



ECCLESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE LEAFLET 2022 - 2023 OVERVIEW



**THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR JOHN BROWNRIGG
OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR**

It gives me great pleasure in providing the Chairman's overview of the Council's activities over the past 12 months.

I am now in my eighth year as a parish councillor and it was a great honour to be elected, for the first time, as the Chairman of Ecclesfield Parish Council in May 2021.

The past year has been an interesting, difficult and busy one for the Council. The COVID pandemic continues to present challenges for us, like everyone else, but it has been wonderful to see the strong sense of community that has come to the forefront since the pandemic began. The Parish Council, voluntary groups and organisations have worked extremely hard to support those who have been struggling to cope or have needed someone to talk to in these difficult times.

Despite the challenges, Ecclesfield Parish Council has worked to achieve and has:

- Distributed over £30,000 in grants to support dozens of voluntary groups and organisations across the Parish such as Chapel Green Advice Centre, Friends of Ecclesfield Park and Burncross Action Team.
- Established a COVID Recovery Support grant

programme to support voluntary and community organisations in the Parish that require help due to being adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, several groups have benefitted from this fund - totalling over £13K

- Given away hundreds of items of uniform through the School Uniform Swap Shop scheme, saving parents hundreds of pounds and helping the environment by reusing items.

Lobbied and campaigned on behalf of the residents of the Parish. A good example is the meeting with local MP Miriam Cates about resolving the ongoing issue of the lack of decent fibre broadband for many residents.

- Over the Christmas period, distributed 55 family hampers which helped 269 individuals as well as 60 meals for isolated people.

• Been awarded Hedgehog Hero status by the Hedgehog Preservation Society for its work in conserving this declining species.

- Commenced the refurbishment of the Community Hall to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the community and is generally fit for purpose.

• Been awarded 'Census Champion' status by the Office for National Statistics for its efforts to promote the 2021 Census.

- Secured over £20,000 in external funding, which has been used to support park improvements and other local projects and activities.

• Declared a Climate Emergency, which calls on the Parish Council, Sheffield City Council and others to take urgent action to address climate change. The Council has since been signed up to be a 'Plastic Free Community' as part of this.

- Made an annual contribution of £17,000 to the running of the Thorncliffe Leisure Centre.
- Continued to progress the Neighbourhood Plan, to have a bigger say on the future development of Ecclesfield, including planning applications. As part of this the Government has agreed to prepare, at no cost to the



Parish, a Design Code for the Parish.

- Held numerous community events, including the Annual Remembrance Day Parade, nature picnics as well as environmental and heritage fairs and events.

We have made the difficult decision to raise the precept for this financial year (2022-23). It will go up by approximately 3%. This equates to an increase of less than 2p a week for the average household in the Parish. Last year we did not increase the precept, using our reserves and efficiency savings to bridge the shortfall between what income we received and what we spent. Unfortunately, we cannot go on using reserves and we must increase the precept to protect and maintain the high-quality services we provide. The rate of increase is below the inflation rate, and the amount the Council charges continues to be amongst the lowest in the Country.

However, that does not mean that we have been unable to make extra provision for activities that our communities especially value. This includes an extension of the COVID Recovery Fund and strengthening our work to combat climate change with more tree planting, recycling and reduction in the use of plastics.

Chairman of the Council, Councillor John Brownrigg

Finance and Premises Committee

The Finance and Premises Committee continues to oversee and examine very closely how and where the

Parish Council spends its money – your money.

The Council's finances (including payments) are considered and evaluated in terms of cost-effectiveness and the benefit to the community at large, including at every Council meeting. All contracts are regularly reviewed to ensure they are fit for purpose. Indeed, last year we undertook the major task of reviewing all the contracts, which resulted in significant savings. The Council prepares a yearly budget, on which the precept is based, within which it works.

At the end of each financial year, our accounts and financial management systems are independently audited by Government appointed inspectors. I am pleased to say that our most recent, for the financial year 2020/21, got a clean bill of health.

As a Council, we operate democratically and transparently. All our financial reports are easily accessible online via the Council website at <https://ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk/>

**Chairman of the Finance and Premises Committee,
Councillor Kate Guest.**

Environmental Planning Committee

The Parish Council's Environmental Planning Committee meets roughly every four weeks. Its main role is to examine planning applications both commercial and domestic to consider their impact on the local environment and residents across the Parish. The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications in the Parish, and submits formal comments or objections to Sheffield City Council. The Committee also monitors and comments on licensing applications received in the Parish.

In addition, the Committee continues to support and coordinate a vast range of environmental activities, including tree planting, litter picking, nature conservation, the provision of dog poo bins and bags just to name a few good examples.

Chairman of the Environmental Planning Committee, Councillor Dr. John Bowden.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee was appointed to manage, recruit, and retain staff, review and recommend policies that impact on staff and ensure that each member of staff is dealt with fairly. The Council believes having this robust system of management in place helps staff to feel valued and listened to.

We are extremely lucky with the staff (all part-time) that support the Parish Council: Julie Allsop and Natalie Richardson - Administration Assistants; Carole Long - Cleaner; Emma Mainwaring - Community Coordinator and Archive Coordinator; Laura Tickle - Administration Officer and Andrew Towler - Parish Clerk. They have really gone the extra mile over the pandemic to maintain the functions of the Council and we have a professional and well informed team.

I am especially proud that two of our staff (Emma Mainwaring and Julie Allsop) have achieved the ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) qualification over the last year and our most newly appointed staff member (Natalie Richardson) is working towards it.

All our staff (like my fellow councillors) are committed and dedicated and many thanks go to each one of them

for all their hard work and support given throughout the year.

Chairman of the Staffing Committee, Councillor Carol Levery.

YOUR LOCAL PARISH COUNCILLORS

(As of May 2022)

BURNCROSS

Mr John Brownrigg
Mrs Susan Davidson

GRENOSIDE

Mr Alan Hooper
Mrs Carol Levery

CHAPELTOWN

Dr John Bowden
Mr Mick Gethin
Mr John Housley
Mr Thomas Sturgess

HIGH GREEN

Mrs Denise Fearnley
Mr David Ogle
Mr Tim Whitaker

ECCLESFIELD

Mrs Victoria Bowden
Mrs Kate Guest

THORNCLIFFE

Mr Terence Bawden
Mr Michael Appleby

Forthcoming Meeting Dates

Full Council Meetings take place on the first Thursday of every month normally at 7:15pm.

Environmental Planning Meetings usually take place at 6:30pm immediately before the Full Council Meeting.

Finance and Premises Meetings take place on the third Thursday of each month at 7:15pm.

Staffing Meetings take place every second month, on the fourth Thursday of that month at 7:00pm.

All meetings are open to the public and further information about these meetings can be found on our website <https://ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk/>

ECCLESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**Budget for the years 2021/22 & 2022/23**

	2021-2022	2022-2023
INCOME		
Estimated balances brought forward	£264,355.00	£169,358
Precept	£260,991.00	£272,192.00
Income	£11,801.00	£25,042.00
TOTAL INCOME	£537,147.00	£466,589
EXPENDITURE		
Admin/Print/Stationery etc.	£17,700.00	£18,200.00
Grants	£45,000.00	£58,000.00
Staffing costs	£87,500.00	£97,500.00
Premises costs	£20,200.00	£23,000.00
Archive Project	£8,100.00	£8,350.00
Courses/Training	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Chairman's Allowance	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Election fees	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Chapelgreen Advice Centre	£9,000.00	£9,000.00
Chapeltown Toilets/Grounds and other maintenance	£7,600.00	£10,000.00
Defibrillators	£3,550.00	£4,500.00
Thorncliffe Leisure Centre payments	£16,934.00	£16,934.00
Parish Survey	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
RBL, Schools and Bloom Groups	£5,600.00	£5,750.00
Disabled Access to Council Office	£10,000.00	£0
Neighbourhood Plan	£20,000.00	£20,000.00
Environmental Projects	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
School Swap Shop	£0	£1,000.00
Parish Newsletter (including distribution)	£2,000.00	£2,000.00
Environmental Projects (CIL Funded)	£8,500.00	£8,500.00
Alzheimer's Project	£500.00	£500.00
Anti-Social Behaviour (Alan Greaves Fund)	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Park Benches/Time Capsules	£10,000.00	£6,000.00
Notice Board Improvements	£5,000.00	£0
War Heroes project	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
COVID Monument	£20,000.00	£0
Boxing Gym project	£10,000.00	£0
Tennis and Bowling Club at Thorncliffe Park	£10,000.00	£0
Mortomley and Angram Parks Improvements (Incl, MUGA)	£10,000.00	£0
Community Hall Refurbishment	£50,000.00	£0
Upgrade fire alarm/security systems at Council office	£0	£5,000.00
Queens Jubilee	£0	£2,500.00
Legal fees (Lump Lane)	£0	£2,500.00
Target Hardening at Angram Bank	£0	£30,000.00
Enhancement to Chairman's Chain	£0	£250.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£440,184.00	£367,484.00

