

Precept for 2014/15 Frozen for the 5th Year Running



Bradley Stoke Town Council is pleased to announce that, for the fifth year running, the Precept paid by residents of the town has been frozen. The Precept which provides the bulk of the town council's income will remain unchanged for the coming year at £113.50 for a Band D property.

This freeze has been achieved by careful forward financial planning and management including obtaining best value for money in all areas of the town council, whilst ensuring that no services have been lost. This has been achieved through the negotiation of contracts and trying to secure fixed rates for 3 year periods wherever possible.

Despite increasing general costs within the economy, Council has, in fact, been able to significantly increase services over the last few years whilst freezing the cost to the community. This includes an increase in working hours for both the Mobile Cleansing Operative (now increased to full time) and the introduction of a casual leisure assistant which has allowed council to bring some services in house, saving about £10,000 p/a.

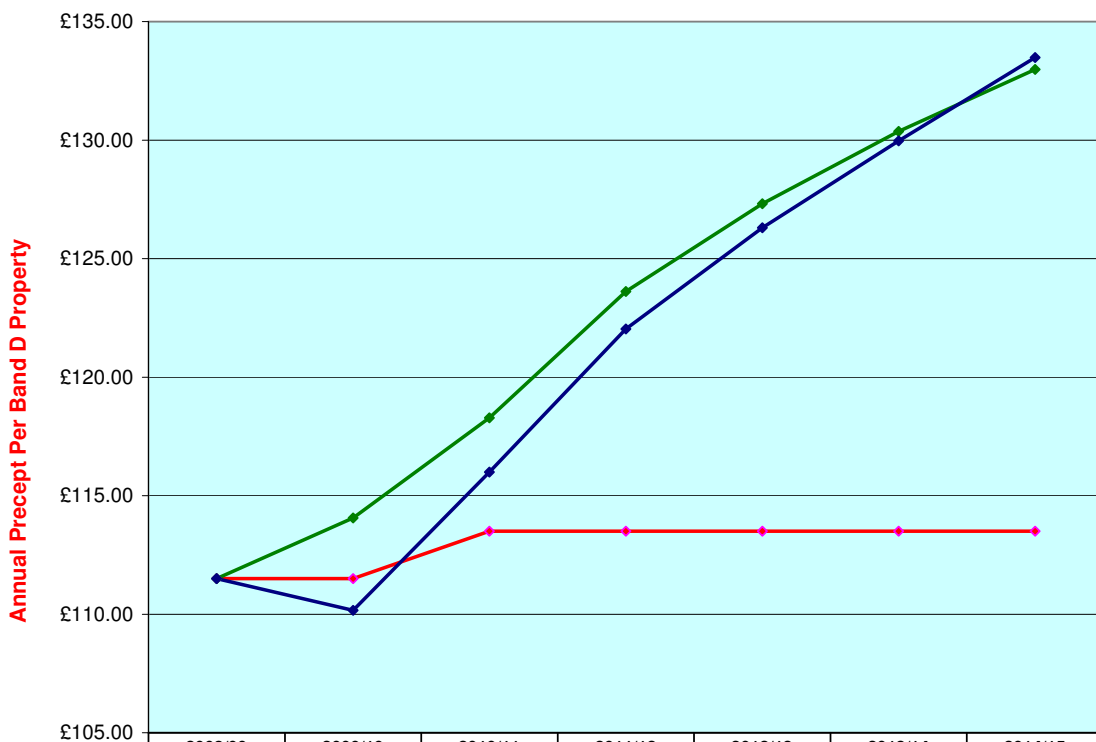
Youth provision has also been protected and council now fully fund a Youth Participation & Development Worker on increased hours following the withdrawal of part funding from South Gloucestershire Council earlier this year. This has allowed council to obtain additional external funding which will include the relocation and upgrading of the skate park.

In addition to this and following centralised cuts, from 1st April 2014, the town council will be taking over the Highway Verge and Meadow Grass cutting and the shrub bed maintenance contracts from South Gloucestershire Council. This will save about £14,000 p/a by utilising council's existing ground maintenance contractor on a fixed price contract.

Looking ahead, the building of the new office last year, will make huge long term savings of at least £26,000 p/a as from April 2022 when the current low rate and fixed mortgage will be repaid. This saving is against the previous rental of the old offices.

Based upon the above, council has managed to maintain and even increase services to the community whilst actually cutting the cost to residents in real terms when compared to the Retail and Consumer Price increases over the last 5 years as detailed within the graph.

Comparison of Actual Precept Levels Per Band D Properties Against CPI & RPI Compounded Levels Which Would Have Applied OVER a 6 YEAR PERIOD



	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Actual Annual Precept Per Band D Property	£111.50	£111.50	£113.50	£113.50	£113.50	£113.50	£113.50
Annual Precept if CPI Applied (Compounded)	£111.50	£114.06	£118.28	£123.61	£127.32	£130.37	£132.98
Annual Precept if RPI Applied (Compounded)	£111.50	£110.16	£116.00	£122.03	£126.30	£129.97	£133.48

Financial Year (1st April - 31st March)

December 2013 RPI & CPI Figures Used for 2014/15 & April Figures Applied for all Other Years

Public Consultation

Public Consultation on Hardcourt Area and General Site at Brook Way Activity Centre

The town council is seeking residents' views on the future of the hardcourt area and general site at Brook Way Activity Centre. The black line on the map below indicates the area of the site under consideration.

The hardcourt area has been underused for a number of years and, in order for the surface of the hardcourt to be restored to a high enough standard for tennis and netball to be played safely, there would be a need for a major refurbishment, as there are significant issues regarding tree roots which would need to be addressed. Any enquiries received by the town council with regard to use of the hardcourt at Brook Way Activity Centre are always directed to the hardcourts at The Jubilee Centre which are in very good condition.

Before any final decision is made on the future of the hardcourt area and general site, councillors are keen to hear views and ideas of residents of Bradley Stoke as to possible uses for the area under review.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE DETAILS WILL NOT BE RETAINED ON ANY DATABASE AND WILL NOT BE USED IN THE FUTURE FOR ANY PURPOSES OTHER THAN THIS CONSULTATION.

Your Opinion

It would be appreciated if you could take a few moments to answer the following question. **Please complete and submit the form below, including your name, e-mail or postal address and postcode. The response can either be submitted by post to: Bradley Stoke Town Council office, The Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, South Glos, BS32 8HL, or through the online method on the Bradley Stoke Town Council website: www.bradleystoke.gov.uk**



Form

RESPONSES REQUIRED BY 5th MARCH 2014

Do you have any ideas as to what the hardcourt area and general site could be used for in the future?

Yes / No

If you answered 'Yes', please tell us your ideas:

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Comments: If you have any other comments to add, please include them in box below:

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Your Details

Name:

Email or Postal Address:

Postcode: