

February 2009
Special edition
for inclusion in
residents' Council Tax

**Newsletter from Kents Hill and Monkston
Parish Council**
Serving the grid squares of Kents Hill, Monkston, Monkston
Park, Brinklow and Kingston

Precept planning 2009/10

At this time of year, the Parish Council sets its budget for the new financial year which starts in April 2009.

The 'precept' is the special term for the amount of money which the Parish Council calls to be collected from you by Milton Keynes Council as part of its Council Tax. This is for local Parish use, in its effort to build and support the local community.

This precept funds our planned spending, and we have set out in this newsletter the details of how we plan to spend the money, and how much it will cost your household.

This year, due to the challenging financial times we are experiencing, we have proposed a 'static' precept of £20 per household contribution. £20 per household is as per 2008/09 levels, and equates to £1.66 per household per month.

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 Monkston Park, our tax base has risen from 2564 to 2606 band D equivalent properties and we now have 3102 households within the Parish.

This year's precept of £20 per household will provide £62,040. The Parish Council will be contributing £7,252.30 from its reserves, and therefore the total budget for this coming year will be £69,292.30 to fund a broad range of Parish initiatives.

The Parish Council plans to continue the existing projects already in progress and also provides 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

Parish Council budget 2009/10

We understand the current financial pressures on household budgets. We have, therefore, 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 community. We welcome residents' suggestions, and plan our work around your input.

Our budgetary planning is divided into three distinct areas:

- Parish management costs
- Existing service costs
- Project costs

Parish Management costs

This section provides for the employment of a professional Parish Clerk, including salary, employer National Insurance and pension contributions, office costs, administration, other operational costs including association memberships, insurance and auditor services.

Existing service costs

There are a number of existing service costs for the Parish. These include: meeting room hire, newsletter publishing and distribution for four editions per year, provision of dog bin and litter bin emptying services, website costs, Councillor training, conference admission, precept leaflet printing and distribution and allotment management costs.

In addition, we have included costs to continue the running of our Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) which works to tackle local issues in our Parish, as highlighted and prioritised by you, our residents.

Project costs

This year our budget will pay for: school holiday play sessions, youth worker provision to run the local youth club, youth projects, new dog bins and litter bins, Clerk training, community events, car parking surfacing and play park improvements.

The planned budget is as follows:

| | £ | £ |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Management | | |
| Clerk's Salary | 13,494 | |
| HMRC contributions | 3,643 | |
| Pension contributions | 588 | |
| Office costs | 263 | |
| Mileage & telephone | 1,000 | |
| Administration | 1,500 | |
| Association memberships | 788 | |
| Insurance | 730 | |
| Auditor services | 293 | |
| Sub-total | | 22,299 |
| Existing service costs | | |
| Meeting room hire | 360 | |
| Newsletter | 4,000 | |
| Website | 492 | |
| Training | 200 | |
| Bin emptying | 6,008 | |
| Parish conference | 250 | |
| Allotments—existing | 3,500 | |
| Allotments—new | 3,500 | |
| NAG meetings & projects | 2,360 | |
| Precept leaflet | 280 | |
| Sub-total | | 20,950 |
| Projects | | |
| Play sessions | 10,397 | |
| Youth workers | 3,839 | |
| Youth projects | 1,000 | |
| New dog bin | 391 | |
| New litter bins | 1,651 | |
| Clerk training | 100 | |
| Grants | 2,500 | |
| Community events | 400 | |
| Bulb planting | 765 | |
| Car parking surfacing | 1,000 | |
| Play parks improvements | 4,000 | |
| Sub-total | | 26,043 |
| Total budget | | 69,292 |

Please log onto our website for regular updates
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