

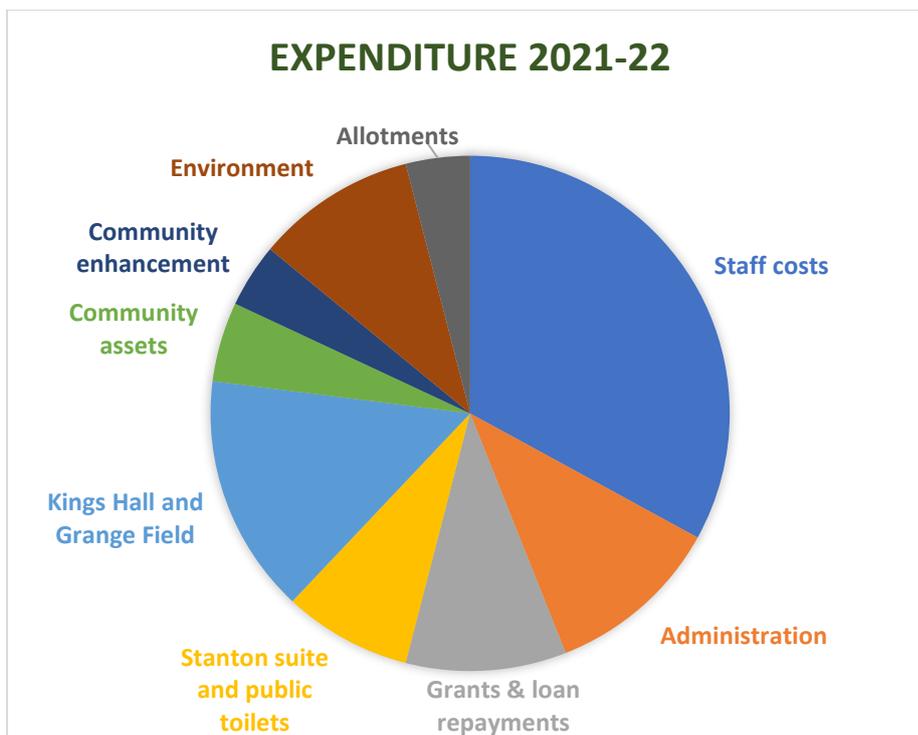
## Parish Precept 2021-2022

### A local tax used locally

In what for many will be a very difficult financial year, we want to explain why we are asking our residents to pay an average of an additional £5 on the Parish Precept.

This year, Gloucestershire's 264 Town and Parish Councils levied an average Precept of £49. Charlton Kings Parish Council is the fourth largest Council in the county and in 2021-22, our Precept will be £29.50, about 1% of your Council Tax bill. The Precept is a 'progressive' tax, so Band A householders will pay £20 and Band H £59.

How we plan to spend your money is shown below. A full programme with detailed budgets is on our website.



Our Precept income will be £146,000, with £26,000 raised from rents and reclaiming VAT. We will again reluctantly, need to take £26,000 from our reserve to fund our proposed spending plans amounting to £198,000.

In recent years, we have maintained the recommended level of one year's Precept in our reserve. We recognise that these are challenging times, so we have reduced the Precept request that we would need to balance our finances.

This is unsustainable, so we have a clear plan to bring in additional income (we can access a six-figure external grant to improve the biodiversity interest of our two large Commons), and we will reduce planned spending wherever possible. We would very much like to hear residents' views about progressively increasing our Precept in future years to maintain our track record of sound management and innovation.

In 2021/22, we plan to use your extra money to employ a fourth, part time member of staff, to reduce the pressures on our hard-working staff and our 17 volunteer councillors. Additional money will be channelled into our CK Futures environment work to enhance wildlife and help residents understand and contribute to addressing Climate Change.

### **Continuing our core work with our many partners**

We will continue our regionally recognised work on our CK Health Connect programme, addressing five priority themes including loneliness and digital exclusion of older people. Providing support to young people will also be a key element, and we will work with partners across Cheltenham to be effective. We will continue our core work with our many partners and elected councillors, on highway improvements, tree planting, churchyard maintenance, footpath improvements, and many other improvements to community assets and services. We remain fully committed to securing the future of an improved Kings Hall as a vital community asset.

Your councillors are proud that we are one of only 180 Councils in England to have achieved the 'Quality' award in the national Local Council Award Scheme. This award recognises that we work on your behalf in an efficient, effective, and transparent way and we promise that we will continue to do so.