest part of the total charge ratepayers will be asked to meet on April 1. Last year a Burbage precept of £383,505.00 meant a band D property owner paid £67.6 for local services. The 2% increase is due in part to reduced support levels for parish councils resulting in revenue losses.

Fees charged by the Burbage council for facilities and services will also be increased. Millennium Hall hiring fees and charges for some sporting facilities will go up by 2% and burial ground charges by 3%, with steeper increases for some services.

On the parish's two allotment sites, gardeners who lease land will be asked to pay an extra £7.50 a year for a standard half plot. The £25.00 fee will bring Burbage's allotment fees more into line with other local authorities but at less than 50p a week the total charge remains cheaper than most. Tenants will also be asked to pay £8.50 per annum for toilet provision at the Woodland Avenue site.

Council chairman Stan Rooney said: "The 2% precept increase we have approved is below the current rate of inflation. We aim to give best value for money - council and staff continue to look for efficiencies in the management and maintenance of its parish responsibilities, providing community assets and enhancing the quality of life in Burbage. There are plans to improve the Horsepool this year, enhancing its visual contribution to the village area and making it more accessible for the enjoyment of residents, along with other areas where we believe improvements are possible. "Maintenance equipment is due for review this year, too, and again efficiencies will be high on the agenda of priorities when making decisions."



IT was a cold and frosty night at the start of a pretty chilly Christmas ...but when carol singers shivering under the twinkling lights of the festive tree in Burbage pulled their hands from their pockets, they were crammed with coins. The crowd filled collection buckets with a very handsome £1,102.30, donated to the Hinckley and Bosworth Mayor's Charity and handed over by Burbage rector Rev Andrew Hall to Cllr Ozzy O'Shea. The mayor, who joined the singing, has named Motor Neurone MND and the Police Widows and Dependents Charity as his chosen causes. Thanks to all who organised and attended this perennially popular event.

Former member and chairman Don Bayley mourned

A FORMER member and chairman of Burbage Parish Council has died. Don Bayley joined the council not long after its formation and represented St Catherine's ward until 2011, serving a term of office as chairman of the Burbage team. His proudest moments at the helm included the unveiling of a memorial at the Sketchley Hill Farm recreation ground to the aircrew of a wartime Wellington bomber who perished when their plane crashed there and the award of the national Cemetery of the Year title to the Lychgate Lane burial ground. A strong and active supporter of community involvement, in his outgoing chairman's speech he praised an enthusiastic response from the people of Burbage, who matched at every step the organisational team spirit of the Burbage council.

Watching Brief...

SO folks, the festive break is all over and it's back to work ...

... except that crooks never do take a holiday from their criminal activities. Some nasty weather over Christmas and New Year meant lots of motorists took to leaving their cars ticking over on driveways to warm up. Don't do it! It may be a way of shifting ice and snow from screens but you could find the rest of the vehicle has gone with it, nicked by an opportunist car thief. While most neighbours were still tucked up in a warm bed the car crooks, along with plenty of other villains, may have been busy weighing up possibilities in YOUR street. Trying door and vehicle handles is a standard practice for them and you will never know it happened. Sleep more soundly with the knowledge that you DID check all locks and fastenings before retiring. Confidence in security lighting will also help avoid the nightmare of waking to a break-in.

When the day's toil is over and when you know you won't be venturing out again that evening, do think about locking up all round before dinner/tea/TV. To the astonishment and shock of families who may have been busy in another room, walk-in burglaries DO happen. Now a special plea to tradespeople. A thief breaking into your parked van may not be too keen on the woolly hat, gloves and socks that Auntie Enid sent, but he will be interested in the new drill kit the kids saved up to buy you. Remove all tools and electricals and make the vehicle secure. The Burbage Beat Team sends its best wishes to the community for a happy 2018. Have a peaceful and safe New Year.

Burbage Police Community Support Officer Andy Harrison harrisonandrew.harrison6670@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

LATEST advice and information from Leicestershire Police suggests that an intruder alarm WILL effectively steer burglars away from your home.

If you are up to tackling a DIY project, it will certainly be the cheapest way of protecting your property. Police add two riders, however. If you are considering fitting a packaged system yourself, buy only a system that conforms to British Standard BS6707. If using a contractor, they should guarantee the installation is to BS4737. And always realise that any alarm system should only

be considered as a back-up to sound basic physical security.

A simple system usually has an outside bell or siren and a strobe (flashing) light. Enclosed in a weatherproof box, it is triggered by passive infra-red motion detectors positioned in vulnerable areas – door and window contacts can also be used. The alarm sounds – and you hope neighbours/passers-by will respond by investigating and that the commotion results in the intruder taking to his heels. Although police believe this sort of system is adequate for a great many premises, it clearly depends on property location, the occupier's lifestyle and the contents of the building.

Next step-up in sophistication is a phone-based alerting system. Fit an auto-dialler and pre-programmed telephone numbers will ring when the alarm is triggered, telling relatives, key-holders, neighbours this has happened. What you cannot do – it's not allowed – is to programme a police phone contact into the call list.

Automatic police contact can only be achieved via a monitored system. A remote signalling device automatically tells a central monitoring system that your alarm has been activated and they inform the police. You need to make sure installer and monitoring system are recognised by the police through an ACPO policy. The Leicestershire force offers this additional advice to anyone thinking of an alarm installation in 2018.

Working in Partnership to Reduce Crime

Emergency Police calls: Dial **999**

All other Police calls: Dial **101** and follow prompts

Burbage Beat Team **0094** for Sgt Dave Cleaver /

6670 for PCSO Andy Harrison

Leave your name and number for local policing news and contact by email www.leics.police.uk

BURBAGE PARISH COUNCIL **01455 637533**

Hinckley Council **01455 238141**

Emergency out of hours **01455 251137**

Noise / abandoned cars / fly-tipping environmental issues (Hinckley Council) **01455 238141**

Domestic violence **07966 202181**

No Cold Calling **08454 040506**

Victim Support **0300 3031947**



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