



**Twyford**  
PARISH COUNCIL

**Precept 2023-24**



## How does the precept work?

Twyford Parish Council sits in the first tier of local Government and is the first point of contact for anyone concerned with a community issue. Both Officers and the 15 elected Councillors work hard to deliver services to the people of Twyford. The Parish Council has a wide range of powers including the power to raise money through council tax. The Parish precept forms part of residents Council tax which funds services provided by Twyford Parish Council. In 2023-24 the annual precept for a band D household will be £50.35 an increase on 2022-23 of 16p per week per household. An increase is necessary to cover the energy price increases and costs to administer the Council's functions (as set out in this leaflet).



## Dear Resident,

The past year, since my election as Chairman in May 2022, has been one of highs and lows. In June, many residents celebrated Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee with the 'Jubilee Street Party in the Park'. Under the careful co-ordination of one of our residents, clubs and organisations contributed towards the Jubilee bunting which patriotically adorned the village centre. Shops decorated their windows with imaginative displays and there was a feeling of the community coming together in celebration of this once-in-a-lifetime event.

We then shared the grief of residents in September, following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, when we laid a wreath in her honour. Residents united to record their messages in a Twyford book of condolence.

This community spirit supports many of the Council's activities, whether that be Twyford in Bloom and the recognition in the Thames and Chiltern in Bloom awards, the attendance at the Neighbourhood Plan's public meeting or the volunteers working on environmental initiatives within Twyford.

The Council has been working to support the community through the Cost-of-Living crisis and we have ensured that residents are aware of the various initiatives and organisations that are available locally to assist them. We held our first joint 'Meet your Councillor' session with Wokingham Citizens Advice and hope to make these services more accessible for our residents in the future.

We are equipped for 2023 with an action plan shaping the Council's activities for the next 5 years.

We are always happy to listen to residents and hear your feedback and with 2023 being election year we also welcome conversations with those interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

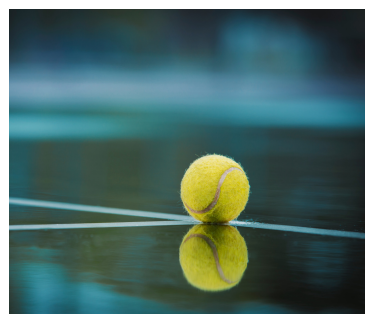
Rohana Abeywardana, Chairman, Twyford Parish Council – March 2023



## Our services

### Open Spaces

Contractors look after the grounds and sports pitches at King George V recreation ground and Stanlake Meadow. Popular facilities include the skate park, ball court, play equipment and fitness trail. The equipment is subject to regular safety checks and repairs and replacements are made as required. We maintain the CCTV in and around the recreation ground.



### Sports and Recreation

King George V recreation ground is home to Twyford Tennis Club. Stanlake Meadow is home to the Twyford and Ruscombe Cricket Club and Twyford Comets Football Club. Stanlake pavilion provides changing rooms and facilities for 'home' and 'away' sports teams.



### Allotments

Both the Hurst Road and London Road sites remain popular. Starter plots are available for those new to keeping an allotment and we work closely with the Twyford Allotment Tenant's Association who are happy to advise and guide allotment holders. We also work with local organisations to provide 'Twyford Growers', a therapeutic gardening group.



### Burial Ground

We operate the burial ground located to the rear of St. Mary's Church on Station Road, Twyford. Whilst the left side is owned and maintained by St. Mary's Church the right side is run by the Council. Here, there is space for burials and cremated remains of Twyford residents.

### Defibrillators and Street Lamps

We maintain the network of defibrillators in and around the village as well as providing over 170 street lamps.

## Representation

Twyford Parish Council responds to consultations at both national and local level on behalf of Twyford.

The Council is a statutory consultee on issues around planning in the Twyford Parish. It's Planning and Amenities Committee meets monthly to consider any comments on planning applications. These comments are submitted regularly to Wokingham Borough Council for their consideration.

Residents and councillors have been working, under the guidance of consultants, on documenting priorities for Twyford. The Neighbourhood Plan is currently with the examiner and will be going to referendum in 2023. We hope to have a good turnout of residents voting as this is our opportunity to share our vision in shaping and protecting Twyford.

Twyford residents are welcome to attend Council meetings and have the opportunity to ask questions at the start of each meeting. The meeting agendas are published on our website.

In addition, we represent residents at a number of local organisations such as Age Concern Twyford, Twyford and Ruscombe Community Association, Twyford Together and Twyford Twinning Association to name a few.







# Twyford PARISH COUNCIL

## Precept 2023-24

### Twyford Parish Council Meetings

We carry out most of our business through the work of four main spending Committees. Members of the public are entitled to attend all meetings of the Council which are held at Loddon Hall, Twyford. Further details can be found on our website.

The Full Council sets the precept whilst delegating most other business to the Committees.

The Planning and Amenities Committee considers planning and environmental matters, street furniture and highways.

The Parish Lands Committee considers all matters relating to the grounds the Parish owns.

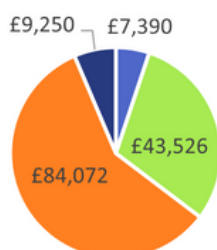
The Finance and General Purposes Committee controls the finances and general administration of the Council. It monitors the budgets, contracts, insurances, policies and staffing matters.

The Community Events and Engagement Committee is responsible for planning and organisation of all events including the Annual Village Fete as well as community engagement surveys / newsletters / social media.

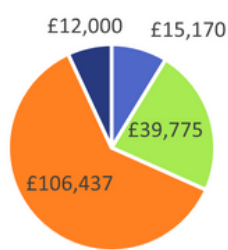
### Budget Breakdown

The pie charts below show the breakdown of the total budget, as expenditure between committees.  
In 2023-24 a band D resident will pay an additional 4p per week towards street lighting energy costs and maintenance and 14p per week on office/staffing costs, training and website improvements.

Budget 2022-23



Budget 2023-24



- Planning and Amenities Committee
- Parish Lands Committee
- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Events and Community Engagement Committee

### Grants

We will consider applications for grants or loans from non profit-making voluntary organisations, charitable bodies or other bodies (but not individuals) providing a public service other than for gain, which will directly benefit the Parish of Twyford and its residents. Priority will be given to smaller and more local organisations. More information and an application form can be found here:

[www.twyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/grants-and-loans/](http://www.twyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/grants-and-loans/)

In 2022-23 the following grants were awarded:

£2,000 ARC Youth Counselling Service  
£300 Wokingham Job Support  
£400 Me2 Club  
£2,000 Citizens Advice Wokingham

### Capital Expenditure

In 2022-23 the Council used capital reserves to fund the following:

£500 - Platinum Jubilee Street Party in the Park event  
£5,000- bailiffs to remove the unauthorised encampment  
£3,600 - to replace the Stanlake Meadow tyre run  
£2,500 - information technology upgrades

The Council used capital reserves of £17,000 in 2022-23 and £20,000 in 2023-24 to reduce the precept.

Information is correct up to 16.03.23.



## Precept 2023-24

### Our Achievements in 2022-23:



The Neighbourhood Plan has passed regulation 16 and is nearing referendum



Installation of a new tyre run at Stanlake Meadow



Working with volunteers to plant more trees, bulbs and wildflowers



Winners of the regional Thames and Chilterns in Bloom award for Heritage



Improved IT



Increased engagement with residents at our Neighbourhood Plan evening, Annual Parish Meeting and regular 'Meet Your Councillor' sessions outside Waitrose



2022 Twyford Village Fete



### Opportunities for residents to get involved:

- Become an Adopt a Street Volunteer
- Join one of our working parties to help look after the environment
- Volunteer to help with the Annual Village Fete



Hornbeam planted to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee

### 2023 Dates

Annual Litter Pick  
25.03.23  
Annual Parish Meeting  
19.04.23  
King Charles III's Coronation event  
06.05.23  
Twyford Village Fete  
19.08.23

### How you can contact us:

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