

Kingstone & Thruxton Group Parish Council Budget Report

By the time you read this you will no doubt have received your Council Tax Bill from Herefordshire Council for the forthcoming fiscal year April 2021 – March 2022.

You will see that the total Parish Precept has increased from £12,000 to £15,000 per annum which translates to a Band “D” increase per household per year of £6.59 or just over 12.5 pence per week per household.

Clearly this figure only refers to households which do not qualify for a discount which are based on assessed need.

Kingstone & Thruxton have suffered repeated flooding issues over the past few years with the recent substantial increase in housing stock only exasperating this problem.

The Parish Council are members of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme which was originally grant funded by Herefordshire Council, the scheme allowed the Parish Council to engage a contractor to undertake, amongst other things, minor works on drainage systems however over the years the amount of the available grant has reduced to nil leaving Parish Councils to fund their own contractors.

Kingstone & Thruxton Parish Council therefore decided that the time had come to take more control of this type of work and following a survey it became clear that what was required was a contractor with drain clearing and jetting equipment to keep the roadside gullies emptied and the underground pipework clear as well as suitable equipment for clearing or digging new roadside ditches.

This new contractor will commence in April 2021 their first task being to locate, clear and map the area of roadside gullies many of which have become overgrown and effectively lost. Once the existing system is working to keep water off the roads and in the drains we will be able to assess what, where and how improvements are required.

The Parish Council have also budgeted for traffic calming measures which subject to receiving relevant permission will see the installation of 2 SIDs (Speed Indicating Devices) with further measures of “Village Gateways” included in the 2022-2023 budget.

With the assistance of our Ward Councillor and the use of regulation *106 monies these schemes will see an improvement of our road conditions, a reduction in speeding traffic as well as a joined up circular footway system around Kingstone.

Malcolm Walker

Kingstone & Thruxton
Group Parish Council Chairman

**Regulation 106 monies relates to a levy charged to new “larger developments” by Herefordshire Council for infrastructure improvements with a percentage being available to the Parish Council.*