Ware Town
Council

Budget / Precept 2024/25



#### Ware Town Council Budget 2024/25

Ware Town Council & Ware Priory Charity

Budget 2024/25.

**Total Precept** 

£1,589,479

£ Variance to prior year

£404,550

% Variance to prior year

33.84%

Annual cost per property

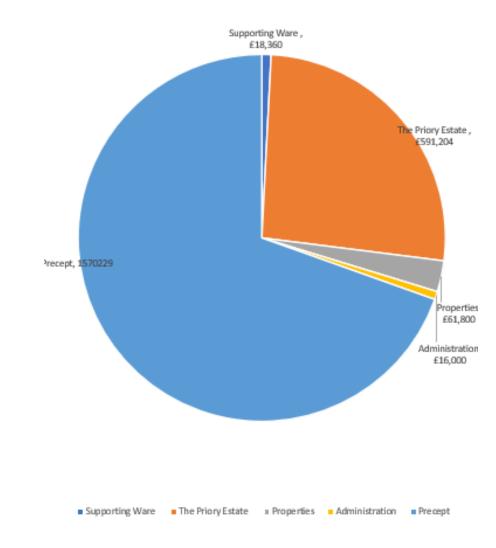
£209.63

Weekly cost per property

£4.03

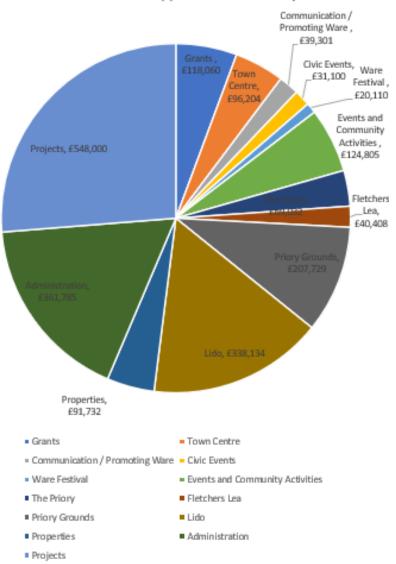
Variance to prior year per property £53.00

Ware Town
Council:
Where the
money comes
from..



Ware Town
Council: Where
we spend the
money to
support our
community

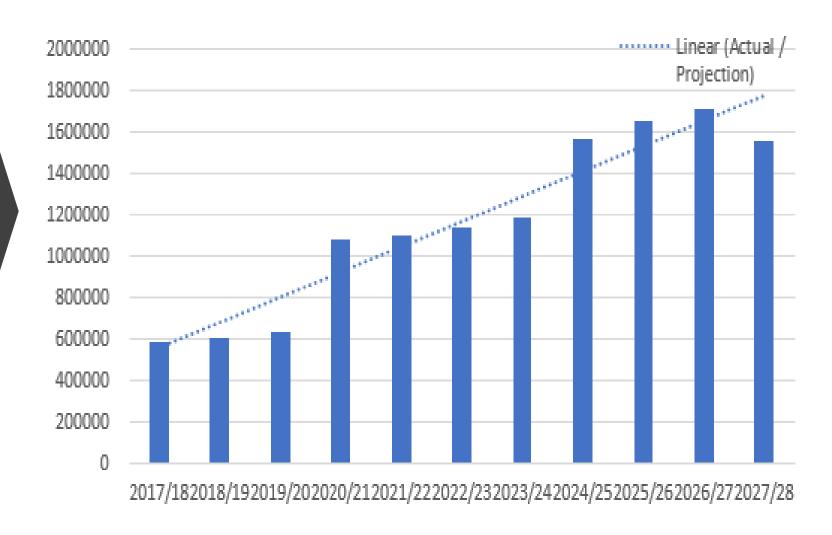
#### WTC: How we support the community



#### WTC Precept Income

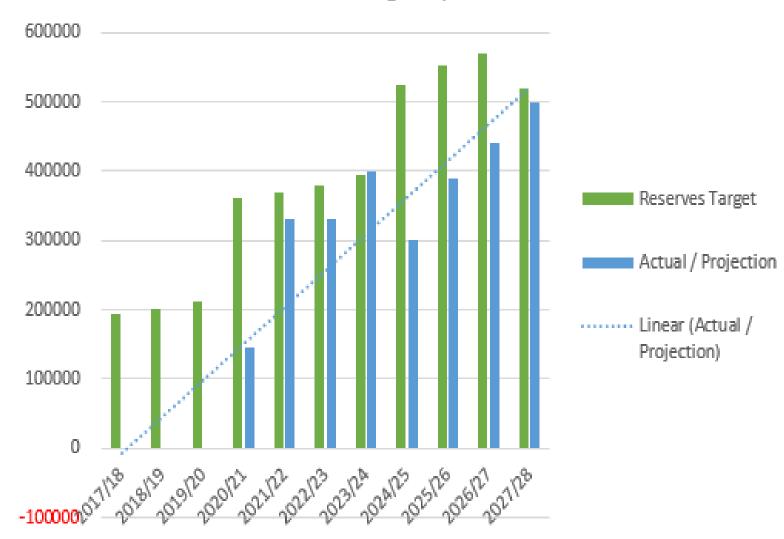
Actual / Projection

Ware Town
Council: Precept
income



#### WTC: Contingency Reserves

Ware Town
Council:
Contingency
reserves (target
33.3% of the
precept)



# Ware Town Council approach 2024-28

- Environment initiatives and Biodiversity –
   Getting to Carbon Zero by 2030
- Maintaining and developing Ware Town Centre
- 3. Maintaining and maximising our assets
- 4. Communication and Engagement, including events.
- 5. High quality governance



# Lido building and grounds refurbishment

We will commence a feasibility study to update the Lido building to enable it to open all year round, and improve its energy efficiency.

We will focus on delivering the aspirations from the consultation sessions in 2022 and will consult again in 2024 on the new plans.

#### £80K

(We plan to borrow the money for the development works).



#### Café / Toilet project Priory Grounds

We will continue to develop the Café / Toilet project and will ensure adequate toilet provision whilst the works to the building take place.

• £315K (less £100K from grant funding)



## Fletchers Lea refurbishment

We will update the main hall and toilets to ensure that the building meets the requirements of the users groups.



#### **Events**

We will focus on additional events to replace Rock in the Priory.

An event to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day will be held in June.

Additional events to promote

- Health and wellbeing
- Carbon reduction and biodiversity in the community



## Community Grants

As part of the focus to support the community and following feedback in the community survey the council will be increasing the grants available to eligible groups (full details on the WTC website)

- General grants £38K (up from £33K)
- £5K Supporting loneliness
- Capital Grants £12K



Grant criteria (updated)

- Promotion of health and wellbeing including reduction of loneliness
- Youth facilities
- Projects that support Environment and biodiversity initiatives for community groups and within the community
- Community Events
- Activities that contribute to the vibrancy of the town centre and attract visitors to Ware

#### Southern Maltings

To support Art and community events and ensure the long term viability of this community asset.



## Christmas Lights

We will replace the Christmas lights in the High Street

£48K

(plus £48K pa over the next 3 years)



## New Town Centre bins

A focus on replacing old or damaged bins to improve usage and the street scene.

£5K



## Town Centre Spring Clean 2024

An enhanced spring clean will take place to include a greater number of areas.

£9K



# Cycle Bus / Walk to School

We will promote walking to school through engagement with parents and local schools.

We will trial a cycle bus.

£8K



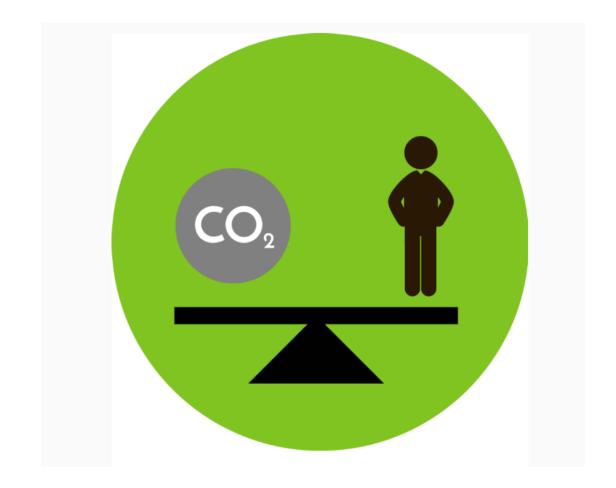
# Encouraging reduce / reuse recycle

Under the direction of the newly appointed Climate and Biodiversity Manager we will work on schemes that embrace reduce / reuse / recycle.



# Carbon Offsetting

We will pay into legitimate carbon offsetting schemes or consider a grant scheme equal to the £ value of the offsetting for local carbon reduction or biodiversity projects.



# Library of Things

We will set up and run a library of things.

A membership scheme where you can borrow household equipment for a nominal fee, use it and return it. We will be able to measure how much waste has been saved from landfill by borrowing instead of buying.

£30K



### Staffing review

An additional role of **Climate and Biodiversity Manager** has been created with a planned start date of April 2024.

The **Events Assistant role** has been moved to Full Time in recognition of the additional events being organised by WTC.

The **Lido Manager** role has been moved to Full time in recognition of the development works and extended season.



### Civic Regalia

We will invest in a new mayoral chain, mayors consort, councillor and freedom of Ware regalia.

A new mayoral chain is anticipated to last 60 years.

£16.5K





Ware Priory Trading

Will become part of the Ware Town Council operations from April 2024.

This will deliver income of £389K with a profit on activities of £118K which supports the Priory Estate.

## Contingency reserve

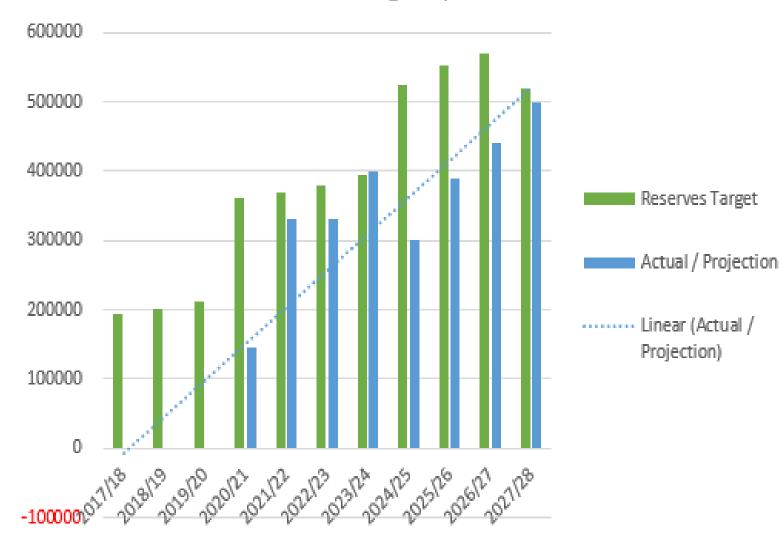
£100K will be transferred from reserves to support the projects outlined.

This will be replenished to achieve a reserves balance of £500K by March 2027.



#### WTC: Contingency Reserves

Ware Town
Council:
Contingency
reserves (target
33.3% of the
precept)



#### Ware Town Council Budget 2024/25

Ware Town Council & Ware Priory Charity

Budget 2024/25.

**Total Precept** 

£1,589,479

£ Variance to prior year

£404,550

% Variance to prior year

33.84%

Annual cost per property

£209.63

Weekly cost per property

£4.03

Variance to prior year per property £53.00