

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 05.03.2018

**BROADCLYST PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH PRECEPT 2018/19 (TAX)**

Hosting a large part of the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point's strategic residential development, Broadclyst Parish Council sits at the western edge of East Devon District Council's Administrative area against the Exeter City boundary.

As central government decentralises services and principal authorities devolve opportunities to grass-roots level, local councils are stepping up and taking on additional responsibilities to retain and improve service provision. The pattern of non-statutory services being devolved to parish councils from principal authorities with minimal or no financial support looks set to continue, however the General Power of Competence, introduced under the 2011 Localism Act, enables town and parish councils to undertake projects and deliver services which they would not have previously had a legislative Power to do. This positive and democratic process enables local councils to respond in a proactive and innovative manner to the requirements of their residents at grass-roots level, demonstrating fiscal responsibility to spend tax payer's money in accordance with the wishes of the local community.

Continuing additional services undertaken by the Broadclyst Parish Council in 2018/19 include the provision of a community youth club, visibility splay grass cutting, and parish Lengthsman works including the filling of small potholes on the parish's 53 miles of unclassified roads.

Broadclyst Parish Council is also managing the change to its parish as the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point strategic development sites build out. Council's community infrastructure and assets have increased by 35% in the last decade, and the cost of operating and maintaining these community-owned amenities has been added to the parish tax.

The Council has grown in many other ways, for example in 2011/12 the Council employed one part-time clerk; in 2018/19 its team of 9 full and part time staff will put in over 160 man-hours a week.

Service delivery comes at a cost, which is perceived by some to be double taxation but in essence it is relocating the collection of the monies to pay for a service to a more local level. This has resulted in an inevitable increase in town and parish precepts nationally in order to retain and improve services and facilities that are considered vital and beneficial across the parish; there are many fantastic projects and works being done by town and parish councils all over the country.

Year	Precept	Tax base	Band D equiv.	Cost PCM	% increase
15/16	£112,978	1263	£89.45	£7.45	
16/17	£199,698	1344	£148.58	£12.38	66.11%
17/18	£275,744	1510	£182.61	£15.22	22.90%
18/19	£350,969	1568	£223.83	£18.65	22.57%

Fig 1: It is important to understand how the nature, size, and work of the council has changed when looking at the annual precept.

The impact of strategic growth on the Precept

Although the parish precept has increased, so has the number of Band D equivalent houses, or Tax Base. The increase to the Tax Base affects the amount we see on our bills, as shown in the table below.

Year	Annual	% Annual	Tax base	Band D	% Band D
	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase	Increase
1516-1617	£86,720	76.76%	6.41%	£59.13	66.11%
1617-1718	£76,046	38.08%	12.35%	£34.03	22.90%
1718-1819	£75,225	27.28%	3.84%	£41.22	22.57%

The pattern is likely to continue that although the cost of running the parish will steadily increase in line with additional duties and responsibilities, the increasing tax base will reduce the impact of the increasing costs to each household.

The parish council precept for 2018/19 will be £350,969, which in real terms equates to £4.30 per band D equivalent property per week, an increase of 79p per week. When the level of services now paid for from that figure is considered, it represents excellent value for money: local tax paid by local residents for a local service.

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Notes for Editors

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Broadclyst Parish Council

19 New Buildings

Broadclyst

Exeter

EX5 3EX