

Leominster Town Council gets funding in three ways:-

- Precept (council tax) levied on all households
- Income generated by services such as allotments, market pitches, office rents and events
- Applications for funding from grants and external funding sources

The Town Council is committed to managing public funds prudently so that it can:-

- Continue to provide good quality services valued by the town
- Keep appropriate reserves in a period of volatility
- Keep public areas well maintained and in good order
- Invest in and support local organisations
- Support and encourage economic growth
- Keep equipment in good order
- Improve the quality of life for residents, visitors and workers

But there are many financial pressures to deal with, including:-

- Inflation
- Withdrawal of the lengthsman and P3 grants (previously paid to the Town Council by Herefordshire Council), which helped pay for minor road repairs and footpath maintenance
- Herefordshire Council's budget has been reduced by over £95 million from 2010 - 2021. There are still £19m of reductions scheduled from now till 2021. Their grants from central government have been continually reduced and this inevitably impacts on services offered to Leominster. The town council has taken on some of these services to save them for the town.

Initial work on the budget suggests that, as a result of these pressures, the precept for Leominster households will rise by approximately 20 pence per week to a total of around £2.75 per week for a Band D dwelling.

Keeping in touch

You will find more information on our budgets, Corporate plan and services we provide on our website. All Town Council agendas and minutes are public and meetings are open to members of the public, who are entitled to ask questions at the start of the meeting.

Please send your input on our budget consultation to townclerk@leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk by the end of November 2018.

LEOMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2019/20



Leominster Town Council Budget Consultation for 2019/20

We welcome your comments in this consultation, which will run during November 2018. The Town Council will consider and vote on its final budget by the end of January 2019.

What area of our town's life is most important for you?

All Leominster residents can vote in the Town Council's Participatory Budget choice box in our offices at 11 Corn Square. Just pick up your tokens from the TIC counter or see us at the Corn Square Friday market. Alternatively, you can vote in the online poll on the website by visiting www.leominstertowncouncil.gov.uk

The total cost of all the services provided by Leominster Town Council is **£2.58 per week** for the average Leominster household in 2018/19. Many households pay less than this¹. It's amazing what can be done when we work together!

With this income in 2018/19 we provided:-

- **Allotments** at Ginhall Lane
- **Public toilets** at Central car park and Grange Park.
- **Open Spaces:** the Grange, Pinsley Mead, Millennium Green/Community Orchard, Priory cemetery, Sydonia, Ginhall Green, Booth Memorial Garden
- **Play areas:** the Grange, Sydonia and Ginhall Green (x2)
- **Markets:** weekly Friday markets, monthly Farmers' market plus specialist and charity stalls
- **Tourist Information Centre** at 11 Corn Square
- **Christmas lights** for the town
- **CCTV** in partnership with Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Constabulary
- **Street cleaning** in the town centre
- **Verge cutting**
- **Free advice** for residents through the Citizens Advice Bureaux (alternate Wednesday afternoons, plus telephone advice)
- Supporting **Civic life:** Mayor, Town Crier and special events
- Comments on **planning applications** and responding to consultations

- The **427 bus service** from Stoke Prior, in partnership with neighbouring parishes
- **Leominster in Bloom:** watering and maintaining annual display, investment in open spaces,
- **P3 Footpath Maintenance** Scheme: strimming footpaths, repairing and replacing stiles, general maintenance
- Regular inspections of **play areas** and equipment

2018/19 Highlights so far

- **Royal visit** and community fair in May
- Hosting **Armed Forces Week** for Herefordshire in June
- **Narnia** themed end to the Christmas lights switch-on in the Secret Garden: a huge hit with families
- Refurbishment of the **play equipment at Sydonia** and new outdoor gym equipment for adults
- Another **Gold for Leominster in Bloom!** This splendid joint effort was supported by the Town Council and many businesses across the town
- Taking over the **mowing of verges** and residential areas – many compliments for increase in frequency and general standard
- **Old Stables Gallery** at 11 Corn Square: display space for local artists
- **CAB**, funded by the Town Council, helped local people with debt write offs and benefit claims, gaining them **£40K** in first 5 months of 18/19
- Funding **activities for young people** and youth services research
- **Food Fair:** a glorious day, over 35 stalls and record visitor numbers, estimated around 5,000.
- Our **Neighbourhood Plan** is now due for inspection and referendum – setting out our aims and policies for development till 2031

Plans for 2019/20 include:

- Upgrading play equipment and developing a **Master Plan for the Grange**, including a full consultation with residents and visitors
- **Inclusive Duke of Edinburgh** scheme for our young people
- **Youth service** development and provision with partners including Vennture and West Mercia Constabulary
- **Interpretation and improved signage** throughout Leominster
- Development of new and existing **Town Trails**
- Refurbishment of **Central toilets**
- Investment in facilities for the **Secret Garden** at 11 Corn Square

¹ *This rate is for a Band D dwelling. 78% of Leominster's dwellings are rated Band A to C and so pay less than this. Households on some benefits receive reductions.