

BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2012-2013

Council Tax: Council Tax is the local tax you pay towards services such as road maintenance, some education services, fire and rescue services, social services and libraries. In Oxfordshire Council Tax pays for about one third of these services with taxes raised by central government paying for the remainder. Your council tax bill is made up of payments to Oxfordshire County Council, SODC, Thames Valley Police and this Parish Council.

Parish Precept (Budget): Is how the Parish Council's share is shown on your bill. **Last year in Sonning Common this was £33.43 for the whole year for a Band D property or, put another way, 64 pence per week which was all that we got to do the things we have done.**

Sonning Common is one of the largest villages in South Oxfordshire. The table below shows how we compared with other large villages last year:

Large Village	Tax Base*	Precept	Band D Tax	Cost/week
Benson	1,703	£118,169	£69.38	£1.33
Chalgrove	1,096	£90,000	£82.06	£1.58
Chinnor	2,285	£233,220	£102.06	£1.96
Cholsey	1,370	£75,821	£55.34	£1.06
Goring	1,685	£87,800	£52.12	£1.00
Sonning Common	1,648	£55,000	£33.34	£0.64
Watlington	1,190	£80,767	£67.82	£1.30
Wheatley	1,668	£94,619	£56.74	£1.09

*The Tax Base is the number of Band D equivalent homes in each village.

Although a precept that is well below the average might look good, it actually means that after doing the absolute basic legal and administrative essentials there is very little left over to do what residents want. Other villages have much the same basic costs but because they ask for a higher precept they have more to spend on local needs. Most of the activities described overleaf have actually been paid for by drawing on our reserves.

Budget and Precept Changes: After preparing and reviewing in detail our budget for 2012 – 2013 your Parish Council has decided that it must raise the precept from £55,000 to £66,000 to be able to continue with our planned activities and improvements. The detail is on our website: www.sonningcommonparishcouncil.org.uk if you want to see it.

The new precept will cost a Band D property about 13 pence more per week (£6.67 for the whole year) whereas a Band A property will pay an extra 9 pence per week (£4.45) and a Band H property 26 pence (£13.34) per week.