

Annual Parish Meetings

2024

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Budget

- The budget has been one of the toughest on record with escalating costs
- There are 4 key areas
 - Children's social care
 - Adult social care
 - Home-to-school transport
 - Temporary accommodation
- These account for 71% of a total budget of around £920 million These are all regulatory items which means regardless of the cost or volume of users we have to provide the service.
- We now have a balanced budget that takes us through to 2027
- But difficult choices have had to be made which will not please every resident.

Roads

- One of the wettest winters on record (wettest Feb in 248 years)
- More teams are fixing the roads than ever before (Now at 29 Gangs)
- Nationally, potholes across the country, Not county are at an 8-year high at close to 8 million.
- The cancellation of part of hs2 will release £8 billion back into roads, but as a council, we are unsure what share we will get, This will be a long-term discussion
- At the last budget, however, we did release an extra £5 million for road repairs which should help recover from the winter.
- The street works permit team has also doubled the fines for overstaying so we will have to see what impact this has moving forward.
- As always, Fix My Street is the key component in reporting issues

Community Board

- The 16 boards have delivered in the last year of 230 community projects across the county
- The board in this area as part of its priorities has delivered several projects including
 - School parking
 - Board game clubs
 - Id like to borrow
 - Id like a bike
- Particularly please that our board has the highest level of contributory funding which is a measure of quality and sustainability of the projects delivered in this area.

Environment

- Six additional parks have received the Green Flag Award, (the nearest is in Aylesbury)
- Over 200,000 extra pieces of litter have been collected with the Litter Lotto partnership
- The energy doctor scheme has secured £1.9m in government funding which to date has made improvements to around 100 properties in low-income housing.
- Five cycleway projects have been delivered with two in the immediate area.

Helping hands

- 25 Afghan families and 1800 ukraine residents are still here and we continue to offer them support
- We have continued the welcome spaces across the libraries in the county
- The Helping Hands scheme has supported over 7500 financially vulnerable residents in the last year with emergency food and support.
- We have also received £400k in support from the Department of Work and Pensions to support local initiatives in several areas in Aylesbury and High Wycombe

Bernie

- Two 16-seater minibuses and a 13-seater with tailift and low-level step
- Active locally for a range of trips including old people groups, wi, sports clubs and a few local schools
- We have a new product which is "Bernie's runabout " which offers a self-drive option subject to licence checks
- But we have achieved a long-term sustainable product

I'd like to Borrow

- Since the launch in Feb, we have been very successful in having a full container of donations which include power tools, garden tools, baby items, and a range of other household and DIY items ready to hire.
- We are keen to increase the level of donations and are happy to collect from anyone who believes they have anything to contribute.
- We are also keen to increase our volunteers if you have the time to help

Id like a Bike

- One of the positives of the id like to borrow campaign is the establishment of the cycle recycling project " Id Like a Bike "
- We are accepting donations of bikes for all ages and renovating and recycling for a range of end users such as
 - Kids leaving care
 - Afghan and ukraine team
 - Low income families through the helping hands team

