

The Budget for 2022-2023 was adopted by Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council (SMPC) at its meeting on 13th January 2022 and is shown in the table below along with the previous budget.

Description	2021/2022 Budget	2022/2023 Budget	Comments
Precept	149,405	149,319	Raised by Council Tax
Cemetery Fees	6,038	6,220	Burials, cremations, memorials
Fairground Fees	4,760	3,433	Hire fees, tennis courts
Bank interest and Wayleave	665	363	
Queen's Platinum Jubilee (previously VE Day 75)	20,000	12,500	Sponsorship, donations and other income.
Parish Council Operating Income	180,868	171,835	
Administration Operating Costs	94,754	82,724	Personnel, office rent / costs, meetings, training, subscriptions
Queen's Platinum Jubilee (previously VE Day 75)	20,000	20,400	Event expenditure covered by sponsorship, donations and event income.
Grants to other bodies	29,579	19,880	Willink Leisure Centre, Library, Handybus
Communications	7,750	3,500	Newsletter, website costs
Fairground & Cemetery	36,285	31,331	Grasscutting, maintenance, rent, improvement projects
Roads, Footpaths & Commons	7,500	14,000	Maintenance/improvements
Parish Council Operating Costs	195,868	171,835	
Parish Council Operating income less Operating Costs	(15,000)	-	Potential budget deficit covered by reserves if needed.
Community Infrastructure Projects			
Community Infrastructure Levy income	43,180	-	CIL income from MOR006 Phase 1 has been received. CIL due from Phases 2 & 3 depends on build dates.
Community Projects spend	40,000	110,000	Predicted spend for CIL projects i.e. Fitness Equipment & Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath.
s106 Expenditure	6,110	-	
Community Infrastructure Income less spending / funds held for projects	(2,930)	(110,000)	Budget deficit covered by CIL Reserves.
Summary			
Total Operating Income	180,868	171,835	Regular Council income
Community Infrastructure Levy Income	43,180	-	Future CIL income will be due from Phases 2 and 3 of the new development but this depends on build dates.
Total Income	224,048	171,835	
Total Operating Costs	195,868	171,835	Regular Council costs
Community Infrastructure/s106 spending	46,110	110,000	Project costs
Transfer from Reserves	(17,930)	(110,000)	
Total Spending	224,048	171,835	

The Budget

SMPC is required (in law) to agree a budget. The budget ensures the Council has sufficient funds to carry out its functions and objectives and enables the Council to control its finances. In addition, it enables the Council to set its Precept.

Funding the Council

The Precept is a tax which funds the Council and enables it to perform its functions. Once the Council has forecast its budget requirements for the following financial year, it requests this funding from its 'local billing authority' – in our case, West Berkshire Council (WBC) – in the form of the Precept.

The billing authority then converts the Precept into an amount per household that is added to the Council Tax bill (according to the property band) for all the dwellings within the Parish area.

The 2022/23 Precept

SMPC have maintained the 2022/23 Precept in line with 2021/22 which in real terms, due to the increase in the number of houses in Mortimer, will mean a decrease of 1.76% in the amount each household will pay. For Band D properties the Parish Council element of the Council Tax will be £87.64 as opposed to last year's figure of £89.21.

Other Income

The Precept is the Council's main source of income, but some income is expected from Cemetery fees and through hiring out the Fairground. The full amount of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for Phase 1 of MOR006, the new development, has now been received. More will be due from Phase 2 and 3 but this is not forecast for to be in 2022/23. It is worthwhile remembering that there are restrictions on how CIL may be spent.

Expenditure

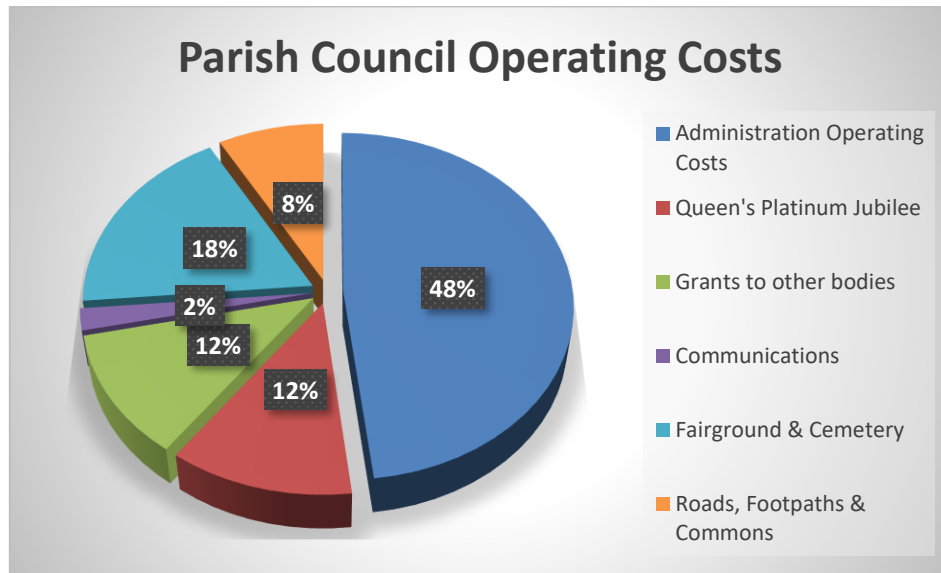
Apart from the maintenance and improvements costs, planned by the Roads, Footpaths and Commons Committee, the Council's overall costs are generally forecast to be less for 2022/23.

Work continues on the Mortimer to Burghfield Cycleway and Footpath and the Council remains in consultation with WBC regarding The Street footway widening. Both these projects will be funded from CIL Reserves; grants, and other sources of funding may be sought.

Earmarked Reserves have been, or will be, set up for the new Neighbourhood Plan, planned climate and environment work and the funds required for the negotiations with the Royal British Legion for Garth Hall. Thought is also being given to a new Community Grant. In addition, the Council is looking at the provision of allotments and other smaller projects in the parish. The Cemetery extension is progressing, and the new bridge will shortly be installed. Having worked closely with the Fairground Trustees, a location has been agreed

for the fitness equipment and installation will hopefully be in the not-too-distant future. Watch this space!

The chart below provides a visual representation of the Council's budgeted operating costs for 2022/23:



Please note that sponsorship for and income from the Queens Platinum Jubilee event is expected to offset the 12% costs as shown above.