

Eythorne Parish Council February 2020 Edition

PRECEPT

The Parish Council have been looking at the running costs for the financial year 2020-2021 in order to calculate the precept figure which is used to pay for them. Running costs include, staff, equipment, training, insurances, memberships, repairs and maintenance etc. This is different to capital projects which are paid for from reserves; play equipment and bus shelters for example.

The costs associated with running a Council increase annually while the grant received from KCC to offset those costs has decreased every year to the current situation where the grant has stopped completely. Additionally, DDC and KCC are reducing services due to their own budget limitations, so in order to maintain the environment, Parish Councils are having to find ways to fill the void in services which are being cut. Thus running costs are constantly increasing for all Parish Councils including Eythorne.

Cost associated with repairs and maintenance due to vandalism, which has been regularly detailed in previous magazine articles are significant. By paying for repairs to damaged property, the PC cannot spend that money on more beneficial projects for the Community.

In order to better meet the financial responsibilities for 2020-2021 the Councillors have made the decision to increase the precept this year. The annual increase will be £1.61 which works out at 3p per week for a Band D property. This amount will not completely cover the predicted running costs next year. It is worth mentioning that the precept is dependent on the type of house ownership, the Council does not receive a precept amount from any properties rented through a housing association.

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Parish Council is in talks with East Kent Railway and the Heritage Group to organise a joint event for VE Day on 8 May 2020. There will be more information as the plans for the day are confirmed.

LITTER PICKING

The Parish Gardener / Handyman Stuart filled 13 bags of litter from a litter pick of the roads and alleyways in Elvington just after Christmas. A group of people organised a litter pick in Barfrestone to make the countryside and the village in which they live a cleaner environment. The Councillors would like to thank all those unsung heroes for litter picking while out and about or walking their dog. Your efforts benefit everyone living and working in the Parish.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Eythorne Parish Council website: www.eythornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Eythorne Parish Clerk: clerk@eythornepc.kentparishes.gov.uk or 01304 832449 to leave a message
Community Warden – Julliette West: 07969 584174

PSCO – Richard Bradley: richard.bradley@kent.police.uk

Non-emergency crime: ring 101 or www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online

Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111

Kent County Council: www.kent.gov.uk or 08458 247 247

Dover District Council: www.dover.gov.uk/Home.aspx or call 01304 821199

East Kent Housing: www.eastkenthousing.org.uk or call 01304 872 296

Mobile Library Service: 03000 41 31 31

Country Eye App: <https://countryeye.co.uk/>