

# BAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Bampton Resident

## **BAMPTON BUDGET 2010/11**

Each year your town council has to bid for funds from Mid Devon District (MDDC) to pay for necessary local expenditure in Bampton for the forthcoming financial year. This budget is the only means we have to enable the Council to carry out necessary maintenance and repair works in the town. We have already been informed that grant money from MDDC to help pay for any additional projects will be cut next year. It is therefore vitally important that we get the sums right and the Town Council has been discussing how much will be required for the forthcoming financial year which begins in April 2010.

Unfortunately, Bampton has been under-funded for some time which has meant that contingency money kept in the bank as a reserve has been steadily depleted over the past few years. In 2007/8 there was a shortfall of £7,600, in 2008/9 the shortfall was £7,800 and this year (with 4 months of the financial year to go) we are already £3,000 overspent. Our bank balance is now at a critical level and action is required to stabilise the situation.

### **Bampton Town Council has agreed that**

- *A substantial local increase will be required for next year to ensure that sufficient funds are available to fund our activities in 2010/11.*
- *There needs to be enough funding to ensure that we do not continue to use what little remains in the reserve account (normally kept for unforeseen expenditure or emergencies only).*
- *After much discussion, councillors have decided to request MDDC to increase the budget for 2010/11 to £36,192 (the budget for the current year is £18,165).*

### **What does this mean for Bampton residents?**

In essence, you will see a 100% increase in the portion of your Council Tax bill relating to Bampton expenditure. This will mean an increase from 50 pence per week per house to £1 per week per house (no matter how many people live in the property). The figures are based on an average of 754 properties in Bampton on the Band D council tax valuation and will vary depending on which band you are in.

Even with this increase, Bampton compares very well with a number of other towns in the area of similar size. For example, Bradninch, Hemyock, Burlescombe, Culmstock and Silverton are currently charging far more than we are proposing for next year.

Our aim is to give the best value for money we can. We hope that you will understand that we have your best interests at heart. A healthy budget will allow the Town Council to carry out the tasks which are important and necessary.

**Bampton Town Council**

**December 2009**

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