

STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL
The first tier of Local Government – closest to residents and our communities
A message from Councillor Richard Crowther, Mayor of Stocksbridge

Dear Resident,

Why we fund the Town Council via the Council Tax

Now more than ever, 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. The Stocksbridge Town Council area (including Deepcar and Bolsterstone) is one of only three areas of Sheffield to have a Town or Parish Council, and we 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 the whole community.

We recognise that many people are facing a squeeze on their finances due to a number of factors, including the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. It is for this reason that your Town Councillors have resolved that the precept should not increase for the financial year 2022-23, and this second 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 landscapes by defending our natural and built heritage.

I and my fellow Town Councillors have been overwhelmed by the resourcefulness and resilience of the residents of our area throughout the pandemic – indeed over the Summer I had the honour of presenting our Citizens Awards to some of the local organisations that have worked hardest to support the community throughout this difficult time. Our continued thanks and appreciation go to everyone involved with Valley Medical Centre, Deepcar Medical Centre, Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre, Stocksbridge Community Care Group and everyone who has helped out in some way, whether by volunteering in the vaccine roll-out or by making sure isolated neighbours received essential groceries. Thank you.

Given the continued spectre of Covid-19 in the community over the last year, the activities of many community groups have been disrupted and consequently there have been comparatively few requests for funding this year. We have therefore taken the decision to roll forward the underspend in the 2021-22 grants budget head to 2022-23. Local groups and organisations with a constitution and bank account are welcome to apply for funding for projects they are involved with; an application form can be found on our website or alternatively please don't hesitate to contact our office for further details.

Your local Town Councillors are volunteers and 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. Town Council meetings are open to the public; dates and agendas can be found on our website.

With very best wishes,



Councillor Richard Crowther

Mayor of Stocksbridge and Councillor for North Ward (Stubbin and Manchester Road)