

## Budget Consultation Responses

### 1. Dear sir

I am appalled at the proposed increase in our council tax. I am in Band E and pay £238 per month. (This is a quarter of my monthly income, that is some people's mortgage payments) I don't receive any more services than other people who live in my village yet I am penalised for living-in a bigger house! I really struggle to make ends meet, I am proud to have job and to have worked throughout this pandemic. I urge you to rethink this increase, it may only be £5 but to people like myself it's just another blow.

2. As a pensioner, who has seen most of my savings interest rates drop to zero (0.01 - 0.05% in most cases) I cannot afford an increase of nearly £75 in council tax on my property, which unfortunately is in band E and in the current pandemic, I do not believe that this is the right time for such an increase. Our fuel usage has rocketed due to being in lockdown, not helped by the recent prolonged cold spell. Furthermore, some of my neighbours have been on furlough for many months and we are all struggling to make ends meet.
3. This is not the time to increase council tax, with people losing their jobs, local businesses having to close, schools closed, parents trying to maintain jobs and home schooling. Having to worry about increased prices to council tax is just an added headache most Eden residents cannot accept now, and the service we get is not good value for money. The police authority share is too high, having lived in the village of High Heskett with only PCSO support I can say in the two years we have been here I have never seen our PCSO.
4. I would definitely oppose a rise at this time when we have all been badly affected financially this last year, and going into this year. There was no Appleby Horse Fair, which surely must have saved thousands of pounds that is usually spent on preparing, policing and clearing up afterwards?! Could this saving go towards this year's council tax?
5. My comments / questions are:

In general I support the proposed increase in EDC's share of the Council Tax.

**Legal Services:** £500,000+ to Legal Services costs. **How much of that is spent on correcting errors?**

**Recycling:** It's good to see that there is a greater financial commitment to recycling in the district, but I'm not sure of the logic of closing the recycling bring centre at Plumpton. I expect that what was fly-tipped there will still be fly-tipped somewhere and will either become litter or have to be collected at someone's expense.

**Footway Lighting:** I understood that EDC had transferred footway lighting assets to parish councils ... at an added cost to parish precepts; but a considerable expenditure on footway lighting provision remains. **Why is that please?**

**Voreda House:** The justification for refurbishing Voreda House should be better explained / justified to the public.