



Committed to delivering, protecting, and enhancing community facilities and open spaces.

Annual Town Council Budget 2023-24

Spennymoor Town Council makes a priority of delivering events and services, along with protecting, supporting, and enhancing community facilities and open spaces.

We create policies and services that enhance the lives and wellbeing of residents and visitors, achieving this through direct delivery and stakeholder/partner engagement across our wide range of facilities.

The Council understands and values the commitment that voluntary groups and others bring in supporting and enhancing lives in our communities. To support these key groups and people achieve outstanding work, we will continue to provide community grants, enabling local people to make a difference in their community, as well as ad hoc grants, such as those supporting the Queen's Jubilee and Warm Rooms.

Like any organisation, the Town Council requires an appropriate budget to operate effectively. The past two financial years have been challenging for households, businesses, and local authorities, and we anticipate this will continue, creating financial pressures for us all in the coming year.

As such, we have created what we believe is a relevant budget, that minimises cost to the taxpayer, while enabling you to receive the quality services we believe you deserve.

Some of the functions and facilities provided by Spennymoor Town Council

- Floral displays and Christmas lights
- Community Events including Party in the Park, Fireworks, Santa
- Public Open Spaces
- Sports pitches
- Play areas
- Secure Dog Exercise Area
- Jubilee Park – skatepark, play areas, bowls, outdoor gym, tennis, crazy golf, MUGA, and floodlit
- 5-aside all-weather pitch
- Cow Plantation Nature Reserve
- Litter bin and litter collection, public toilets, bus shelters
- 2 Cemeteries and closed church yards
- 10 Community Buildings including the Town Hall, 2 Community Centres, 2 Village Halls and 2 Cricket Clubs
- Community Grants and free room hire to good causes
- 19 Allotment sites
- Bob Abley Art Gallery, John Kitson Archway, Cornish Trail



Where does the majority of the Council's budget come from?

- Annual Precept - £1,488,159.06
- Income from Durham Crematorium - £171,250

(The Council's investment in Durham Crematorium ensures the Council receives an annual dividend.)

What you receive

Wherever possible, the Town Council provides community facilities at the lowest cost possible, or even free, whilst providing facilities and services that our communities want and value. Our aim is to ensure that through community activity and engagement we will bring you closer together and help increase participation reducing isolation, improving the health and wellbeing of our people and having as little impact as possible on you financially.

For example, events such as the Fireworks Display, Party in the Park, Armed Forces Day and Santa (with a gift for each child) are all free. Use of facilities in Jubilee Park are free during school holidays, as well as the pitches used by local football teams. Residents also pay half the cost of non-residents for cemetery fees and the Council continues to support Spennymoor Town Band and Durham Mining Museum with free accommodation.

I am sure you will agree that our public spaces, parks, play areas, sports facilities and nature reserve are maintained to the highest of standards, and at a time when other authorities are selling off green spaces, we are protecting them for future generations.

After being able to provide three years of zero increases to the precept, with the Council having already absorbed inflation of **10.9%** over this period and with inflation currently running in double figures, we are only increasing the precept this year by **4.5%**. Please see the table on the right which will explain the annual increase for each precept band.

This equates to the following increases on council tax bands:

Band	Was	Now	Increase
Band A	£146.47	£153.09	£6.62
Band B	£170.88	£178.71	£7.73
Band C	£195.29	£204.12	£8.83
Band D	£219.70	£229.64	£9.94
Band E	£268.52	£280.67	£12.51
Band F	£317.34	£331.70	£14.36
Band G	£366.17	£382.73	£16.56
Band H	£439.40	£459.28	£19.88

Over 80% of residents are Bands A to C, therefore, most will see the lowest increase.

This leaflet provides a precis of the Budget. Complete Budget information is available to view on request to Spennymoor Town Council, please call **01388 815276** or forward any enquiries or comments to info@spennymoor-tc.gov.uk

