

STATEMENT - Parish Council tax increase 2019/20 explanation

Parish Precept Increase

The Parish Council have always strived to provide residents with the best value for money. This has allowed the Parish Council to keep any increase in council tax to a minimum and in some years even reduce it (**table 1**). However, this year the Parish Council have made the difficult decision to increase their portion of council tax for the tax year 2019/2020 by 4.5%; equivalent of £4.19 for band D properties. The Parish Council are aware that this increase will be on top of the additional £4.27 Special Expenses charge that Harborough District Council have introduced to residents of Broughton Astley to cover the cost of maintaining children's play parks on Holbeck Drive and Byre Crescent in the village.

However, the Parish precept money has to cover the increased cost of utilities, replacement of specific play equipment on the recreation ground as well as the introduction of a new picnic area. It also has to cover new charges such as a requirement to structurally test all brackets for such things as hanging baskets and Christmas lights annually on the insistence of the County Council.

Averaged over the past ten years the precept has not increased in line with inflation, see Figure 1 below.

Broughton Astley Leisure Centre

As many people are aware the parish council has been working hard to bring all parts of the agreed Neighbourhood Plan to fruition including the building of a new leisure centre. This new facility has not in any way affected your council tax bill. The monies for the centre have been secured through alternative means including section 106 contributions from new housing developments and funding from outside agencies. There has been no funding from Harborough District Council. The only residents who will contribute to the cost of the leisure centre will be those who pay to actually use the centre.

Table 1: The figures in the table show the change in the (Parish) council tax (Precept) for the years 2007- 2020 as well as the RPI for that year

Financial year		2008 -09	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13	2013 -14	2014 -15	2015 -16	2016 -17	2017 -18	2018 -19	2019 2020
% change in Parish Precept	Nominal £100	9.20	1.60	0.0	-6.00	-2.00	-1.90	-0.60	2.70	-0.84	1.30	0.09	4.50
	£100	£109	£111	£111	£104	£102	£100	£100	£102	£101	£103	£104	£108
% average annual rate of inflation (RPI)	Nominal £100	3.00	0.40	4.90	4.20	3.10	2.70	1.70	1.40	2.70	2.20	2.50	2.50
	£100	£107	£108	£113	£118	£121	£125	£127	£128	£132	£135	£138	£142