

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
The first tier of Local Government — closest to residents and our communities
A message from Councillor Mark Whittaker, Mayor of Stocksbridge

Dear Resident,

Why we fund the Town Council via the Council Tax

We all recognise the importance of having local services within easy reach of our communities, especially when our community is so far away from the City Centre and transport links so poor. The Stocksbridge Town Council area (including Deepcar and Bolsterstone) is one of only three areas of Sheffield to have a Town/Parish Council. The public elect eight local Members of the Town Council to persuade and argue on behalf of our community, and make representations on the issues that matter most in the local area. The Town Council regularly represents the views of local people to organisations such as Sheffield City Council, ensuring that our local voice is properly heard and considered when decisions are made that affect the whole city.

Larger authorities are tasked with the provision of statutory services, however the Town Council provides additional services to the local community in a variety of ways to contribute to the social fabric of our area. In order to do so we levy a small precept on local properties, which is collected via Council Tax by Sheffield City Council on our behalf and then used to improve and protect the quality of life across our whole community.

We recognise that many people are facing a squeeze on their finances due to a number of factors around the increased cost of living and taking this into account Town Councillors have decided that the precept should not increase for the upcoming financial year. This fourth freeze in a row means that the precept contributed by local householders has not increased since 2020-21. The table below shows the annual amount paid by properties in each Council Tax Band:

Property Band	Annual Precept	Property Band	Annual Precept
A	£22.57	E	£41.36
B	£26.32	F	£48.88
C	£30.08	G	£56.41
D	£33.84	H	£67.70

Your Town Council works closely with local community groups and external organisations, and is committed to pursuing local priorities such as championing local causes, supporting community groups and protecting our treasured landscape by defending our natural and built heritage.

I am constantly surprised and impressed by the amount of community spirit there is in our area. Although it tends to be negative things, like anti-social behaviour, that makes the headlines I can assure you that there are far, far, more people who are contributing time and energy to improve the lives of people in our Valley. This is how the Town Council can help. Councillors sit on Committees such as TARA, or the new Upper Don Renewable Energy group that finds cheap but effective ways to reduce people's energy bills. This means that the Council can give grants, such as that for a thermal imaging camera given to this last group. Because we know the local area and the people in it, our support for projects can be carefully and efficiently targeted. I would like to thank everyone who we have worked closely with and are doing so much for our community.

Your local Town Councillors are volunteers and we do not receive payment for the duties we undertake; we are involved in community groups across the local area because, like you, we love this area and want to support it. We are always open to listening to residents' ideas on how we can improve the area or regarding problem issues that are developing. Our contact details can be found on the Town Council website: www.stocksbridge-council.co.uk and full Town Council meetings are held the second Thursday of most months and are open to all members of the public to attend.

With kindest regards for the year ahead,

Mark Councillor Mark Whittaker, Mayor of Stocksbridge and Councillor for the East Ward (Deepcar)