

PARISH COUNCIL STATEMENT

Council Tax 2019/2020 - Reasons for Syresham Parish Council tax increase of 55.5%.

As outlined in the Parish Council article in the February edition of The Syresham Times and evident in the 2019/2020 Budget document available on the village website, there are two significant village projects which need to be actioned in the 2019/2020 financial year.

The first project is street lighting. The fittings for our present lights will become obsolete in less than three years and we need to resolve this issue. Changing to LED lighting will, in the longer-term, result in significant cost savings for the parish both for electricity consumption and for maintenance costs.

The second project is replacement equipment for the Swingfield playground. The annual inspection by RoSPA highlighted that some of the wooden posts are beginning to show signs of rotting beneath the ground surface. The Parish Council feels that in the interests of safety the equipment must be replaced as soon as possible.

While the Parish Council are pursuing grant funding for a majority of the costs for these two projects, it is prudent to ringfence some funding from the parish precept towards the total cost.

This coming year the Parish Council is also faced with uncertainty regarding the devolution of some services to parish level, as Northamptonshire County Council further reduce budgets and prepare for Unitary Authority reorganisation in 2020. The Parish Council have been advised to consider this is their budgets.

Last year the Syresham Parish precept section of the Council tax bill for a Band D property was £65.61. This year the amount will be £102.00, a 55.5% increase. The Parish Council do appreciate that this is a substantial increase and have kept the increase to a minimum, considering the large expenses the Parish is facing in 2019/2020. The Syresham Parish section of the 2019/2020 Council tax bill for a band D property equates to £1.96 per week for:

- Streetlighting electricity and maintenance
- Regular village grass mowing
- Provision of dog waste bins and litter bins and emptying services
- Swingfield playground maintenance and inspections
- Maintenance of the Pocket Park
- Provision and maintenance of benches/railings
- Open spaces maintenance e.g. tree care, flower boxes and beds
- Village insurance
- Provision of village website

The Parish Council also takes up issues raised by residents and constantly monitors and reports issues with the condition of roads, footpaths, fly-tipping, gully and drain clearing etc. with Northamptonshire CC, South Northants District Council and other relevant authorities.

Clerk to Syresham Parish Council
26/03/19