



SEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2021 -2022 INSIGHT

Your Town Council Tax Explained

Let's start at the beginning - what is Seaford Town Council?

Since 1999, Seaford Town Council has been one of the three local councils that helps to look after the town of Seaford and its residents. The other two are Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council. We do not report in to each other, there is no chain of command, instead we work in harmony for a shared common interest; Seaford!

As a Town Council, we are the 'closest' to our town and as well as looking after a number of parks and facilities around the town, we are here to represent your needs - to shout Seaford's voice from the rooftops! To help ensure that Seaford fulfils its potential and continues to be great for generations to come!



What do we do, you ask?

In a nutshell we...

- Provide and maintain The Salts, The Crouch, Martello Fields and other spaces
- Run Seaford Head Golf Course
- Look after the seafront, its concessions and beach huts
- Fund the management of Seaford Head Nature Reserve
- Facilitate memorials around the town; benches, trees and plaques
- Look after the war memorial
- Fund the flower planting around town
- Organise events, including Seaford Christmas Magic
- Respond to every planning application within the town
- Listen to the needs of residents and businesses
- Support the Mayor and Young Mayor of Seaford
- And many more - all with the help of many dedicated partners!

DID YOU KNOW...DESPITE ITS SOMEWHAT PEACEFUL EXTERIOR, SEAFORD IS ACTUALLY THE BIGGEST TOWN IN THE LEWES DISTRICT, WITH AROUND 11,000 PROPERTIES AND 24,000 RESIDENTS!



The Financial Contribution from Seaford Residents

Every town and parish council in the country is funded in part by its local residents.

Each year the Town Council, like most organisations, goes through a lengthy budget setting process for the following financial year (in this case April 2021 to March 2022). We assess our anticipated expenditure, income, use of reserves (financial savings) and are left with a figure remaining. This figure is the amount of Seaford Town Council Tax (also called the 'precept'), which is split and charged to each household in the town to ensure that we are able to keep delivering for the town.

So, what does this mean in figures?

In 2021-2022 the Town Council is budgeting outgoings of £2,536,320, offset against budgeted income and available funds of £1,552,170. This leaves £984,150 to be charged to the town's households as precept (Council Tax).

The precept is split across the households within the town, with each property being assigned a 'band'. Your household's Council Tax demand will identify which band your property is; the Council Tax you owe will differ depending on the band (Band A being the lowest and H, the highest).

For 2021-2022, the Town Council's Band D Council Tax (as the 'average band') is £106.06 per year. This is an increase of just under 24 pence per week on last year's amount.

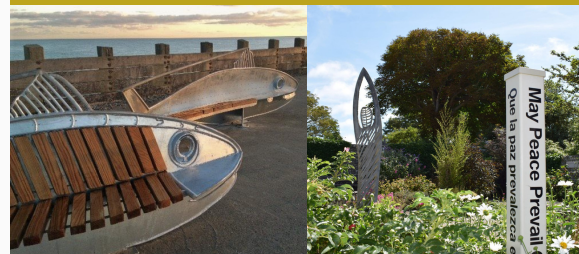
What are 'Special Expenses'?

Special Expenses is the amount charged by Lewes District Council for services they deliver but which are considered Town Council services, such as Walmer Road Recreational Ground, The Brickfields and Normanal Park/Chalvington Field.

Do you want to know more of the detail behind these figures?

We realise that not everyone is interested in the details but if you are looking to find out more, do visit [our website](http://our.website):
www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

You may want to start with the [meetings page](#) (28 January 2021 was the date Full Council adopted the budget) and then from there is a wealth of other information at your fingertips!



Who else do I pay?

Your Council Tax payment helps support us and four other vital local authorities:



Sussex Police
Serving Sussex



**East Sussex Fire
& Rescue Service**

Visit their websites for details on their portions of your Council Tax.

What does my money do?

Despite having one of the biggest commercial incomes of any Town Council in the country, we still need support from the town's residents to deliver our services i.e. your Council Tax. Much of your money goes towards maintaining our large amount of land, properties and facilities. You help;

- keep the seafront thriving
- keep The Salts and other spaces offering activities for all ages
- keep the public conveniences available
- enable community events in the town
- offer many of the town's sports clubs a home and pitches to play on
- enable the voice of the town to be heard through us
- drive improvements and future-proofing around the town
- ensure key voluntary groups around the town are supported through our financial grants scheme (in 2020-2021 we supported 13 different local groups which all directly help Seaford's residents)
- And so much more!

What will I see in 2021-2022 from the Town Council?

This is a good question and one we have asked ourselves lots in recent months! A lot of what we do is currently affected by COVID-19 and its restrictions - the sooner this lifts, the sooner we can properly begin our recovery (like so many organisations) and start to plan with more certainty for the future.

As it stands, we have highlighted some key projects for the coming year (in addition to the usual maintenance and upkeep of our land and services):

WATER REFILL STATIONS ON THE SEAFRONT
REFURBISHED SALTS TENNIS COURTS
BÖNNINGSTEDT SEA DEFENCE WALL
MAXIMISING INCOME FROM INCREASED TOURISM
TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

A little later in the year we will be properly reviewing our strategic objectives and what we want (and need) to achieve for the town. But we need you to help feed in to this, it is your town after all! See over the page for reminders on how to keep in contact...



Impact of COVID-19

As a Town Council, we were not able to avoid the effects of the COVID-19 storm and like many, we consider ourselves lucky to have made it out the other side of 2020.

During this last year, we have done all we can to keep the Town Council afloat while ensuring that the necessary duties to our town have been carried out, always with Seaford's best interests at heart.

Details of how we have responded to the pandemic are on our website or feel free to contact us with any questions.



Did you know...

That the Town Council worked in partnership with Lewes District Council and the Environment Agency to repair and reopen Splash Point to the public?

That in 2020 Seaford Town Council declared a state of Climate Emergency? We have a Climate Change Working Group working with many local groups and partners to look at how we address climate change in Seaford. Can you help? Please let us know!

That one of the conditions of the building development at the former Newlands School site is that the developers will cover the cost of the provision of new sports pitches within the town (or failing that, improvements to current sports pitches)?

That Seaford Town Council completed the installation of a borehole on Seaford Head Golf Course? This means the Golf Course gets almost all of its water from the land beneath it! The Course also welcomed a colony of bees onsite, helping support the Course's Operation Pollinator status and its aims.

That Seaford Town Council has responded with very strong concerns to the proposals from central government for increased housing delivery within the town? We know it is our job to speak up on behalf of the town and are not afraid to do so!

That in 2020-2021, Seaford Town Council has received over £50,000 from fees charged for filming and photography on Seaford Head and the seafront? Our town is a very desirable backdrop!

And finally...that you have the right to attend Seaford Town Council's meetings? Whether just to see what goes on or to actually take part and have your say on agenda items! Sign up to receive details of meetings by getting in contact (see below).

KEEP IN TOUCH

There's much more - this leaflet is just a snippet of what we do! The best way to better understand what your Council Tax helps us achieve and for those that want to, actually get involved and have your say, is to connect with us...



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