



SEAFORD TOWN COUNCIL

2023 - 2024 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 being custodian to 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!



Continue reading to see your Council Tax explained and learn what these funds are used for...

What do we do, you ask?

In a nutshell we...

- Provide and maintain The Salts, The Crouch, Martello Fields and other open spaces
- Maintain and run Seaford Head Golf Course as an environmentally-friendly site
- As custodians, look after the seafront (its concessions and beach huts), Seaford Head Nature Reserve, South Hill Barn, the Seaford Head cliff path and the town centre War Memorial
- Facilitate memorials (benches, trees, plaques and telescopes) and provide flower planting around the town
- Organise events, including Seaford Christmas Magic
- Respond to planning applications within the town
- Listen to the needs of residents and businesses
- Support the Mayor and Young Mayor of Seaford
- Lead the community through climate change action
- And many more - all with the help of many dedicated partners!



The Financial Contribution from Seaford Residents

Most town and parish councils in the country are 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 2023 to March 2024). 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 2023-2024 the Town Council is budgeting outgoings of £2,640,905, offset against budgeted income and available funds of £1,579,296. This leaves £1,061,609 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 in; the Council Tax you owe will differ depending on the band (Band A being the lowest and H, the highest).

For 2023-2024, the Town Council's Band D Council Tax (as the 'average band') is £111.09 per year. This is an increase of ZERO PERCENT 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 Normansal 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:
www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

You may want to start with the [meetings page](#) (26 January 2023 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?

Although we raise a lot of money ourselves, 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 number of land, properties and facilities. You help:

- keep the seafront thriving
- keep The Salts and other open 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 2022-2023 we supported 12 different local groups which all directly help Seaford's residents)
- And so much more!

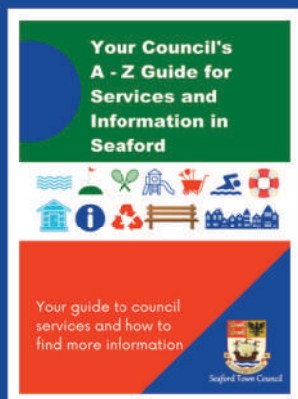
What will I see in 2023-2024 from the Town Council?

This is a good question and one we ask ourselves every year!

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):

CONTINUE TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SALTS PLAY AREA
WELCOMING THE NEW COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION FOR
MAY 2023-MAY 2027
MARTELLO FIELD WATER REFILL STATION
FINGER POST SIGNS ON THE SEAFRONT
SEASONAL BEACH HUT RENTAL
AGREEING A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COUNCIL

During the year we will be running a series of consultations on topics such as how we communicate with you, and what improvements you would like to see in the town. Your feedback is vital to our research and service delivery, it is your town after all! See over the page for reminders on how to keep in contact...



NEW

Your Council's A-Z guide

Seaford Town Council have a new colourful information leaflet providing you with information on the services the three local councils offer.

You can download the guide by heading over to our website www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/



THE SALTS TENNIS SEAFORD

Great value Annual Passes
available for just
£55 per household

Visit:
www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/thesaltstennis/Membership
for full details

Working in partnership with: Seaford Town Council LTA TENNIS Seaford Borough Council

Did you know...

That you will be invited to elect a new set of Town Councillors in May 2023 to undertake their 4 year term in office? And don't forget too that there are changes to the way you will vote in May 2023 – you will need to have **photo id when you vote!**

That we have a delivery plan for climate change actions in the town, which includes making arrangements for a people's assembly in 2023 to raise awareness of how Seaford can tackle climate change and welcome input from residents? Our Climate Change Sub-Committee is going full steam ahead (using purely green energy!)

That an Iron Age fort was discovered on Seaford Head? This was a hugely significant find, exciting archaeological professionals and enthusiasts across the country. It also provided an opportunity to trial a new method of recording the archaeological finds noninvasively (no digging required!) before this key part of our local history is lost to cliff erosion.

Currently, the Young Mayor of Seaford is running a campaign to reduce the use of recyclable coffee cups (which often end up littered or being put with general waste for landfill). Previous years achievements have been the installation of seafront water refill stations, a wheelchair swing at The Salts and life-saving defibrillator equipment for the town, also raising funds and awareness for accessible sports and the local air ambulance.

That in the last 4 years, over £87,000 has been donated to local community groups and charities? This is through our annual grants scheme, which usually launches around April each year.

That in 2022-2023, Seaford Town Council has received more than £44,000 from fees charged for filming and photography on Seaford Head and the seafront? Our town is a very desirable backdrop!

KEEP IN TOUCH

That the data from the 2021 Census is now available online? It provides an interesting insight in to the demographics of our town!

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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