

**February 2010**  
Special edition  
for inclusion in  
residents' Council Tax  
letter

**Newsletter from Kents Hill and Monkston  
Parish Council**

Serving the grid squares of Kents Hill, Monkston,  
Monkston Park, Brinklow and Kingston

## **Precept planning 2010/11**

It is now time for the Parish Council to set its budget for the new financial year which commences on 1st April 2010.

The 'precept' is the special term for the amount of money which the Parish Council requests to be collected from the residents in its Parish by Milton Keynes Council as part of its Council Tax. The precept is for local Parish use, to maintain local services and to support the local community.

This precept funds our budgetary plans for 2010/11 to meet the Parish Council objectives for the coming year. In this newsletter we have detailed how this precept is structured and how much it will cost your household.

For the third year running, the Parish Council has proposed a precept contribution of £20 per household. £20 per household is as per 2009/10 and 2008/09 levels, and equates to £1.66 per household per month. We believe this to represent very good value.

The precept calculation is based on the number of band 'D' equivalent properties in the Parish. This is called the tax base. This year, because of new properties in our area, our tax base has risen from 2606 in 2009/10 to 2627 band D equivalent properties. We currently have 3102 households within the Parish.

This year's precept of £20 per household will provide £62,040. The Parish Council will be contributing £11,340 from its reserves, and therefore the total budget for this coming year will be £73,380 to fund a broad range of locally-based Parish initiatives.

The Parish Council plans to continue to support existing projects and will also provide budget for new initiatives for our community.

Please turn over for further budget details.

**Please log on to our website regularly for updated news,  
project and meeting information:**

**[www.kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk](http://www.kentshill-monkston-pc.org.uk)**

## Parish Council budget 2010/11

In response to the continued financial pressures on household budgets, the Parish Council has set a 'standstill' precept for 2010/11. We have tried to keep expenditure to reasonable levels, and we will do our best to optimise community value from the precept expenditure.

Our planned budgetary spend is driven by input from our residents. We welcome residents' suggestions throughout the year, and plan our priorities around your input.

Our budgetary planning is divided into two distinct areas:

- Parish management and service costs
- Project costs

### Parish management and service costs

This section provides for the employment of a professional Parish Clerk, including salary, employer National Insurance and pension contributions, office costs, administration, and other operational costs including association memberships, insurance and auditor services. It also provides for maintaining current services such as the printing and distribution of the iNFACT newsletter, regular litter bin and dog bin emptying, Councillor training, and website hosting costs.

### Project costs

This provides for supporting the set up and maintenance of our allotments, bulb planting, community events, school holiday play sessions, play area improvements, school/youth projects, new litter bins and a new parkland seat as well as grants for local organisations.

The Parish Council continues to support the running of the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) which works in partnership with local residents, the Thames Valley Police, Milton Keynes Council, and other agencies. The NAG works to tackle local issues in our Parish, as highlighted and prioritised by you, our residents.

The planned budget is as follows:

	£	£
<b>Management and service costs</b>		
Clerk's Salary	13,156	
HMRC contributions	3,815	
Pension contributions	588	
Office costs	263	
Mileage & telephone	1,000	
PO Box fees	126	
Administration	3,000	
Association memberships	1,050	
Insurance	950	
Auditor services	400	
Room hire	480	
Newsletter printing/ distribution	8,021	
Precept letter printing/ distribution	395	
Website costs	350	
Litter bin emptying	1,817	
Dog bin emptying	5,239	
Clerk training	100	
Councillor training	200	
Quality Council fees	267	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>41,217</b>
<b>Project costs</b>		
Allotment fencing	3,000	
Allotment maintenance	3,500	
Allotment expenses	800	
Bulb planting	500	
Community events	2,500	
NAG support	1,000	
Play area improvement	4,000	
Play sessions	9,429	
School/youth projects	1,000	
New litter bins	826	
New parkland seat	608	
Grants	5,000	
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>32,163</b>
<b>Total budget</b>		<b>73,380</b>

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