

Keeping control of Council Tax

Wealden District Council collects the Council Tax on behalf of East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police Authority, East Sussex Fire Authority and your own parish or town council.

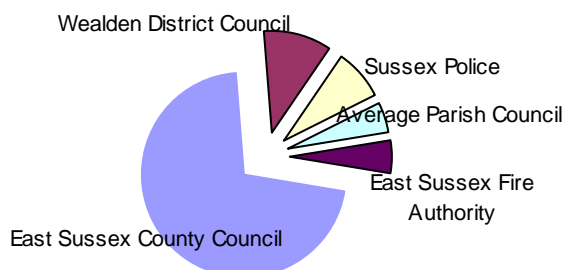
Out of the £82.37 million it will collect in 2005-2006, only £8.85 million - 10.7% - will be used by Wealden District Council for the many services it provides.

The average Band D Council Tax payer will be paying £144.24 to Wealden District Council, less than 40 pence per day. This is not much more than Vehicle Excise Duty for a petrol car with average CO₂ emission of £125/year or the cost of a TV licence at £116.04.

In 2005-06, the average Band D Council Tax is £1,342.67 –

- £958.95 goes to East Sussex County Council,
- £110.25 goes to Sussex Police,
- £66.95 goes to East Sussex Fire Authority,
- £62.28 goes to the parish council,
- and £144.24 goes to Wealden District Council.

What share of your Council Tax goes to Wealden?



Wealden District Council's total budget for its own requirements in 2005-06 is £15.73 million, of which £6.84 million will be met from Government Grant and Business rates. The remainder is met from Council Tax which has risen by 4.5 per cent on last year. This year's increase includes the cost of introducing kerbside recycling to all the areas currently covered by Wealden's CROWN recycling scheme.

It is also the first budget in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy which aims to ensure future Council Tax rises keep below 5% despite reducing Central Government support for local government in the South-East

Discounts on the amount of Council Tax you must pay are available for people living alone, if the property is not their main home, if they are full time students living in the house, and in a number of other circumstances.

Find out more on the Wealden web site or ring Wealden District Council's Benefits Service on 01323 443774.

Grant support for Uckfield Millennium Green

Wealden District Council has agreed a grant of £3,000 for a three year programme of improvements to Uckfield Millennium Green.

The money, from the council's Environmental Enhancement Fund, will help towards providing educational material, new fencing, a pond dipping platform and protect a watercress bed.

Since it was set up in 1998 with 50% Lottery funding, the Millennium Green has become an established public open space next door to the expanding urban environment of Uckfield.

Beaches bask in awards sunshine for another year

Birling Gap and Pevensey Bay, the only two beaches managed by Wealden District Council, are once again in the swim, having netted the two key UK beach awards, the ENCAMS Seaside Award and a recommendation in the Marine Conservation Society's *Good Beach Guide*.

"These are important awards for our two rural beaches, which make them great places to visit all the year round," said Cllr Mrs Pam Doodes, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Public Safety.

Planners right to bunker golf course in North Weald landscape

A NINE-hole golf course would not fit in with the North Weald countryside and would conflict with its quality and character as a Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – that's the conclusion of a Planning Inspector's report upholding a decision made by Wealden District Council's Development Control Sub-committee last year to refuse planning permission.

Despite the fact that the applicant offered to screen the proposed clubhouse and car park, the Planning Inspector concluded that these features would still be seen by those using the site, and added:

"In any case, the landscape does not have to be seen from public viewpoints for harm to be caused. The landscape is protected for its intrinsic qualities."