



South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council
Trade Unit 8
Invicta Business Centre
Orbital Park
Ashford
KENT
TN24 0HB
www.swancc.org.uk
clerk@swancc.org.uk
01233 528933

Dear Residents,

As budget setting time approaches SWANCC wanted to write to you to explain our small rise in the Precept that will be shown on your next council tax bill. Last year the Council chose not to raise the Precept as it understood the financial pressures we are all under and it was in position to support the Precept with Reserves. However, this year SWANCC do need to raise the Precept to cover the costs of delivering the high-quality services you have come to expect from us.

In the past couple of years these services have included:

Jubilee celebrations, Vintage Railway Festival, employing a Litter Picker, awarding Grants to volunteer organisations, rejuvenating the Allotments, planting Daffodils and Wildflowers around the SWAN area, Defibrillators at the Alfred Arms and Albion Arms, installing Happy to Chat Benches and much more.

SWANCC believe it has delivered value for money and is very pleased to report that it also has a good reputation within and beyond Ashford Borough as a positive, approachable, professional Community Council, and the area of South Willesborough and Newtown as a pleasant place to live.

To continue and build upon all this SWANCC is still supporting the cost of the Precept with 6.7% of the overall Budget from Reserves to reflect the current cost of Inflation. But is proposing a modest rise amounting to approx. 20p for a BAND D property per week and this will show up as about 19%. Below is table to clarify the costs for Properties in Bands A-D per week.

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D
Cost Per Week	87p	£1.02	£1.16	£1.30

On top of this SWANCC will continue to seek external funding from grants and schemes to both deliver projects and keep the Precept as low as possible.

SWANCC Members thank you all for your understanding and support, as we are residents of the SWAN area ourselves, and all Members love living and working here and only want what's best for the area, our neighbours and future residents of South Willesborough and Newtown.

Kind regards,

Cllr Sue Mullan
Chair SWANCC

Sarah Evans
Community Council Manager and RFO





SWAN Stepping into Spring

Spring Bulb planting in SWAN

Autumn 2023 the SWANCC Planting and Biodiversity Group planted another 5000 bulbs over South Willesborough and Newtown. Spring should see a welcome addition of Snowdrops Crocus and Bluebells as well as more Daffodils to give a cheery display.

Coronation Living Heritage Fruit Tree Initiative

Ashford Borough Council have received funding from The Coronation Living Heritage Fund which has provided an opportunity for all Parish and Community Councils to apply for free Fruit Trees to be planted within its Parish and Community Orchards.

SWANCC Planting and Biodiversity Group will be reviewing SWAN and applying for trees to be planted as a visible and lasting tribute to the Kings Coronation.

Gas House Fields Allotments

Wheelchair Friendly Disabled Access Beds are ready

SWANCC are really pleased to advise that the wheelchair friendly beds are ready for new tenants.

If you would benefit from this provision please contact the SWAN Office

Book a bed scheme

The Book a bed scheme is ready with 12 plots approx 1m x 1m made available for residents of SWAN who would like the benefit of growing vegetables and accessing the open space at Gas House Fields Allotments, but perhaps the demands of a full allotment are not practical or manageable. The Charge for this will be £5 for the year with a deposit of £25 for the space returnable if it is left clean and tidy at the end of the tenancy. This is an ideal opportunity to learn more about Allotmenting and growing you own and these are ready to book from Spring 2024.

Please contact the SWAN Office on:
clerk@swancc.org.uk

Community Gardening in SWAN

With the planned hire of a Community Gardener at SWANCC, Spring 2024 will see launch the of a Community Allotment Club in the Spring of 2024, subject to residents interest.

This will be led by the SWANCC Community Gardener and meet on a regular basis over the Spring to plant and grow vegetables for the benefit of the SWAN community, with all the tools equipment and planting provided and the guidance of the Community Gardener it will be a fantastic opportunity to learn how to grow vegetables on an allotment and meet like-minded people interested in community gardening. With a charge of only £5 for a years' membership it is a great opportunity to be involved in a Community Gardening project. The produce grown through the Community Allotment Club will be for the benefit of SWAN residents and these will be distributed by the Salvation Army Ashford team at the Friday Food and Chat and in emergency food parcels for those in need.

To express interest in joining this project please contact the SWAN Office on clerk@swancc.org.uk

