

# Biddulph Town Council



Tuesday 15 January 2019

## PRESS STATEMENT

At the January Town Council meeting, Councillors approved an increase in the precept to **£348,265.00**.

The Town Council needs £52,889.43 extra in 2019/20 to continue to provide good quality services; this is an increase of £8.30 per household, per year.

The vast majority of this increase is the future provision of the 93 bus service, which Staffordshire County Council ceased funding in 2018. Councillors feel very strongly that a bus that serves the community of Biddulph is a fundamental public service. The 93 bus service connects residents of the town with wider areas and enables them to access family members living outside the area, work, college and hospitals. The Town Council will continue to meet to review the service provision during 2019/ 2020, to ensure that the residents of the town receive a service that is fit for purpose and cost effective.

In 2019/20 the Town Council will not receive the Support Grant that was previously paid by the District Council and will increase funding for the lengthsman scheme to cover additional tasks that are no longer funded by the County Council.

Councillors were clear that projects that have begun within the town should continue, so the Town Council will continue to use resources to fund the Burial Grounds, allotments, Christmas lights, restoration of the cenotaph, development of the Neighbourhood Plan and a grants scheme that will be available to organisations within the town.



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The Town Council will use resources to fund development of the Town Hall, improvements at the Biddulph Grange Country Park Visitor Centre and will work closely with partners to deliver detached youth work within the town. Our thanks to Biddulph Youth and Community Zone for this opportunity.

Councillor Tony Hall, Chair of the Finance Committee said:

'Biddulph Town Councillors agreed unanimously that as Biddulph people experience cuts in services from elsewhere in the County, the Town Council should do what it can to help lessen the impact. We believe that areas that are owned and managed by the Town Council should be well maintained. It is unfamiliar territory for a Town Council to fund a bus service, but there is great support for this within the town and, as such, we felt the need to investigate this provision further. The Town Council aims to improve services for the community and reduce social isolation; this service helps towards both these areas.'



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