



Kessingland Parish Council

Budget & Community Report 2023

Community

Events have brought us all together during the last year both good and bad. For many the loss of the Queen was a low of 2022 but a highlight were the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

Along with the members of the Kessingland Events Group (KEG), the council co-ordinated a fantastic weekend for the Platinum Jubilee with four great days of fun designed to bring the community together following the Covid lockdowns. Seeing the brand new community built beacon lit, brought together a community spirit and cheers from attendees old and young. Of course this was just one set of events from a whole year or activities.

As well as events the council has taken on an ambitious maintenance plan which included a total refurbishment of Francis Rd Play area and improvements to the safety matting around the skate park, Francis Rd will be further enhanced when the outside gym equipment is refurbished and new seating added around the play area.

2023 will see the Church Road play area being updated and made more accessible, as well as the adjacent seating area. Roy Brown's Memorial Garden will also be updated with more of a beach theme and planting. Several of the bus-shelters have been renovated along with most of benches around the village. New benches will be added to the Proms.

You will probably have seen our community litter pickers out and about, working with the volunteer Marsh and Beach Wardens to keep Kessingland as clean as possible.

The council also hosts the Kessingland Hidden Needs Forum which brings together the support groups in the village and locally along with the councils to share knowledge, best practice, funding and helping each other during this cost of living crisis.

Running alongside this, as part of the Climate Crisis, is reducing food waste and the Community Fridge in Kessingland Library. People can donate, share, swap or take food which will also hopefully include short life goods from local stores and produce from village allotments and community garden.

The Youth club continues to grow and the council is also working with the Primary School with a Youth Culture Fund and Forum.

Over the coming year the council hopes to do more of the same but key to this is consulting with you and knowing your views which is a council priority for 2023/4. The council also wishes to promote more cross community work such as Keg & Hidden Needs to make the communities voice stronger!



Kessingland Beacon



Refurbished Spider, Francis Road



Kessingland Skate Park



Church Road Seating area



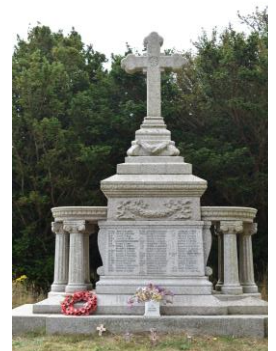
Kessingland Marsh



Kessingland Community Kitchen & Wildlife Garden



Francis Road Play Area



Kessingland War Memorial



Story-telling Chair



Marram Green

Kessingland Parish Council Budget 2023-24

The Parish Council is required by law to prepare a budget to calculate its Precept requirement. The Precept is the tax that the Town Council's levy on their local electors to meet their budget requirements. The Precept forms part of your Council Tax which is collected via East Suffolk Council. Parish councils do not receive any direct funding from central government or from Business Rates and rely on their Precept plus any other income the council generates from services or facilities which it provides.

The council has tried to maintain as low an increase in the precept as possible this year as it understands the cost of living crisis that is affecting most of us. On the whole the council has managed this within the costs which the council has control over however some costs are negotiated nationally.

Please find below the overview of the council's budget. The blue column shows this year's budget in comparison to the previous two years and also projects the budget for a period of five years including the year from the 1st April 2023.

Budget Overview	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget	2023/24 Budget	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget	2025/26 Budget	025/26 Budget
Administration	10,390	9,360	9,319	9,878	10,372	10,787	11,111
Staffing	71,206	87,049	98,315	104,214	109,425	113,802	117,216
Audit, Elections, Insurance and Professional Fees	15,618	15,500	15,695	16,637	17,469	18,167	18,712
Grants, Events, Civic & Community	9,425	9,525	9,800	10,388	10,907	11,344	11,684
Leisure & Amenities	9,894	9,990	10,275	10,892	11,436	11,894	12,250
Parish Improvement & Emergency Fund	6,500	7,770	7,750	8,215	8,626	8,971	9,240
Total Budget	123,033	139,194	151,154	160,223	165,030	169,981	175,080

The council's website shows each of these heading broken down into more detail and council staff and councillors will be more than happy to go through the council's finances with you. The council's finances and policies and procedures are audited both by the council by an employed accredited auditor and by a government appointed auditor each year and there is a month each year where the Annual Accounts for the whole year are open for public scrutiny.

The biggest impact on council costs were the nationally negotiated pay rise for council staff. The Government made a commitment to increasing the National Minimum Wage, but the 2021 local government pay increase (which was only agreed in March 2022) left those on the bottom rung potentially earning less than minimum wage on the 1st April 2022. In recognition of this a lump sum increase (equating to about 10% for lower grades) was agreed which benefited those on lowest pay which is the majority of Kessingland employees. Because of the government's national wage commitments a similar figure has had to be budgeted for in the 2023/4 budget. The council employs eight staff but their hours equate to just under three full time positions.

The Precept & Your Council Tax

This table outlines how the increase in the parish council precept will affect your council tax payments for the portion of your council tax relating to the parish council. The values of council tax that you pay are based on the band to which your home has been allocated. Other authorities also receive finance from council tax will affect what your overall council tax is for 2023/34. You will receive more information on your overall council tax for 2023/24 from East Suffolk Council.

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
2022-23	£64.39	£75.13	£85.86	£96.59	£118.05	£139.52	£160.99	£193.18
2023-24	£70.01	£81.68	£93.35	£105.02	£128.36	£151.70	£175.03	£210.04
Difference	£5.62	£6.55	£7.49	£8.43	£10.31	£12.18	£14.04	£16.86
Per month	£0.47	£0.55	£0.62	£0.70	£0.86	£1.01	£1.17	£1.41