

STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

25 February 2016

Council Tax

This year, due to further Government grant cuts, we intend to increase Council Tax by 9.4p per week, based on a Band D property. This is the first increase for five years and we will still remain one of the lowest charging authorities in the country. We, like all councils around the country, are facing quite severe cuts, but due to good management and a ten year Financial Strategy, our residents will not suffer any front line cuts to any of the services we provide.

Hambleton has recently been voted the fourth happiest place to live in the country, with residents voting nine or ten out of ten.

Christmas Flooding

From Boxing Day onwards this country faced some of the worst floods in some time. I would like to thank all those involved during this time, ensuring that all calls were dealt with in an appropriate and effective manner. During this period we delivered in excess of 5,000 sandbags and I have received several calls/emails thanking us for this.

At the time of cut-off on 16th February we had registered 27 flooded properties , with 20 residential home owners receiving £500 to assist with immediate recovery costs. Council Tax relief and Business Rate relief for the period 1st January-31st March was also awarded, totalling around £20,000, of which 100% is recoverable from the Government.

I have brought forward the Parish Liaison meeting to 31st March 2016. Several topics will be discussed, but in light of the recent flooding confirmed attendees will include representatives from the Environment Agency and North Yorkshire County Council.

Recycling

By now nearly all residents will have received their third wheelie bin. On the whole this has been well received. On Monday 29th February the first collections will take place. This, I believe, at a time when other authorities around the country are making cuts we continue to improve the services we provide our residents.

Hambleton Food Share

This week I handed over all surplus blue bags to the Hambleton Food Share. Now that we no longer require them they will be put to good use by a worthy organisation which helps many residents within Hambleton.

Councillor Mark Robson
Leader of the Council