



Town Clerk: A.M Williams FCIS, FSLCC

The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth, TR11 3QA Telephone 01326 315559

Dear Resident,

Falmouth Town Council continues to support the local services and community facilities that residents rely on.

The Council maintains our well-used parks and open spaces, cares for important public buildings, supports community safety, and provides cultural and community services that everyone can use.

Like councils across Cornwall and the country, we are operating in a period of higher costs affecting the local government sector. This includes the ongoing upkeep of public buildings and facilities, higher insurance costs, rising employment costs and increased energy prices. These are essential to keeping key town services running safely and reliably.

Why the precept is increasing

After careful review, the Council has agreed a 9.93% increase in the town council precept. For a Band D property, this is 85p per week.

The increase varies by Council Tax band. The weekly increase is:

Band A – 57p

Band B – 66p

Band C – 75p

Band D – 85p

We recognise that any increase in household bills matters. This change will help the Council continue supporting the community, maintain important local services, and invest responsibly in the town's public assets.

One of our most significant ongoing responsibilities is the care of the Passmore Edwards Municipal Building, which this year marks its 130th anniversary and remains home to

Falmouth Library and Art Gallery - two well-used public services that provide free access to books, information, art, exhibitions and learning activities for residents of all ages.

We are currently consulting residents on the future of this building so that community views can help inform long-term plans for this important public asset.

Careful use of the second homes premium

The Council has taken a cautious approach to the second homes council tax premium.

We are not treating this as guaranteed income for everyday spending. Instead, we are using it to help protect and future-proof the Passmore Edwards Municipal Building. This is an investment in one of the town's most important community buildings helping to ensure it provides free to access services long into the future.

What the town council provides

Money raised through the town council precept helps fund essential local services and community facilities, including:

- Parks, gardens and open spaces, including Kimberley Park, Gyllyngdune Gardens, Trescobeas Playing Fields, Dracaena Playing Fields and Pendennis Headland
- Falmouth Skatepark at Dracaena Playing Fields
- Seven sets of public toilets across the town
- Falmouth Library and Art Gallery, providing free access to books, information, art, exhibitions and learning activities
- Princess Pavilion, used by more than 26 regular community groups and hosting over 1,100 events and activities each year
- CCTV and community safety work, including Street Rangers who work with local businesses and Devon & Cornwall Police to help tackle anti-social behaviour
- Youth and community support, including funding youth workers at the Dracaena Centre
- The Re-Source project at Kimberley Park Lodge, now home to Source FM community radio, a year-round café, and support for residents to develop digital skills
- The town cemetery and burial services
- Grants to local organisations and community events

A full list of services is available at:

<https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/town-services>

Value for money

Falmouth Town Council remains committed to supporting the community, providing value for money, and being open about how public funds are used.

The town council precept is only one part of your total Council Tax bill, with Cornwall Council setting the largest share separately.

Help if you are struggling to pay to pay your Council Tax, support may be available. Residents can contact Cornwall Council to discuss payment options or check whether they are eligible for Council Tax Support or other assistance.

Further information is available at:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/council-tax-support/>

You can read more about the Falmouth Town Council budget at:

<https://www.falmouthtowncouncil.co.uk/your-council/town-finances/current-council-budget>

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Tom Pearce

Chair, Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Alan Jewell

Town Mayor