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Publications
Points of Light
2019

**National Association
of Local Councils**

www.nalc.gov.uk

Published by
National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

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CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Art, culture and heritage	4
Campaigns	5
Canals and rivers	7
Cemeteries	7
Community awards	8
Community events	8
Community safety	10
Community transport	11
Community venues	14
Economic development	17
Environmental improvement	20
Flood assistance	24
Grants and funding	24
Health and wellbeing	27
Housing and planning	33
Libraries	34
Parks and open spaces	35
Partnership working	38
Playgrounds	40
Pubs	42
Street furniture	43
Winter readiness	44
Young people and youth services	44

FOREWORD

Points of Light is a collection of case studies highlighting the work that local (parish and town) councils are undertaking to support their communities. The 2019 edition contains 150 case studies, each featuring a summary of the work carried out alongside electorate, precept and expenditure figures of the local councils involved.

The case studies have been compiled to promote good practice and raise awareness of the diverse range of services local councils are facilitating. Providing loans to cover the cost of school uniforms, setting up a health and wellbeing board, regenerating a town centre, running the local library and supporting people with dementia are just some of the examples of activity contained in this edition.

Research for *Points of Light* has come from a range of sources, including articles from *LCR* magazine, Council Spotlight, entries to NALC's Star Council Awards and local news stories.

NALC hopes this guide inspires all local councils to take that extra step to support their community and aides understanding of what they do.

ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Debenham Parish Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 1,708

Precept: £ 71,637

Expenditure: £95,849

Secured listed building status for the First World War memorial located in the churchyard of St Mary's Church. The memorial is owned by the council, who state that having it listed should help mark its significance and celebrate its special architecture and historic interest, as well as bring special protection in perpetuity.

Leigh on Sea Town Council, Essex

Electorate: 17,000

Precept: £411,692

Expenditure: £477,571

Promotes and supports local artists and brings art closer to local people. This includes offering the use of attic space to house an artist in residence on a yearly basis, running the annual Leigh Art Trail and providing free art workshops for both adults and children. In 2018, instead of selecting an individual artist as artist in residence, the council appointed the Leigh Art Trail. This saw the work of several local artists showcased throughout the year at venues across Leigh on Sea.

Middleton-by-Wirksworth Parish Council, Derbyshire

Electorate: 704

Precept: £12,225

Expenditure: £13,018

Received a £9,900 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project commemorating local war dead from the First World War. The Middleton Remembers Project aims to find out as much as possible about the soldiers of Middleton who died during the First World War and develop an understanding of social and economic life in the village at the close of the war and the years immediately afterwards. The council has taken on a freelance heritage researcher to consult with Derbyshire Record Office, Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archive, Wirksworth Heritage Centre and the 6th Sherwood Foresters archive collection. The researcher will also provide detailed profiles of each of the soldiers killed, a village database comprising all of the people that lived in the village at that time, training for volunteers and a write up of research.

Minehead Town Council, Somerset

Electorate: 9,061

Precept: £358,208

Expenditure: £443,328

Twinned with the local council in St Berthevin, France. The twinning arrangement signed by the Mayors of both councils states that the aim of the twinning process is to “foster, through greater mutual understanding, the true spirit of European brotherhood... to combine...efforts in order to further...the success of that essential understanding for peace and prosperity”. The council provides a grant to the Minehead Twinning Association which promotes links and contacts with the twin town, including exchange visits. Over the years numerous groups including the Firemen, the Running Club, Twinning Ramblers and pupils from Minehead Middle School and West Somerset Community College have benefitted from exchange visits to St Berthevin.

Sandy Town Council, Bedfordshire

Electorate: 9,240

Precept: £562,607

Expenditure: £554,019

Houses a small collection of exhibits from Roman Sandy. The items were mostly collected following archaeological digs in the town's cemetery between 1988 and 1991 and include coins, vessels, personal and household effects and stone sculpture. The collection is available to view on Mondays and Wednesdays between the hours of 9am and 4pm, on Fridays between 9am and 2pm and at other times by prior appointment. The council particularly welcomes visits from schools whose pupils want to learn more about the Romans in Sandy.

CAMPAIGNS

Cranford Parish Council, Northamptonshire

Electorate: 392

Precept: £9,000

Expenditure: £18,598

Instrumental in getting Laing Construction to instigate a grant scheme following the development of the Burton Wold Wind Farm. Community groups whose projects benefit residents in the parishes of Burton Latimer and Cranford can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to support existing work or develop new activities for local residents. Examples of projects that can be funded include training and volunteering schemes, pocket parks and green spaces, arts and preservation of local heritage and youth clubs and safety schemes. The council has recently put in its own application for funding which it intends to use on improving footpaths in the village.

Headcorn Parish Council, Kent

Electorate: 2,820

Precept: £172,681

Expenditure: £284,870

Leading the campaign for Headcorn railway station to get step free access to the London bound platform. Following the government's announcement that £300m would be made available to improve step free access at train stations, the council mobilised local support for Headcorn station to receive a share of funding. A news story was issued on the council's website detailing ways people could support the campaign, including filling out a short survey run by South Western Railway and contacting the council directly. The council has also gained support from Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council and local MP Helen Whatley.

Hilton Parish Council, Derbyshire

Electorate: 5,913

Precept: £170,000

Expenditure: £216,253

Supported the Royal British Legion's 'Every One Remembered' campaign by encouraging local residents to buy a poppy for their property. Poppies were on sale from June for a £3 minimum donation, with all proceeds going to support The Royal British Legion's work caring and campaigning for members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Dalston Parish Council, Cumbria

Electorate: 2,263

Precept: £65,478

Expenditure: £94,239

Operates and maintains a small local cemetery. The council states that it is their intention to offer a high standard of care, and provides options that ensure that each member of the community can arrange a funeral which is meaningful to them and their family. To help local residents make the right choices with regards to funerals and burials, the council has produced a leaflet detailing the various options available. This includes purchased and unpurchased graves, religious and secular funeral services and a guideline figure of the cost of a funeral.

CANALS AND RIVERS

Morpeth Town Council, Northumberland

Electorate: 11,364

Precept: £582,328

Expenditure: £569,242

Works closely with the Environment Agency to provide a river warden service on the River Wansbeck. The warden is responsible for managing wildlife on the river, which flows through Morpeth Town from Low Ford Bridge to East Mill Weir.

Wallingford Town Council, Oxfordshire

Electorate: 5,987

Precept: £349,901

Expenditure: £671,374

Manages boat moorings on the River Thames, upstream from Wallington Bridge. Moorings are free of charge daily from 9am to 7:30pm. During the summer months (April to September) overnight moorings are charged at £7 per boat per night, with fees collected daily by a member of staff from the council. In winter (October to March) boat owners can apply to use the moorings on a longer basis, providing that they are not occupying it for residential purposes.

Yealand Redmayne Parish Council, Lancashire

Electorate: 292

Precept: £5,000

Expenditure: £6,007

Adopted a mile long stretch of Lancaster Canal known as the Northern Reaches. The council plans to improve the area through tidy up days and the planting of bulbs and hopes to enlist volunteers from the school and village to help out. So far they have been successful in obtaining a grant from Lancashire County Council's small parishes fund which has been used to purchase a lifebuoy, rope and fixings. Volunteers from the Canal and River Trust assisted with the installation.

CEMETERIES

Dalston Parish Council, Cumbria

Electorate: 2,263

Precept: £65,478

Expenditure: £94,239

Operates and maintains a small local cemetery. The council states that it is their intention to offer a high standard of care, and provides options that ensure that each member of the community can arrange a funeral which is meaningful to them and their family. To help local residents make the right choices with regards

to funerals and burials, the council has produced a leaflet detailing the various options available. This includes purchased and unpurchased graves, religious and secular funeral services and a guideline figure of the cost of a funeral.

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Garstang Town Council, Lancashire

Electorate: 3,575

Precept: £72,692

Expenditure: £91,015

Instigated the Garstang Town Council Awards as a way of acknowledging and rewarding individuals, volunteers and teams for the hard work they do for the town. Categories in the inaugural awards were each sponsored by a local individual or organisation and included sports team of the year, youth group/community team of the year, business in the community award and good citizen of the year. Local residents were encouraged to submit nominations by filling in forms available both online and in prominent locations throughout the town. In total 60 nominations were received and over 70 people attended the awards ceremony, which was held as part of the annual town meeting.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Asfordby Parish Council, Leicestershire and Rutland

Electorate: 2,618

Precept: £121,445

Expenditure: £90,036

Organised a successful summer fete featuring live music, games, funfair rides and stalls. The event plan was communicated clearly to all contributors; marketing was designed and distributed to engage the public, local businesses and charities and clear objectives were set so the fete appealed to all sections of the community. Admission was free and approximately 500 people attended over the course of the day.

Beverley Town Council, ERNLCCA

Electorate: 14,635

Precept: £267,469

Expenditure: £237,846

Runs the multi award winning Beverley Food Festival and Christmas Festival of Food and Drink. The first Food Festival, held in 2006, featured 32 stalls and a small food demonstration area and attracted around 5,000 visitors. Today the festival plays host to 140 stalls selling local and international produce, a food

theatre marquee and a variety of festival entertainment and attracts around 25,000 visitors each year.

Burbage Parish Council, Leicestershire and Rutland

Electorate: 12,786

Precept: £401,027

Expenditure: £383,579

Worked alongside East Midlands Markets and Events Ltd (Emme) to organise a Christmas street market. The free event included artisan food, drink and crafts stalls. Many village traders stayed open late, providing refreshments and extra attractions. The council and Emme jointly invited community choirs, informal singing groups and one-man-bands to perform a set or two during the evening, in return for a small donation for their time.

Cookhill Parish Council, Worcestershire

Electorate: 970

Precept: £22,287

Expenditure: £41,285

Runs a free weekly computer club. Local residents are invited to the internet café in the village hall every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm to practice computer skills, ask questions and catch up with fellow residents over a hot drink and biscuit.

Croxden Parish Council, Staffordshire

Electorate: 210

Precept: £4,000

Expenditure: £4,748

Held a poppy making afternoon at St Giles Church. Local residents were invited to come along and make a poppy from paper, card or by painting on a stone. Craft material was provided by the council, whilst McDonalds and Tesco's provided refreshments. The council's intention was to display the poppies around the war memorial at St Giles Church on 11 November 2018 in remembrance of the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Hook Parish Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 5,807

Precept: £363,400

Expenditure: £446,654

Held a Christmas Day lunch at the local community centre for local residents who would otherwise have spent the day on their own. Support from local businesses enabled the council to provide the lunch free of charge and transport to and from the community centre was offered to those who needed it.

Horley Town Council, Surrey

Electorate: 18,525

Precept: £351,333

Expenditure: £396,469

Organises a range of community events throughout the year in partnership with other local organisations. This includes the Horley Carnival, St George's Day celebrations and Remembrance Day Parade and Service. The council also provides refreshments following the annual carol service.

Raunds Town Council, Northamptonshire

Electorate: 6,883

Precept: £442,912

Expenditure: £453,343

Introduced a monthly film afternoon in response to informal consultations showing that many people in Raunds felt isolated. The first film screening in August 2017 saw 43 local residents attend. By Christmas 2017 attendance had increased to 140 mostly older residents. The popularity of the event has inspired other local community groups to support the screenings, including the WI, who now provide tea and cakes and Serve, a local community organisation who provide transport to the screening for residents that need it.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Daventry Town Council, Northamptonshire

Electorate: 19,367

Precept: £409,095

Expenditure: £408,832

Works to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of Daventry residents, traders and visitors. The council employs a community ranger whose main duties are to attend community meetings; report and prevent dog fouling, fly tipping, littering and fly posting and act as a welcoming host for both residents and visitors to the town. The community ranger is additionally responsible for youth engagement and acts as a deterrent for antisocial behaviour. The council also sponsors a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and owns and manages a closed circuit television system (CCTV). Under the council's Businesses Together Radio Scheme for a £200 fee local businesses can receive a state of the art digital radio from the council that connects them to other businesses and retailers in Daventry Town, as well as offering a direct link to the PCSO, Community Ranger and CCTV Control Room. This scheme provides businesses with an advanced warning of retail crime and highlights prolific antisocial individuals.

Greencroft Parish Council, County Durham

Electorate 166

Precept: £3,375

Expenditure: £4,518

Partnered with Durham County Council, the Police, the Area Action Partnership and local residents to develop The Gateway Project, a road safety scheme. As part of this a number of traffic calming measures have been introduced in the village, including the installation of a 30mph roundel, a series of bollards in advance of the 30mph roundel and additional SLOW markings in the road.

Saffron Walden Town Council, Essex

Electorate 12,386

Precept: £1,050,643

Expenditure: £1,600,000

Secured funding for a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Saffron Walden. As part of this Essex Police, Uttlesford District Council and Saffron Walden Town Council have entered into an agreement to work collaboratively to ensure that there is a visible police presence in the town. The PCSO will remain an employee of Essex Police but will work across the board to ensure that Saffron Walden continues to be a safe place to live and work.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 27,827

Precept: £1,042,997

Expenditure: £1,403,251

Manages a fleet of community minibuses on behalf of Bishop's Stortford Minibus Trust. The minibuses are available for hire by local community organisations and groups who operate on a not for profit basis in the Stort Valley. There are also a number of regular services around Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding area. This includes the Stortford Shuttle, operating once an hour Monday to Friday on a circular route not covered by commercial bus companies; the Hadham Hopper, a free service operating every Thursday from Much Hadham and Perry Green to and from Bishop's Stortford and the Saturday Shopper Hopper, taking people from the Parsonage, the town centre and Thorley to the Tesco's in Bishop's Stortford.

Bridport Town Council, Dorset

Electorate: 6,636

Precept: £606,381

Expenditure: £1,141,848

Contracted First Wessex to run a round town bus service following the withdrawal of services previously subsidised by Dorset County Council. The new service has been championed by a working group consisting of local councils, the Bridport Local Area Partnership and the Western Area Transport Action Group. It has been operating twice a week on a six month trial basis across Bridport, West Bay, Bothenhampton, Lower Walditch, Bradpole and Allington since August 2018. Fares are £2 for a single journey and £3 return, with concessionary bus passes also accepted.

Charing Parish Council, Chilham Parish Council, Egerton Parish Council, Pluckley Parish Council, Smarden Parish Council, Kent

Charing Parish Council	Chilham Parish Council	Egerton Parish Council
Electorate: 2,488	Electorate: 1,432	Electorate: 875
Precept: £90,582	Precept: £36,883	Precept: £18,329
Expenditure: 262,052	Expenditure: £44,010	Expenditure: £33,898
Pluckley Parish Council	Smarden Parish Council	
Electorate: 889	Electorate: 1,116	
Precept: £47,124	Precept: £29,640	
Expenditure: £11,508	Expenditure: £29,821	

Financially support Wealden Wheels community transport service. Managed largely by volunteers and run on a not-for-profit basis, Wealden Wheels aims to provide an accessible, affordable and flexible means of transport to village members. Four minibuses are available for hire by village families or groups who join the scheme either on a self hire basis or with a volunteer driver. The 130 or so members include local families, village clubs and societies. Members use the service for social, leisure, educational and health purposes and trips can be either short or long, local or further afield, subject to vehicle and driver availability.

Chigwell Parish Council, Essex

Electorate: 13,000
 Precept: £285,262
 Expenditure: £384,516

Used £1.2m in section 106 contributions from developers to fund three new local bus services. Two services will run on different routes during the morning and evening peak periods on a hail and ride basis. The council are also introducing an off peak service which will stop at set points in the village between 10am and 2pm. All three services will be free and for local residents only. Local residents can apply to the council for a Chigwell Bus pass to confirm their eligibility.

Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council, Northamptonshire

Electorate: 1,196

Precept: £22,000

Expenditure: £27,677

Worked with Shire Community Services to provide a not for profit bus service following the withdrawal of all county bus subsidies by Northamptonshire County Council. Set up costs were funded with a £5000 grant from South Northamptonshire Council whilst Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council calculated the running costs, applied for the bus operators license, helped recruit bus drivers and created local publicity around the service. Initially the service was run by Shire Community Services, however Cogenhoe and Whiston Parish Council took over running of the service from 1 October 2018.

Disley Parish Council, Cheshire

Electorate: 3,907

Precept: £148,927

Expenditure: £221,440

Operates a not for profit community transport scheme. For a payment of £1, local residents can become a member of the scheme and book to travel on the 9 seater mini bus. The mini bus makes a number of trips each month to places of interest outside the village, including historic venues, garden centres, markets and picturesque villages. It is also available for hire by local community groups and provides a real boost to older residents.

Hartley Wintney Parish Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 4,464

Precept: £205,738

Expenditure: £247,250

Owns and manages a community transport scheme. The scheme, funded through developer contributions from Barratt Homes, includes a five day a week commuter service running to and from Winchfield Station, a three day a week timetabled shopper service and a twice weekly door to door service running to Fleet Town Centre and the local Morrisons. Fares start from £1 for a single trip with concessionary pass holders able to travel free on the daytime shopper service.

Haydon Wick Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 17,531

Precept: £564,649

Expenditure: £498,401

Runs a community transport scheme providing door to door transport for elderly and disabled residents of the parish. Residents can book to travel on one of the

scheduled outings to the shops and social clubs by contacting the clerk to the council. Fares start from £1 return and Swindon concessionary travel vouchers are accepted. The community bus is also available for private appointments and group hire, subject to driver availability.

Sedlescombe Parish Council, East Sussex

Electorate: 1,192

Precept: £47,734

Expenditure: £55,641

Runs an informal lift scheme for local residents who find it difficult to attend doctors/hospital appointments because of a lack of transport. Names and contact details of volunteer drivers are posted on council notice boards outside the village shop and doctors surgery. Residents who require a lift can phone up any of the volunteer drivers and arrange a lift directly with them. Individuals who are interested in becoming a lift scheme driver are encouraged to contact the council so they can be added to the list.

COMMUNITY VENUES

Castle Donington Parish Council, Leicestershire and Rutland

Electorate: 5,544

Precept: £308,782

Expenditure: £419,457

Worked with North West Leicestershire District Council to create a community hub. Castle Donington Parish Council ran an online survey to get an update on community priorities. This was promoted widely through leaflets, public meetings about the precept, question and answer sessions, and visits from councillors at principal and local level. When a building became available, the parish council held a snap poll with support from North West Leicestershire District Council, winning majority support for the purchase of the building as a community hub. Funding for the project was secured through a grant from Roxhill Development which was then matched by North West Leicestershire District Council.

Eye Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 1,418

Precept: £57,730

Expenditure £75,159

Funds Eye Community Centre, a local community hub. The centre consists of a large hall, lounge area and bar and can be hired for a wide range of events. The main hall is equipped with a projector and pull down screen and plays host to the cinema at Eye, a neighbourhood cinema hosting film screenings at the end of each month.

Kidderminster Town Council, Worcestershire

Electorate: 42,229

Precept: £528,488.00

Expenditure: £468,030

Took over the freehold of Kidderminster Town Hall following an asset transfer process instigated by Wyre Forest District Council. The district council continues to be responsible for the maintenance and management of the town hall and has leased back the 'events and entertainment' side of the facility and space for its customer services team. However the town council has ambitions to run the town hall independently and has employed a project officer who is responsible for looking into ways in which the town hall can be developed as a vibrant community asset.

Nelson Town Council, Lancashire

Electorate: 20,189

Precept: £452,421

Expenditure: £368,090

Restored the former Independent Labour Party building following an asset transfer process instigated by Pendle Borough Council. The building, now known as the Unity Wellbeing Centre, comprises of a main hall and two meeting rooms. These rooms are available for hire at favourable rates to community and not for profit organisations and individual residents of Nelson. There is also an onsite café, managed by the council, serving affordable, nutritious food to local residents and businesses. The café offers a home delivery service for those unable to get out easily.

Portland Town Council, Dorset

Electorate: 9,313

Precept: £81,074

Expenditure: £82,181

Purchased the former site of Brackenbury Infants School from Dorset County Council for £100,000 with the aim of turning it into a community hub. The business case put forward by the council when purchasing the site listed numerous potential functions, including: offices, storage, a hall for council meetings, an internet café, adult education courses in skills for the workplace, a hall and classroom for hire and larger accommodation for Allsorts Nursery. The council has successfully applied for change of use of the site and grant and loan funding for the redevelopment work.

Ravenfield Parish Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 2,301

Precept: £42,170

Expenditure: £40,602

Manages and maintains Ravenfield Parish Hall. A number of local community groups hold meetings in the hall, including Ravenfield Old People's Social Fund, Ravenfield Toddler Group, Rotherham Lace Makers and the local branch of the Womens Institute. The hall is also available for private hire on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

Rugeley Town Council, Staffordshire

Electorate: 13,653

Precept: £301,190

Expenditure: £390,600

Manages the Rugeley Rose Theatre, having overseen extensive refurbishment of it in 2002. The community venue consists of a theatre seating 210 people, a suite seating 80 people and a fully stocked bar. Both rooms are available to hire for events including meetings, weddings, parties and corporate away days. At present many local community groups meet in the theatre on a regular basis, including the local branch of Weight Watchers, the Rugeley Musical Theatre Company, the Rugeley Art Society and the Stars Academy. The theatre is also used to host professional theatrical performances such as the annual Christmas pantomime.

Totnes Town Council, Devon

Electorate: 6,641

Precept: £355,640

Expenditure: £398,722

Owns and manages Totnes Civic Hall, a local community hub. Facilities include a main hall which can seat 299 people, a bar; a commercial kitchen; stage; lighting and rigging; a sound system; projector and screen and radio microphones. The civic hall can be hired for a wide range of events, including weddings, birthday parties, talks, community suppers and live music. There are reduced rates for non-profit, schools and charity organisations, for bookings on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and for multiple or block bookings. At present there are a number of regular sessions held in the hall, including dance, yoga, various exercise classes and a jamming (music) workshop. The hall has also played host to a Bob Marley tribute concert, a public community arts workshop and the Transition Town Totnes Film Festival, amongst other events.

Wexham Court Parish Council, Buckinghamshire

Electorate: 1,848

Precept: £48,111

Expenditure: £48,111

Offers Wexham Court Parish Hall for hire to local community groups and individuals. The hall consists of an upstairs function room with capacity for 130, downstairs room with capacity for 50 and a stage. The hall can be rented either in part or in its entirety. At present it is used by local play groups, a local theatre group and Slough's Age Concern.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bruton Town Council, Somerset

Electorate: 1,990

Precept: £108,021

Expenditure: £213,068

Developed a town plan with the aim of improving Bruton. The plan covers several aspects of the town including: getting around; leisure and places to go and living and working in Bruton. A one year review undertaken in 2018 highlighted actions the council have taken so far, including responding to South Somerset District Council's review of its local plan, entering into discussions with Somerset County Council about leasing two fields in Bruton, construction of a multi-use games area in Jubilee Park and granting of £2,000 to Bruton Community Partnership to set up a community group which will oversee and promote Bruton's footpath network.

Frodsham Town Council, Cheshire

Electorate: 7,609

Precept: £215,033

Expenditure: £237,117

Runs a Christmas voucher scheme for older residents. Frodsham residents aged 70 or over are encouraged to apply for a £10 gift voucher which can be spent in participating local businesses over the Christmas period. Application forms are available at local Post Offices, Castle Park House and in the 'Frodsham Life' magazine. Once complete they can be returned to the council, any councillor, select shops with collection boxes or local Post Offices.

Godshill Parish Council, Isle of Wight

Electorate: 1,202

Precept: £31,590

Expenditure: £27,148

Developed a parish plan with action list which sets out aspirations for the village from 2015-2020. A progress report from March 2018 highlighted work the council had completed so far, including: selling off the village hall to raise funds for a new facility, building better relations with the local school and undertaking improvement works at several sites across the village.

Henley Town Council, Oxfordshire

Electorate: 8,750

Precept: £530,734

Expenditure: £1,715.018

Organises several highly successful markets which are held in the town centre. This includes the weekly Charter Market, currently at full capacity, with stalls selling everything from bread and cakes to bags, fish, fruit and vegetables and ladies fashion. There is also a farmers market in operation two or three times a month and weekend continental style markets.

New Milton Town Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 21,174

Precept: £825,234

Expenditure: £916,502

Jointly funded the inaugural New Milton Trader research programme and awards. The programme saw a researcher visit twenty independent local retailers and rate them on a number of factors including window display, interior layout and customer service. All businesses rated as outstanding received an award from the town mayor whilst the two businesses with the highest scores were declared the overall winners.

Northwich Town Council, Cheshire

Electorate: 15,746

Precept: £488,563

Expenditure: £ 1,029,224

Worked with partners including Cheshire West and Chester Council on the regeneration of Northwich Town Centre. Work has included development of a neighbourhood plan, livening up a once dreary subway with artwork and the establishment of a monthly artisan market at which Northwich Town Council have a stall. Northwich town council has also worked with partners to put on a range of mainly free activities and events in various town centre locations, including a community fun weekend, Christmas lights switch on, free beach area during summer and most recently a week long music festival. This has resulted in an

increase in visitors to the town centre and the opening of a number of independent businesses over the last year or so.

Ruddington Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Electorate: 5,787

Precept: £297,315

Expenditure: £365,784

Funded the launch and promotion of a village loyalty card to encourage more residents and visitors to shop in the town. The card, designed by local creative agency WigWag, will be available for anyone who shops, drinks, eats or uses services in Ruddington to pick up free. It will be accepted at all local businesses which sign up to the scheme by offering loyalty card holders a discount or other loyalty bonus.

Seaford Town Council, East Sussex

Electorate: 19,549

Precept: £709,949

Expenditure: £ 2,236,779

Worked in partnership with many local groups including Seaford Community Partnership, principal authorities and Impact Seaford, to develop and adopt a strategic plan. The plan contains five objectives: improving the town's environment, representing the needs of the community, improving and maintaining recreational facilities for the town, developing cultural and economic wellbeing of the town and practicing good governance and fiscal responsibility. As part of this the council set an ambitious target to develop over £5m of new community assets funded entirely through commercial activity.

Since the plan was adopted in late 2016 the council has increased its non-precept income from just over £462,406 in 2012/13 to £1,622,696 in 2017/18. This has resulted in phase 1 of the Seaford Development Plan being implemented which has seen a number of exiting new additions, including 20 executive beach huts, new much requested seafront concessions and an innovative art installation known as 'The Shoal.' The council has also been able to fund the installation of a new play area in the town's main park, develop a golf course and restaurant/bar and support the local museum, art gallery and rugby club.

Sudbury Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 10,483

Precept: £ 642,477

Expenditure: £ 900,517

Took over management of Sudbury Tourist Information Centre from Babergh District Council. The tourist information centre now sells tickets for local events, acts as an accommodation booking service and offers guided walks of the town.

In doing so Sudbury Town Council has been able to offer a much more localised service which is geared to the needs of the town and its visitors.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

Barnstaple Town Council, Devon

Electorate: 18,204

Precept: £672,751

Expenditure: £751,921

Developed a sponsorship scheme as part of the 'Get Barum Blooming' campaign. Businesses, community groups and individuals can maintain or pay for maintenance of a planted area in Barnstaple in return for a promotional sign. The scheme has a number of benefits for the town. Sponsors contribute to the town's environmental wellbeing, the sponsored area is likely to be maintained to a higher standard and quality than otherwise would be the case and the scheme itself promotes community involvement and cohesion

Bearley Parish Council, Warwickshire and West Midlands

Electorate: 586

Precept: £22,873

Expenditure: £20,725

Funds the annual 'Bloomin' Bearley' summer floral display. Now in its 11th year, 'Bloomin' Bearley' sees flower beds planted beneath the road signs entering Bearley from the A34 and Snitterfield and pots and troughs around the Village Hall near St. Mary's Church and along Snitterfield Road. This year's display featured a range of flowers including Geraniums, Begonias, Petunias and French Marigolds.

Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council, Northumberland

Electorate: 8,803

Precept: £256,020

Expenditure: £361,909

Worked in partnership with the Berwick in Bloom committee, local County Council officers, schools and local businesses to increase the amount of floral displays in the three communities which make up Berwick-upon-Tweed. This included purchasing daffodils, crocuses and tulips and offering them to schools to plant on their premises, securing nine hardwood planters following an approach to local window and door specialist Allan Brothers and meeting the cost of planting six cherry trees on the village green. Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council also provided small grants for tools and materials.

Cam Parish Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 6,850

Precept: £226,040

Expenditure: £225,403

Worked in partnership with Stroud Valley Projects to secure improvements to two local nature reserves. Rackleaze Wetland area now has a boardwalk and hedge. There are also weekly visits from a handyman to ensure the site is maintained and litter free. At Hollywell Orchard steps have been remade, a huge compost heap has been created and the site has been surveyed for grasses and wild flowers. The grass has also been raked away from the meadows on the site and put in the compost heap. This has result in the sighting of another common spotted orchid, following the one found in 2011.

Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire

Electorate: 10,209

Precept: £391,185

Expenditure: £385,561

Instigated a campaign to plant 100 new trees in the village by 2020 with the aim of making it a healthier place to live. Areas targeted for the first new trees include those most likely to be affected by building and HS2 traffic. The total cost is estimated at £25,000 and the council has made a call for donations and sponsorship. By May 2016 the first 20 trees had been planted thanks to sponsorship from local businesses. The council were also successful in recruiting volunteer tree guardians to ensure that the young trees receive enough water to survive.

Chesham Town Council, Buckinghamshire

Electorate: 16,626

Precept: £930,000

Expenditure: £1,874,252

Set up and adopted an environmental policy with the aim of creating a more sustainable community. The policy contains four specific objectives: use resources efficiently and strive to minimise waste and pollution, inform residents of environmental activities and respond to feedback, support behaviour change in residents and local businesses and manage council land using environmentally friendly practices to promote biodiversity and protect habitats. The policy also aims to ensure that the council pays due regard to the Water Act (2003) and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006). Since implementing the policy, Chesham Town Council has increased biodiversity in a field by not cutting it as frequently, introduced a monthly local produce market and saved money on electricity bills by using low energy lighting.

Harlington Parish Council, Bedfordshire

Electorate: 1,831

Precept: £130,916

Expenditure: £107,031

Manages Hornes End Spinney, an area of woodland situated on the site of a former quarry. Since purchasing the site the council has developed a management plan to ensure that the trees are regularly inspected. The council has also created a development plan, the first stage of which saw teachers and pupils from local schools involved in the creation of a nature trail. A teacher from the lower school created an exciting activity book for children to complete when visiting the Spinney whilst two teachers from the upper school created signposts, tags and the plaque.

Holton-le-Clay Parish Council, Lincolnshire

Electorate: 3,002

Precept: £58,000

Expenditure: £61,278

Successfully obtained a community wildlife grant for the council owned junior playing fields. The grant was used to create a wildlife observation area featuring a bug hotel, tree logs for seating and a hedgehog house. Cowslip and bluebell bulbs were also planted. The council intends on installing a new picnic bench, bird houses and bat boxes in the near future.

Maldon Town Council, Essex

Electorate: 11,998

Precept: £222,000

Expenditure: £383,582

Organises a high street hanging basket scheme with the aim of brightening up the town centre. The scheme runs from May to October and sees hanging baskets filled with flowers and placed on shop fronts around the town. The baskets are maintained and watered at least three times a week by the council's ground contractors Skippers. Participating shops and businesses are asked to contribute towards the costs of running the scheme.

Ruyton XI Towns Parish Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 955

Precept: £25,563

Expenditure: £27,351.54

Runs a wage on litter campaign. As part of this the council has purchased a litter picking kit which is available for all local residents to use. The kit consists of high vis vests, 10 picking grabber tools, a set of gloves and black plastic bags and can be collected from Café Eleven in the town.

Shincliffe Parish Council, County Durham

Electorate: 9,387

Precept: £198,791.00

Expenditure: £269,097

Organises twice yearly litter picks to keep the parish as litter free as possible. The council provides all necessary equipment and volunteers are offered a bacon sandwich afterwards, courtesy of the Avenue Inn.

Ulverston Town Council, Cumbria

Electorate: 9,387

Precept: £198,791.00

Expenditure: £269,097

Worked with South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency on the much needed redevelopment of a local car park. Ulverston Town Council provided £10,000 for environmental improvement works, including the installation of new planters and flowerbeds that they will manage. The town council was also successful in persuading the Environment Agency to put a fee for using the carpark towards the cost of the carpark's redevelopment, rather than in South Lakeland District Councils general revenue account.

Waddesdon Parish Council, Buckinghamshire

Electorate: 1,491

Precept: £102,000

Expenditure: £198,594

Successfully bid for a grant from Aylesbury Vale District Council's New Homes Bonus Micro Grant Scheme. The grant was used to purchase additional street cleaning equipment, supporting efforts by the council to keep the village clean and tidy.

Winderemere Town Council, Cumbria

Electorate: 6,147

Precept: £129,025

Expenditure: £109,888

Manages thirty acres of woodland on the former Elleray Estate. The council has worked to actively cut back the overgrown and densely packed woods, with the aim of bringing the woodland floor back to life. This has started to happen with bluebells back in profusion, clear signs of small mammals and the return of birdsong. In 2012, the council worked with the Wainwright Society to replace the viewfinder at the top of Orrest Head. The new viewfinder, in local slate, is engraved with the Wainwright drawings and script. It is a fitting enhancement to such a lovely place and celebrates the memory of Alfred Wainwright, who fell in love with the Lake District on this spot.

Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council, Milton Keynes

Electorate: 9,941

Precept: £401,047

Expenditure: £594,729

Received a gold award at Thames and Chiltern Britain in Bloom 2018. The council played a major role in coordinating efforts, with an expanded team of four people getting stuck in and encouraging local residents to help out. Help from residents included two families who assisted with doorstep planters, residents in Bedford and Oxford Street who came out to tidy their brick raised beds and lend green bins and three college students who cleared planters outside Tesco Express. Once emptied the planters were then filled with new plants by Urb Farm trainees. The council also received support from AxiomB2, who installed lamp post baskets and undertook some of the ground level formal planting; the Rotary Club, which funded new planters in the Square and Milton Keynes Council, which supplied new planters and bought materials for Men-in-Sheds who made the new troughs for the square. The council was also confirmed as a finalist in the national Britain in Bloom competition.

FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Howden Town Council, ERNLCCA

Electorate: 3,456

Precept: £156,670

Expenditure £156,658

Owns a range of flood relief equipment. Local residents and businesses experiencing a flood emergency can call the dedicated Howden Floodline to receive delivery of one of three pumps free of charge. Councillors and volunteers delivering the equipment set it up and demonstrate how it works. Further assistance can be provided if necessary.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

Barkham Parish Council, Berkshire

Electorate: 2,539

Precept: £50,318

Expenditure £38,555

Manages the Barkham sporting endeavor fund. Barkham residents under the age of 18 who participate in a sport at county level are invited to apply for a grant to put towards the cost of training and travel.

Buckland Brewer Parish Council, Devon

Electorate: 690

Precept: £11,715

Expenditure £23,460

Set up an education support fund to assist residents with the cost of studying. Residents aged 16 or over who have lived in the parish for at least a year and are attending college or university are eligible to apply for up to £500 to be put towards travel costs, books and other learning tools.

East Dean and Friston Parish Council, East Sussex

Electorate: 690

Precept: £11,715

Expenditure £23,460

Granted £881 to the Eastbourne branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Money raised came from the council's stall at the village fete and from general council funds. This followed the council's decision to nominate the RNLI as its charity of the year.

Halewood Town Council, Merseyside

Electorate: 16,301

Precept: £372,403

Expenditure £530,226

Set up a loan scheme to cover the cost of purchasing school uniforms for the most vulnerable local families. Staff at six local primary schools use pupil premium information to determine which families are most in need of assistance. They inform the council the total cost of purchasing uniforms for these families and the council provides the relevant amount directly to the schools. The schools then liaise with parents to purchase new uniforms. Where they are able to, parents repay the loans to the schools which then pass the money back to the council.

Pucklechurch Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 2,163

Precept: £69,162

Expenditure £61,586

Runs an annual grant giving scheme providing financial support to local community groups. Applicant organisations must be based in Pucklechurch and demonstrate that their projects have benefit for the people of Pucklechurch. In 2017 the council gave grants to the value of nearly £6,000 to organisations including St Thomas a Becket Church, Pucklechurch and Shortwood Good Neighbour Scheme, the local Citizens Advice Bureau and Pucklechurch Village Sports and Social Club.

Thaxted Parish Council, Essex

Electorate: 1,426

Precept: £111,916

Expenditure: £112,908

Supported the Thaxted branch of the Royal British legion in their purchase of a war memorial board. The memorial board lists the names of Thaxted residents who died in the First and Second World Wars and is the first in the village to include all war dead in one place.

Thetford Town Council, Norfolk

Electorate: 17,096

Precept: £759,192

Expenditure: £1,280,146

Runs two annual grant schemes. Local community groups and not for profit organisations operating in one of the following fields are eligible to apply for grants of either £300 or £2,000: environmental projects and improvements; promotion of sports and healthy lifestyles; provision of arts, culture and historical activities; organisation of events that promote the town of Thetford; help to vulnerable groups, e.g. children and young people, people on low incomes, elderly, organisations working with participants who have a disability. In 2017/18 the council gave grants to the value of £22,956 to organisations including Barnham Cross Action Group, Thetford Society, Thetford Dementia Support Group and the local Citizens Advice Bureau.

Welton Parish Council, ERNLCCA

Electorate: 1,898

Precept: £139,866

Expenditure: £37,790

Runs a grant funding scheme for organisations which provide benefits and/or services for residents of Welton, Melton and Wauldby. Local not for profit organisations can apply for a grant of up to £750 for work which will help improve the range of local services and activities on offer.

Witley Parish Council, Surrey

Electorate: 5,963

Precept: £210,268.00

Expenditure: £212,032.00

Runs two annual grant schemes. New and established community associations, cultural, sporting, leisure and charitable organisations which provide benefits to the people of Witley are invited to apply for either a small grant of up to £750 or a partnership grant of more than £750. Grants can be used for financial assistance towards the capital expenses of the organisation. Recent grant recipients have included Challengers, an organisation providing inclusive play and leisure

activities for disabled children and young people aged 2 to 25; Citizens Advice Waverley; Burton Pavillion and Millford Club and The Chichester Hall.

Yapton Parish Council, West Sussex

Electorate: 3,095

Precept: £53,770

Expenditure: £65,426

Runs an annual grant funding scheme for organisations which provide benefits and/or services to Yapton residents. Local organisations funded in 2018-19 have included Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice Bureau; the Bognor Regis, Chichester and District branch of the Samaritans; West Sussex Mediation Service and Sight Vision Support.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Alcester Town Council, Warwickshire and West Midlands

Electorate: 4,835

Precept: £250,746

Expenditure: £282,327

Set up a Health and Wellbeing Board in 2015 which mirrors the county structure. Members include representatives from the local NHS trust and clinical commissioning group and charities such as Age UK and Citizens Advice. As part of this the council receives grant funding from Warwickshire County Council to employ two part time health and wellbeing coordinators. With one third of residents of Alcester aged over 65, the coordinators aim to tackle isolation among older people and focus on preventative steps. The coordinators work with existing clubs and societies and also help set up new groups. One new group set up as a result of this scheme is a weekly lunch club. The club is now self- sustaining and serves hot lunches to 40 members each week.

Didcot Town Council, Oxfordshire

Electorate: 20,522

Precept: £980,795

Expenditure: £989,742

Runs Willowbrook Leisure Centre in partnership with SOLL leisure. The fully equipped, airconditioned facility includes a gym with a wide range of state of the art cardiovascular equipment; a dedicated training area; free weights and spacious changing rooms; a group exercise studio with high-quality speakers and 8 big mirrors on the wall; cycling studio with 20 bikes for members and one for the instructor and a sports hall which can be transformed to accommodate indoor football, basketball volleyball, tennis and handball matches.

Farnham Town Council, Surrey

Electorate: 29,871

Precept: £1,064,987

Expenditure: £1,269,435

Works with local businesses to facilitate a community toilet scheme. The scheme encourages local businesses to provide additional clean, safe and accessible toilets during their opening hours without a purchase being necessary. At present three businesses and the council are in membership. Membership is denoted by the displaying of a green sticker stating 'Farnham Community Toilet Scheme, you are welcome to use our facilities.' The council also maintains three public toilets in the town centre.

Harden Parish Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 1,464

Precept: £20,475

Expenditure: £22,904

Purchased and installed a defibrillator in the village with support from the Big Lottery Fund. The defibrillator is easy to use, with both spoken and video instructions. meaning anyone can respond during an emergency even if they haven't had training. The defibrillator is located in a prominent position outside the village pharmacy.

Hemsworth Town Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 10,379

Precept: £730,000

Expenditure: £726,470

Oversaw the installation of three defibrillators at prominent locations in the town. The first two were fully funded by the council whilst the third was jointly funded by four organisations: Hemsworth Town Council, Yorkshire Ambulance Service Charitable Fund, L & T Transport and Farmfoods. The council has also organised and paid for both members of staff and the public to attend training run by Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

Heybridge Parish Council, Essex

Electorate: 10,500

Precept: £222,000

Expenditure: £222,000

Works with Hearing Help Essex to supply hearing aids to local residents. During opening hours local residents can collect up to two packs of NHS hearing aid batteries per hearing aid from the council's offices.

Histon and Impington Parish Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 6,773

Precept: £348,101

Expenditure: £405,624

Developed a community companion course to help young people build relationships with older people in the community. The ten session course, for school children aged 11 and over, covered topics including what makes a good/bad companion, what young and old people think of each other, services available for older people and dementia training. Young people who successfully completed the course were presented with a certificate and the opportunity to volunteer at Histon and Impington community day centre during school holidays.

Holmes Chapel Parish Council, Cheshire

Electorate: 4,922

Precept: £209,406

Expenditure: £213,013

Works with the Holmes Chapel Partnership to make Holmes Chapel a dementia friendly village. As part of this several councillors and an officer attended a talk organised by the partnership and subsequently agreed to become dementia friends. The council is also assisting the partnership with the design and administration of a planned sensory garden which is intended to be of particular benefit to those with dementia. This will see the existing garden reformed, with many new plants and shrubs planted which have been specifically chosen to bring a variety of smells, textures and sound to the area.

Horwood Lovacott and Newton Tracey Parish Council, Devon

Electorate: 392

Precept: £12,000

Expenditure: £8,192

Agreed in principle a night landing site in the village for the Devon Air Ambulance. Following inspection of three sites the village playing field was confirmed as the most suitable location and the council will now be putting that forward for public consultation. The council has also agreed in principle that electricity for the landing site can be taken from the village hall. The council is now inviting a representative from Devon Air Ambulance to speak at a council meeting. Councillors and members of the public are invited to submit questions for them to answer.

Husbands Bosworth Parish Council, Leicestershire

Electorate: 891

Precept: £45,600

Expenditure: £67,448

Acts as a food bank referral centre for local residents who require access to the Lutterworth and villages food bank. Parishioners in need of an emergency three day supply of food can visit the council office during office hours for a referral.

Milton Parish Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 3,333

Precept: £125,000

Expenditure: £140,107

Runs a well regarded community warden scheme. Elderly and infirm residents can sign up to receive regular social contact from the community care warden, including daily contact and a personal visit at least once a week. The scheme costs £6 per week for the basic package and £10 for the enhanced package and aims to help residents remain in their own homes for longer.

Odiham Parish Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 3,816

Precept: £136,712

Expenditure: £183,116

Sole trustee of the Odiham Sports Centre Trust, a registered charity. Land owned by the trust is home to tennis courts, a bowling green, a beacon and play area. Both the tennis courts and bowling green are well used by local sports clubs, whilst the tennis courts can also be hired by individuals.

Painswick Parish Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 2,693

Precept: £102,662

Expenditure: £120,116

Organised a warm clothing collection for homeless people in Cheltenham. Local residents were encouraged to donate unwanted winter coats, shoes, hats, scarves, gloves and sleeping bags by dropping them off at the council's office.

Poynton Parish Council, Cheshire

Electorate: 11,812

Precept: £436,488

Expenditure: £431,706

Employs a communities coordinator to promote existing and new initiatives which benefit both the older and younger populations of Poynton. The coordinator works closely with partner organisations including Age UK, Citizens Advice

Bureau, Open Hands, U3A, local schools, the Police and Poynton's medical centre
The coordinator drives existing local council initiatives including Men in Sheds, Poynton Fun Days, youth activities, intergenerational projects and Poynton's resilience plan. The coordinator is also involved in promoting Poynton's events, groups and organisations for residents with dementia. This includes a health and wellbeing fair for older people which is held in partnership with patient participation groups.

Prescot Town Council, Merseyside

Electorate: 9,050

Precept: £235,230

Expenditure: £263,431

Supports 'The Red Box Project Prescot' by hosting a red donation box in the town hall. Local residents are encouraged to pop in and donate sanitary items, underwear, wipes and deodorant by placing them in the red box. Donated items are then delivered to local schools so that no girl misses school or faces embarrassment because of her period.

Purton Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 4,316

Precept: £255,328

Expenditure: £298,209

Works with Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Area Board, Purton Doctors Surgery and other associated bodies to raise awareness of dementia locally. As part of this the council runs regular Dementia Friends sessions, offering insight into the disease and giving support to those suffering, their carers and families.

Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 3,218

Precept: £82,750

Expenditure: £89,320

Stepped in with a three day a week hot meal delivery service following the termination of Shropshire Council's meals on wheels service. The service is delivered by volunteers and is self-financing, meaning that no public funds are required.

Watchet Town Council, Somerset

Electorate: 3,006

Precept: £173,684

Expenditure: £251,429

Works in partnership with the 'Somerset and Sports Partnership' to offer land for affordable outdoor fitness sessions for families. As part of the Active Spaces Programme residents of Watchet can take part in circuit training at the council

owned Watchet Memorial Ground. Membership of Active Spaces costs £12 a month, with the first month's membership free.

Wembury Parish Council, Brixton Parish Council, Yealmpton Parish Council, Holbeton Parish Council and Newton and Noss Parish Council, Devon.

Wembury Parish Council	Brixton Parish Council	Yealmpton Parish Council
Electorate: 2,473	Electorate: 1,410	Electorate: 1,905
Precept: £30,500	Precept: £ 26,425	Precept: £40,000
Expenditure: £41,479	Expenditure: £36,018	Expenditure: £46,918

Holbeton Parish Council	Newton and Noss Parish Council
Electorate: 509	Electorate: 1,579
Precept: £9,805	Precept: £50,099
Expenditure: £11,093	Expenditure: £89,877

Developed Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm, a group of local (parish and town) councils committed to improving the lives of people with dementia and their families and friends. Working alongside local groups, businesses and organisations, the partnership aims to make it possible for people with dementia to continue doing the things they love and are important to them. The partnership's work is designed with five main aims in mind: to support the lives of people with dementia and their families; to enable people with dementia to remain active and involved in community life; to work with local groups and organisations to develop suitable activities and services; to raise awareness and understanding of dementia both locally and nationally and to remain with the family throughout their journey. The partnership organises a range of regular activity based groups which everyone is welcome to join. This includes a weekly reading group, a singing group, walking group and arts and craft group. There are also outings including to shopping outlets and the Kitley House Hotel in Yealmpton.

Winsham Parish Council, Somerset

Electorate: 585
Precept: £20,257
Expenditure: £21,990

Places a big emphasis on the health and wellbeing of local residents. The council owns two recreation grounds, the largest of which is home to the Sports and Social Club where Winsham United Football Club play. Local residents who aren't a member of the Sports and Social Club are also encouraged to take part in sporting activities in the park. The council's smaller recreation ground is home to a children's play area and millennium time capsule. The council also owns eight allotments which are leased out to local residents. In addition to managing parks and open spaces, the council signposts residents to other health and wellbeing related services available locally. This includes a free health check day, the Wellbeing South Somerset Directory of Support and the various activities and

classes that are available. The council also encourages residents to right to run, walk and ride a horse along the public rights of way.

Wythall Parish Council, Worcestershire

Electorate: 9,600

Precept: £130,532

Expenditure: £187,633

Holds a dementia café on the third Wednesday of every month. Those living with dementia and their carers are invited to attend the café, based in Wythall village hall, and enjoy bottomless tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Each café session also features a guest speaker or theme. Most recently this has included Ray Dedicoat from Hollytrees Animal Rescue Trust and two police officers from the local police station.

Yateley Town Council, Hampshire

Electorate: 15,738

Precept: £445,669

Expenditure: £814,093

Manages Yateley Green multiuse outdoor courts. For a small fee courts are available to hire by members of the public and can be used for tennis, basketball or five a side football. For tennis and basketball hire there is a reduced rate for under 16's.

Yaxley Parish Council, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Electorate: 7,054

Precept: £375,479

Expenditure: £411,921

Purchased a community fridge to supply free, fresh food for local residents in need. Local residents and businesses are encouraged to donate unwanted food which is then stocked in the fridge for residents to access six days a week on an honesty basis. Users of the fridge appreciate being able to pick up food such as fresh fruit and vegetables which they cannot get from a food bank.

HOUSING AND PLANNING

Bishops Lydeard and Cothelstone Parish Council, Somerset

Electorate: 2,358

Precept: £49,000

Expenditure: £29,665

Developed the first neighbourhood plan to be adopted in the Taunton Deane district of Somerset. At referendum stage, of the 700 electors who turned out to vote, nearly 80% voted in favour of adopting the neighbourhood plan. Having an

adopted neighbourhood plan sees the council receive 25% of CIL receipts. The council hopes to spend this money on improved maintenance and signage of public foot and cycle paths, improvements to the village hall, provision of appropriately sited seating for the elderly and improvements to play area provision.

LIBRARIES

Finham Parish Council, Warwickshire and West Midlands

Electorate: 3,804

Precept: £20,930

Expenditure: £13,982

Supported Finham Library Action Group as they proceeded with the takeover of Finham Library. This included giving advice on how to obtain charity commission status and offering to help the group fundraise. The council also had representation on the action group itself.

Sandgate Parish Council, Kent

Electorate: 3,558

Precept: £75,968

Expenditure: £89,266

Runs Sandgate Library on behalf of Kent County Council. The library is open five days a week and offers a wide range of facilities and services. This includes the loaning of books, CD's and DVD's; free wifi; free public computers; an ancestry buddy to help people use IT to research family history and use of a colour printer/photocopier. The library also plays host to a number of local groups which meet there, including knit and natter, scrabble club, reading club, talk time and preschool read and rhyme.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 16,055

Precept: £1,330,062

Expenditure: £1,384,300

Took over management of Beechcroft Road Library from Swindon Borough Council, saving it from near certain closure. Today the library is a thriving community hub, with local residents invited to grab a "cuppa" at the onsite coffee shop and attend one of the many group meetings taking place at the library as well as borrow books.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

Castle Cary Town Council and Ansford Parish Council, Somerset

Castle Cary Town Council	Ansford Parish Council
Electorate: 1,848	Electorate: 828
Precept: £154,311	Precept: £29,730
Expenditure: £232,397	Expenditure: £29,850

Worked together to purchase and develop a 4.5 acre field into an open green space with facilities for all the community to enjoy. Together the two councils have overseen the installation of fencing and drainage, hard pathways and most recently a pump park, outdoor gym, children's adventure trail and sensory garden with accessible raised beds. Funding for the project was secured through grants from the Big Lottery, Tesco (via their Bags of Help scheme) South Somerset District Council and from local businesses. Feedback on the project has been very positive, with young people particular fans of the pump park.

Charvil Parish Council, Berkshire

Electorate: 2,366
Precept: £47,070
Expenditure: £150,083

Manages two sports grounds in the village of Charvil. St Patricks Recreation Ground is an informal sports ground, whilst East Park Farm is home to well used sports pitches. In 2016 the Council installed two artificial cricket strips at East Park Farm. Charvil and Sonning Junior Cricket Club can be found playing matches there on a Sunday morning during the summer as well as at practice sessions during the week. There has also been an increase in the numbers of football teams playing at East Park Farm, as news of the more responsive management of the grounds becomes known.

Coleford Town Council, Gloucestershire

Electorate: 7,250
Precept: £370,906
Expenditure: £325,518

Managing development of a new leisure park on a nine acre green space in the town. Consultations on the design were held in a town centre shop for six weeks, whilst the council also visited local schools and sheltered housing. Following the consultation it was determined that features of the park should include a skate park, BMX bike pump track, multi games area, ampitheatre, wildlife area with pond and memorial sensory garden. There will also be a car park with public toilets and a discrete entrance for residents of the nearby home for adults with physical disabilities and learning difficulties. Work began in February 2018 with a cutting of the sod ceremony.

Collingham Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Electorate: 2,369

Precept: £40,600

Expenditure: £46,711

Secured £70,000 in grant funding to refurbish the local skate park. The funding came from WREN's FCC community action fund and will be used to replace the existing metal ramps and build a new concrete skate facility for all ages and abilities. The new facility will be suitable for both scooters and BMX bikes. The new design was voted for at various public consultations.

Peacehaven Town Council, East Sussex

Electorate: 11,256

Precept: £428,340

Expenditure: £814,979

Worked in partnership with the Big Parks Project to improve recreation and leisure facilities at Centenary Park. The park, managed by the council, is now a go to outdoor destination featuring two playgrounds; a skate park; extensive sports facilities, including multi use games area with floodlighting for tennis, netball and football; cycle and walking paths and an award winning café.

Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council, Nottinghamshire

Electorate: 6,531

Precept: £300,118

Expenditure: £483,802

Secured £255,000 in grant funding to refurbish the local skate park. This included £125,000 from Rushcliffe Borough Council, £40,000 from Nottinghamshire County Council's local improvement scheme, £55,000 from Sport England and £35,000 from the WREC FCC Community Action Fund. The money raised will be used to replace the existing wooden skatepark with a concrete structure.

Settle Town Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 2,271

Precept: £101,526

Expenditure: £115,444

Secured £10,000 in grant funding from Craven District Council to put towards a feasibility study and development plan of Castlebergh Crag, a large outcrop of limestone in the Yorkshire Dales. A public consultation was held at which sketches, surveys and plans were made available for people to comment on and a contractor was selected. By undertaking this work the council hopes to encourage greater use of the site by local people, provide a multi functional green space that

is spatially adaptable and able to host a diverse range of activities and be maintainable with the minimum of cost.

St Ippolyts Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 1,623

Precept: £23,535

Expenditure: £25,720

Owns or manages a variety of open spaces for the enjoyment of all members of the community. This includes Dell Field, a community reserve and children's play area; Gosmore Village Green, which has swings for older children; a recreation Ground with community sports facilities and a children's play area; Broadmeadow Estate Land, which is landscaped with shrubs and trees and St Ippolyts Village Green, which contains two oak trees and a peace seat.

Stapenhill Parish Council, Staffordshire

Electorate: 5,853

Precept: £17,404

Expenditure: £23,429

Developed a Peace and Unity Garden as a place for quiet reflection. The council worked with staff from the local cemetery to come up with a plan for the design. Local business Litchfield Tarmac were contracted to install the pathway, whilst Staffordshire County Council provided funding from their local community fund for two benches. The garden was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor of Burton on 1 July. The council hopes to plant more shrubs, plants, poppies, and wildflowers over the coming year.

Waltham Parish Council, ERNLCCA

Electorate: 5,246

Precept: £44,841

Expenditure: £60,754

Supports Waltham Park Bowls Club in the maintenance and upkeep of the local bowling green and surrounding gardens. The council is always looking for new ways to improve the facility and in 2011 jointly funded the purchase of a wooden pavilion. It is now working with the bowls club to add Pentanque and Croquet areas within the grounds.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Bakewell Town Council, Derbyshire

Electorate: 3,132

Precept: £105,000

Expenditure: £98,647

Worked in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Emergency Planning Team and the Environment Agency to set up a flood warden scheme for Bakewell. The flood warden's role is to monitor river levels locally, identify known risks and notify the responsible authority to enable rectification or preventative work, carry out the "time of flood hazard survey" and identify vulnerable locations.

Barrow Gurney Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 260

Precept: £8,200

Expenditure: £10,138

Worked with North Somerset Council to facilitate construction of a footpath through the village. The council successfully negotiated the release of privately held land at pinch points along the route and undertook public consultation of the most important and cost effective elements of the scheme under a 'design to cost' regime. The walkway was funded through section 106 contributions. Its construction has enabled residents to walk safely to the village green, hall and pub.

Bishop's Waltham Parish Council, Durley Parish Council, Upham Parish Council, Swanmore Parish Council, Hampshire

Bishop's Waltham Parish Council

Electorate: 5,305

Precept: £418,688

Expenditure: £535,760

Durley Parish Council

Electorate: 815

Precept: £23,961

Expenditure: £54,122.89

Upham Parish Council

Electorate: 548

Precept: £20,767

Expenditure: £25,524

Swanmore Parish Council

Electorate: 2,445

Precept: £200,261

Expenditure: £181,724

Formed the Southern Parishes Group to identify ways of supporting each other with staffing, facilities and bulk-buying. One of the group's first steps was to explore staffing needs. As a result, Bishop's Waltham Parish Council, one of the group's larger councils, contracted out their lengthsman to two smaller local councils, Durley Parish Council and Upham Parish Council. The lengthsman now works half a day at each. Dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping, and flyposting were also picked out as partnership priorities to tackle. The Southern Parishes decided

to appoint an accredited community safety officer (ACSO) to deal with these problems and Bishop's Waltham Parish Council contracted the ACSO out for a third of the time to Swanmore Parish Council.

Choppington Parish Council, Northumberland

Electorate: 7,407

Precept: £383,084

Expenditure: £379,572

Formed a partnership team with Northumberland County Council which covers all aspects of local service delivery. The team is jointly funded and directed by both councils to a deliver standard baseline level of services, and this is enhanced and tailored to meet the specific priorities of the local community. Residents are engaged in decisions through surveys, meetings with service users, and engagement with local groups. Choppington Parish Council also uses participatory budgeting to understand priorities, and has a residents' panel who approve expenditure, scrutinise budgets and set the level of the precept. Through this the council have been able to feedback insights on service provision such as grass cutting standards and provision of floral displays. This has resulted in Northumberland County Council reequipping the type of machines used and increasing its staffing resource for grass cutting, as well as providing new floral displays on several main roundabouts.

Pool-in-Wharfedale Parish Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 1,786

Precept: £40,732

Expenditure: £49,619

Working in partnership with Menston and Otley and Burley Parish Councils' and Bradford and Leeds District Council to develop a safe walking and cycling path linking Burley with Otley and Ilkley. The councils have also been working with Sustrans, custodians of the national cycle network, to seek funding for the proposed route. An update provided by Burley Parish Council in July 2018 stated that Sustrans had submitted a bid for European funding to meet the full cost of construction for phase 1 of the route and that the preferred route had been adopted.

St Ives Town Council, Cornwall

Electorate: 9,198

Precept: £568,233

Expenditure: £708,212

Administers footpath maintenance work under a partnership arrangement with Cornwall Council. In addition to maintaining the pathways, St Ives Town Council also trims the hedges running alongside the pathways up to three times a year. In doing so the council aims to enable the footpath network around the parish to be a pleasant experience for all who use it.

Wittersham Parish Council, Stone-cum-Ebony-Parish Council, Warehorne Parish Council and Kenardington Parish Councils, Kent.

Wittersham Parish Council

Electorate: 996

Precept: £24,515

Expenditure: £19,871

Stone-cum-Ebony-Parish Council

Electorate: 381

Precept: £5,500

Expenditure: £5,302

Warehorne Parish Council

Electorate: 308

Precept: £4,500.00

Expenditure: £3,121

Kenardington Parish Council

Electorate: 228

Precept: £4,830

Expenditure: £5,316

Worked with Ashford Borough Council to employ a village caretaker. As individual parishes, none could justify employing a caretaker full time. However this was made possible by joining forces. The role was funded from Ashford Borough Council's allocated budget for services such as grass cutting, together with a contribution from Kent County Council and three of the local councils. Ashford Borough Council also provided a grant for the purchase of a trailer. The programme is run on a day to day basis by Wittersham Parish Council, whilst Ashford Borough Council gives general support. The scheme is still working well, helping to keep the villages clean and tidy and building relationships and interactions between villages.

PLAYGROUNDS

Billingham Parish Council, Lincolnshire

Electorate: 1,668

Precept: £35,158

Expenditure: £45,930

Secured grant funding from South Keston District Council's Community Fund for new play equipment for the village playing field. An adventure climbing frame and modern swing have now been installed at the park, which is aimed at children aged four to fourteen.

Bradinch Town Council, Devon

Electorate: 1,668

Precept: £35,158

Expenditure: £45,930

Received almost £80,000 in grant funding from Viridor, TAP fund, a housing developer and solar panel developer for refurbishment of a recreation ground. Work was undertaken in two phases. The first phase involved replacing an old wooden hut, installing a new wheelchair accessible roundabout and a table tennis

table. Phase two included installing new fencing, a zip wire, games tables, adult gym equipment, new swings and upgrading the wooden slats on benches with recyclable material. The council hopes to embark on a third phase of work which will involve replacing the existing skate ramp with a new and improved version.

Laverstock and Ford Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 6,424

Precept: £126,543

Expenditure: £295,129

Worked with four major housing developers to ensure that new play areas were built to the highest possible standards. The council are particularly proud of their neighbourhood equipped area for play (NEAP) and local equipped area for play (LEAP) at their Old Sarum settlement, which they developed themselves with financial contributions from developers. When designing a competitive contract the council used Barrowby Parish Council's (Derbyshire) contract specification as a base and looked to the 'Design for Play' manual to inspire bidding companies to come up with inspirational designs. The LEAP features a motte and bailey layout whilst the NEAP includes a solar powered DJ mixing desk to attract young teenagers. In both cases the council involved young residents in the selection of play equipment.

Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 4,493

Precept: £199,104

Expenditure: £255,475

Installed new play facilities for children aged 2 to 11 following extensive consultation with the local community. Local residents were initially consulted via a request in the parish magazine 'Update' for suggestions for the new playground and were invited to become involved in developing it. This resulted in a working group being developed consisting of four Mums with children in the village primary school. The working group gathered information on playgrounds and was supplemented by responses to the magazine article, publicity at village events, input from other local councils and information on playgrounds visited by residents both locally and on holiday. Six play companies were contacted and site visits made, with the companies being invited to submit a bid. The winner was chosen by the working group according to a scoring system they had designed to rate each bid.

Saltburn, Markse and New Marske Parish Council, Cleveland

Electorate: 15,182

Precept: £131,550

Expenditure: £150,288

Secured matched funding from the Impetus Environmental Trust to make a play area more inclusive. This included installation of a roundabout and bench with

space for a wheelchair alongside a 'cheerie chum' caterpillar. Members of the school council at Errington Primary School were invited to come along and play on the new equipment and feedback was positive.

St Stephen Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 11,111

Precept: £453,362

Expenditure: £823,874

Embarked on an ambitious playground refurbishment programme which saw new equipment installed in most play areas owned by the council. This included Greenwood Park play area, where an old 'witches hat' climbing frame and two other pieces of equipment have been replaced by a large Spacenet climbing frame, with extensions and 'hangout seating,' plus a Triple Rope Trail for younger children, and a set of Turning Bars. The council has also installed a large area of play sand which provides further varied play opportunities. The programme was funded through S106 contributions.

Westbury Town Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 11,164

Precept: £629,552

Expenditure: £602,038

Took over management of ten play areas in Westbury following an asset transfer process instigated by Wiltshire Council. A playground refurbishment programme was undertaken, with play equipment in six playgrounds removed for repair. This included Becks Mill play area, where Section 106 money was used to fund the purchase of upgraded train themed equipment.

PUBS

Church Fenton Parish Council, Yorkshire

Electorate: 1,013

Precept: £20,500

Expenditure: £28,959

Worked with local residents to save the village pub. Following an approach from local residents with a business plan, the council secured a £355,000 loan from the Public Works Loan Board to buy the White Horse Pub. On completion of the sale, the pub was leased back to local residents.

Knebworth Parish Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 3,406

Precept: £144,763

Expenditure: £199,474

Successfully applied to have The Station Pub registered as an asset of community value. The pub's new owners, developer Market Homes, will now need to submit a formal planning application should they wish to demolish the pub and build homes on the site.

Urchfont Parish Council, Wiltshire

Electorate: 969

Precept: £47,244

Expenditure: £54,433

Put in a successful application to have The Lamb Inn registered as an asset of community value until 2022. An entry has been made on the Land Register and the owner of the asset cannot dispose of it without satisfying a number of criteria, in consultation with Wiltshire Council. Today the pub is thriving community hub, home to mens and ladies skittles teams, a petanque court and a monthly quiz night. A variety of organisations also hold meetings in the pub, ranging from the local Womans Institute to the cricket club and neighbourhood development steering group.

STREET FURNITURE

Beeford Parish Council, ERNLCCA

Electorate: 921

Precept: £9,000

Expenditure: £14,868

Obtained grant funding from the Lissett Wind Farm community fund for the installation of four public shelters. The shelters are located at various points along the main street running through the village and will each contain a notice board to replace the existing village noticeboards. The design of cantilever shelter with end panels has been named by Shelutions, the installation company, as "The Beeford" for their own advertising purposes.

WINTER READINESS

East Grinstead Town Council, West Sussex

Electorate: 20,599

Precept: £909,300

Expenditure: £1,000,613

Developed the East Grinstead Winter Management Plan. The plan aims to maintain access to town centre pavements and surrounding areas and ensure that people can safely move about in the main areas of the town. As part of this the council have installed 68 grit bins around the town, purchased a Tracmaster walk-behind motorised snow plough and brush and a Glasdon manual gritter for use on the town centre's pavements, steps and bridges. The council also encourage healthy, fit volunteers to sign up to clear ice and snow from highway pavements.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUTH SERVICES

Beccles Town Council, Suffolk

Electorate: 8,041

Precept: £113,427

Expenditure: £382,557

Produces the 'Beccles Youth Express,' a magazine promoting youth organisations and providing a voice for young people in Beccles. The magazine was the brainchild of the Beccles Youth Champion Team at Beccles Town Council and highlights the wide range of organisations offering activities for young people in Beccles, including Beccles Rowing Club, Thirst Youth Café, River Waveney Trust and Beccles 2nd and 5th Scout Groups. The magazine also features recommendations from young residents and was funded through a grant from Waveney District Council's enabling fund.

Bitton Parish Council, Avon

Electorate: 7,370

Precept: £94,000

Expenditure: £414,358

Took over the running of Oldland Common Youth Club from South Gloucestershire Council. A range of activities are offered at the youth club, now called the New Tracks Youth Club, including pool, table tennis, table football, music, electronic games, TV, cooking and arts and crafts. There is also a weekly games and sports session with a sports coach and occasional outings. The youth club is open two nights a week and is for young people aged 11 to 18.

Camelford Parish Council, Cornwall

Electorate: 2,357

Precept: £227,820

Expenditure: £232,383

Worked in partnership with a local secondary school to organise a photography competition. Pupils in year ten at Sir James Smith School were encouraged to take photos promoting Camelford and submit them to a judging panel consisting of two councillors and a council officer. The top three entrants were all awarded Amazon vouchers, whilst the overall winner worked with the council to photograph local events and provide photos for the council's website and other marketing material.

Chulmleigh Parish Council, Devon

Electorate: 1,224

Precept: £29,000

Expenditure: £34,378

Ensures the views of younger residents are taken into account at the monthly council meetings. Students from the local community college are invited to give feedback on the activities of the college and how they feel they are being helped as part of the "public participation" agenda item. The council has reported that this not only assists in the public relations of the college, but also gives the pupils' confidence to attend a formal meeting and address councillors, something that will stand them in good stead in their future lives.

Coxhoe Parish Council, County Durham

Electorate: 3,444

Precept: £107,000

Expenditure: £106,493

Developed a youth services provision following the withdrawal of investment in youth services by Durham County Council. The council now employs a dedicated youth team who run junior, senior and girls only youth clubs in Coxhoe and Quarrington Hill. Activities available for young people to participate in include arts and crafts, parachute games, video games, pool, table tennis, football, music and dance. Last summer the council also ran an extensive programme of activities and outings for young people during the school holidays, including a movie night, disco, afternoon tea party, pizza night and outings to a farm, go karting track and Planet Leisure.

Cranleigh Parish Council, Surrey

Electorate: 8,849

Precept: £344,989

Expenditure: £383,966

Provides funding for the 'Friday Night Project,' a youth club for 11 to 17 year olds. The youth club is part of a new strategy from Waverley Borough Council to engage with young people in the community and offer them an opportunity to get involved in new activities, socialise with others of similar ages or relax in the café. The youth club offers a wide variety of activities including gym, table tennis, workout classes, virtual cycling, racket ball, squash and pool. Funding also comes from Waverley Borough Council, Active Surrey and Places Leisure.

Diss Town Council, Norfolk

Electorate: 6,356

Precept: £499,772

Expenditure: £1,827,601

Launched a new youth council for Diss in September 2018. The aims of the youth council are to create a safe and better environment for young people, build a more harmonious community and for young people to have more of an influence over what goes on in Diss. At present there are seven youth councillors, however the intention is for the youth council to have up to twelve in future.

Ferndown Town Council, Dorset

Electorate: 13,891

Precept: £582,528

Expenditure: £484,707

Provides a programme of activities for young people aged 10 and above in the Ferndown area. Young people in the town are offered the choice of attending either an informal drop in session free of charge or, for £1, a more formal activity based session. Drop in sessions offer young people the opportunity to choose what they want to do, with laptops available for those who need them to complete homework. The more formal activity sessions help broaden young people's views and experiences by promoting other cultures and ways of living as well as providing information about awareness days. At all sessions there are a range of activities and sports on offer such as pool, games consoles, arts and crafts and darts. There is also a well-stocked coffee bar selling sweets and refreshments. Attendees are encouraged to take responsibility for the youth club by helping to run sessions and standing for a place on the youth council.

Great Ness and Little Ness Parish Council, Shropshire

Electorate: 878

Precept: £20,504

Expenditure: £21,303

Stepped in to pay for a qualified youth worker to continue at Nesscliffe Youth Club following Shropshire Council's decision to cut its youth service budget. Funds were raised by increasing the precept by £3,500 per annum, a move that was taken following consultation with residents.

Hertford Town Council, Hertfordshire

Electorate: 21,185

Precept: £1,139,394

Expenditure: £1,411,691

Instigated the creation of one of the first youth town councils. The youth council consists of eight councillors, two from each of the local secondary schools and forms an advisory subcommittee to the town council. Formal meetings are held at Hertford Castle every eight weeks and are chaired by the Mayor of Hertford. Since the youth council was founded in 1990 its achievements have included installation of litter bins in the town, organisation of Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremonies, installation of a sensory garden in the castle grounds and production of a recycling guide. Youth councillors also help out at public events, including castle open days and attend events such as civic services and mayor making.

Martock Parish Council, Somerset

Electorate: 3,791

Precept: £334,102

Expenditure: £368,650

Hosts a youth parish council for elected members aged 11 to 18 who represent youth issues and needs in Martock. The youth council meets weekly and has five main roles, namely to ensure a local group of young people meet as a mirror of Martock Parish Council; to enable access to a wider range of young people's opinions and act as a voice for all young people; to support the work of other Martock groups and the delivery of the Martock Local Community Plan; to manage the Youth Parish Council budget and to provide a mechanism to enable issues of concern or praise to be brought to the attention of local decision makers. Activities undertaken by members include fundraising for local and national charities, mentoring of younger people, delivering school assemblies to highlight the Youth Parish Council and visiting London to learn more about national politics.

Ryde Town Council, Isle of Wight

Electorate: 18,453

Precept: £923,635

Expenditure: £922,135

Developed “Network Ryde,” a new youth project supporting young people in and around the town to achieve their potential and have fun. The first phase of this project has seen the opening of ‘147,’ an internet café offering services for young people aged 11 to 19 and adults with disabilities up to the age of 25. Sessions currently held at 147 include a trainee enhancement programme for young people aged 15 to 24 who are not in education, employment or training, a lunchtime drop in session for home educated young people, an arts and crafts session for young people with additional needs and their siblings and a weekly Xbox and Wii tournament night. The council also works with other local venues to facilitate events under the ‘Network Ryde’ banner. At present this includes a weekly games night at Waterside Pool.

Skelton and Brotton Parish Council, Cleveland

Electorate: 10,071

Precept: £135,000

Expenditure: £148,135

Funds fitness sessions for local children during school holidays. Young residents in the parish aged five to eleven can be signed up for an afternoon featuring taekwon-do, a kids bootcamp and a fortnite and chart dance show in the dark, all completely free of charge.

Westerham Parish Council, Kent

Electorate: 3,443

Precept: £205,575

Expenditure: £271,825

Funds family fun sessions in the town during school holidays. The sessions, held in the Westerham Sports Association building, are free to attend and feature inflatable fun, crafts and games.

Woughton Community Council, Milton Keynes

Electorate: 3,443

Precept: £205,575

Expenditure: £271,825

Provides an extensive youth programme for young people aged 9 to 19. The programme is designed to meet young people’s needs and desires by including informal education, recreation and life skills activities. Clubs are hosted in different areas of Woughton with the aim of breaking down territorial boundaries and increasing community interaction. Activities currently on offer include sports, games, dance, pool, squash, crafts, cookery and music. Young people can also simply drop in and relax with friends. There is also a weekly teenage parent group providing a supportive, non- judgmental approach, this includes a free lunch and crèche.