

St Ives Town Council 2021-22

Explanatory Notes – the Town Council portion of the Council Tax bill



St Ives Town Council has set its budget for the financial year 2021-22 in order to be able to maintain the services it is committed to providing, in the most cost-effective way possible.

How The Town Council is Funded

The Town Council's budget for 2021-22 is £980,054. This is broken down further in the table below. The Town Council aims to raise as much income as possible from services it charges for, like weddings and office rents. Next year, it hopes to raise £224,923 this way. The rest is funded from the precept. This means that a proportion of your Council Tax bill paid to Cornwall Council is paid to the Town Council. The proportion is small, (7.1%) relative to the rest of your bill.

Average Cornwall Council tax bill for 2021-22 in St Ives (band D)	= £ 2,051.49
Average Town Council share for 2021-22 (band D)	= £ 147.67
Average monthly cost of Town Council services for a Band D household	= £ 12.31

Changes from last year

Last year, for 2020-21, the average band D increase for the Town Council was £21.95, a 20.11% increase. This year, for 2021-22, the average band D increase for the Town Council will be £16.54, a 12.61% increase, a lower level of increase than last year.

What is the Council's Budget Spent on ?

The table shows the Council's income and expenditure by Committee. A significant proportion of the Council's budget goes into running front line services, such as all the public conveniences, the Library and Visitor and Information Service and also repairing and maintaining historic buildings it owns, such as the chapels, cutting footpaths and looking after the recreation ground.

For next year, the Council has committed to a large programme (over £250,000) of capital investments. The Council cannot fund all these in one go and so, it consulted the community, which supported borrowing for these investments.

	Draft budgeted income	Draft budgeted expenditure
Finance & General Purposes Committee		
Administration	3,000	345,501
Community Provision	-	23,215
Planning	-	5,400
Devolution		
Use of Reserves		
Facilities Committee		
Concert & Guildhall	73,000	75,700
Library & Information Service	48,900	164,044
Public Conveniences	15,000	135,936
Island Centre	14,700	11,800
Market House, Huers Hut & Lodges	51,628	4,400
Chapels	9,250	3,950
Facilities Maintenance & Management	3,870	150,648
Community & Environment Committee		
Allotments	4,575	3,500
Civic / Hospitality	1,000	17,650
Services & Projects	-	25,810
Palemon Best & Open Spaces	-	12,500
Total	224,923	980,054

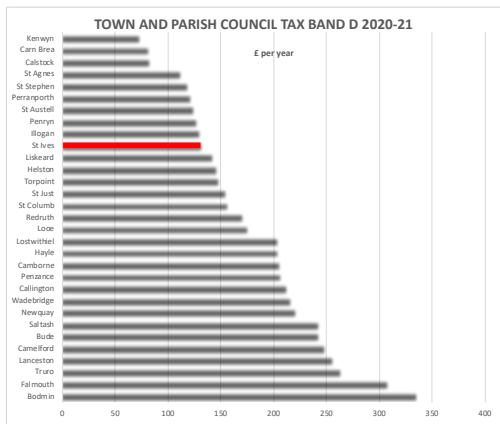
Borrowing will fund

- Repairs and replacement of the library roof
- Investments at the Palemon Best recreation ground as a contribution to the skate park project
- Funds for the Community Land Trust affordable housing scheme
- Funds for the modernisation of the concert hall to upgrade the facilities for a new programme of live events.
- Installation of a customer lift for wheelchair users and those with mobility issues so they can access weddings, event and meetings.

Additional Costs

There are other additional costs incurred for the next financial year including the cost of running elections which the Council must fund every four years, the costs of de-silting Consols pool which was agreed as a community priority. The impact of COVID has also been felt by the Council, as in other businesses, buying additional PPE and changing the buildings to ensure that they are COVID secure. Unlike some other businesses, it has not been possible for the Council to claim business rate relief or discretionary grants against these costs.

Why is the percentage higher than inflation ?



It's important to note that, just looking at a percentage increase can be misleading. A band D increase of £16.54 over the whole year is lower when compared to other towns in Cornwall and yet the percentage increase is higher (12.61%) because its increasing a smaller bill from last year. The chart shows how St Ives' bill compares with other towns in Cornwall with budgets of more than £140,000

Another reason why the percentage figure is higher than inflation is that the Council has to use many outside services and contractors: IT maintenance, tradesmen and printers and they can increase their costs above inflation.

Finally, financial regulations require the Council to keep a minimum amount of funds in reserve in case of unforeseen events. This has been very important in the past year because all of the Council's commercial services: weddings and markets and the visitor information shop had to close due to COVID. These reserves ensured that the Council could absorb these losses.

Facilities run by the town council include:

- St Ives Guildhall and Concert Hall (town council offices and a venue for concerts, markets, plays, functions and weddings)
- St Ives Public Library and Information Service and the Visitor Information Service
- The Island Centre (another community building available for classes, functions and events)
- Managing and investing in the Palemon Best Recreation Ground including the newly built skate park
- The allotments at Trowan
- Repairing and maintaining heritage buildings: St Nicholas Chapel on the Island; St Leonards Chapel at Smeatons Pier; the Baulking House at Hain Walk and the Market House.
- Repairing, managing and maintaining all Public Conveniences in St Ives and a public convenience at Longstone Cemetery, Carbis Bay

Services provided by the town council include:

- Neighbourhood Plan policy setting and review
- Tourist information
- Footpath maintenance and cutting
- Commissioning the town centre CCTV, monitoring and maintenance
- Hosting weddings, blessings meetings and events
- Street weeding
- Repairing and maintaining the townwide festoon lights
- Running a Community Grants programme
- Funding support for local good causes including the Hayle Day Care Centre, Archive, and the September Festival and the Citizens Advice Bureau
- Enforcement of the environmental and beach dog control orders
- Commenting on planning consultations – over 340 this year
- Running and funding Civic and Community events including Feast, Knill, Mayor Choosing, Good Friday boating

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