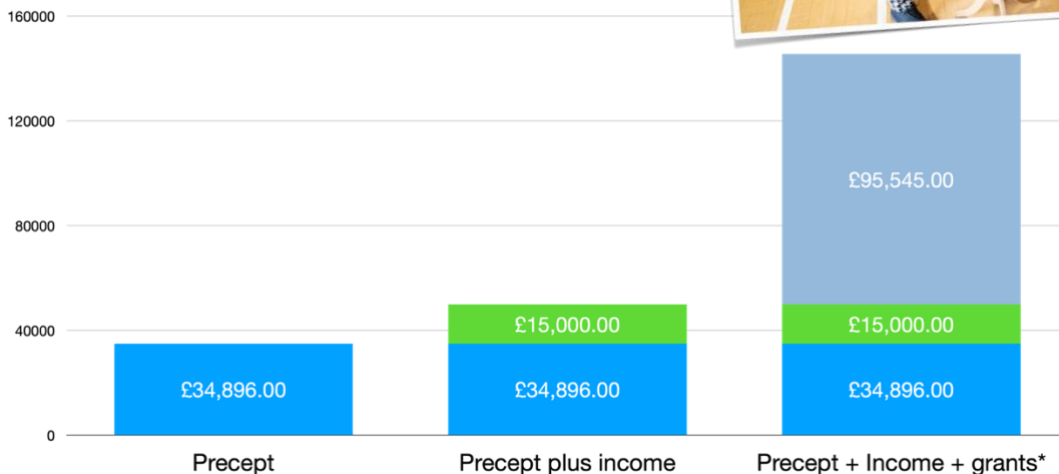




# Budget + spending for 2023/4

This budget for Llangattock has been decided against the most challenging economic background for decades, but also following significant successes and with high hopes for the future.

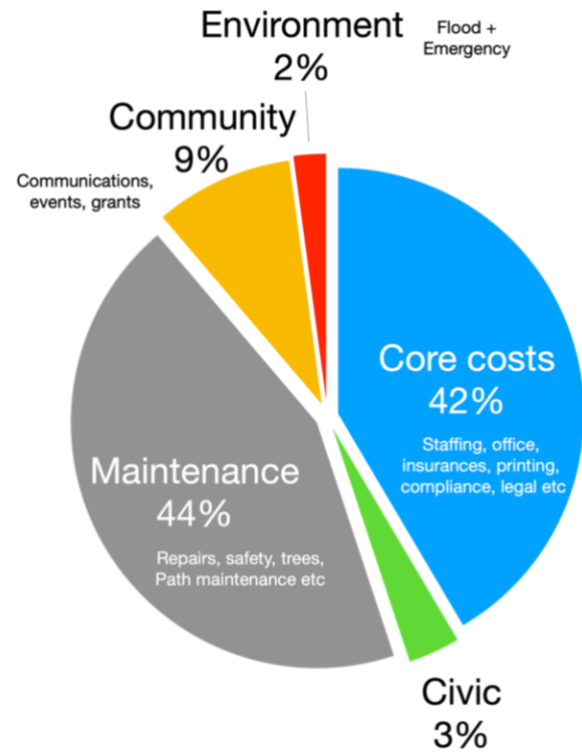
The past year has seen many successes, with accessibility improvements and the delivery of a new path and toilet block for the recreation ground. In addition, the Environment Working group created the Big Green Week events, held a flood planning seminar, and helped set up a flood warden scheme for Llangattock. As well as ongoing maintenance of Council-owned property, there were upgrades to play equipment, and the Community Council helped secure new A/V equipment for the Community Hall. Most of these projects were funded from grants, not from the small amount Llangattock Community Council takes from the Council tax. Grants that LCC secured or was involved with boosted spending in Llangattock by 191%.



Contact us via email on [Llangattockcc@gmail.com](mailto:Llangattockcc@gmail.com)

or phone on 01873598067.

Sadly, though, we rarely get grants for ongoing maintenance, and those fixed costs are rising because of inflation, just like everything else. The chart to the right shows what we will spend Llangattock's 'bit' of the Council tax, known as the precept, on in 2023/4. We will have to make repairs in the park and the cemetery, carry out safety work on council-owned trees and find new office space. We also want to launch a mailing list, improve communications, conduct public consultations, and support community events. So even before grants, the precept will have to rise.



On top of that, we need to support projects where we could get grants. These include replacing the kissing gates so people in wheelchairs and prams can get through, as well as making energy-efficient improvements to the toilet block. Both will benefit residents and reduce maintenance costs in the medium term.

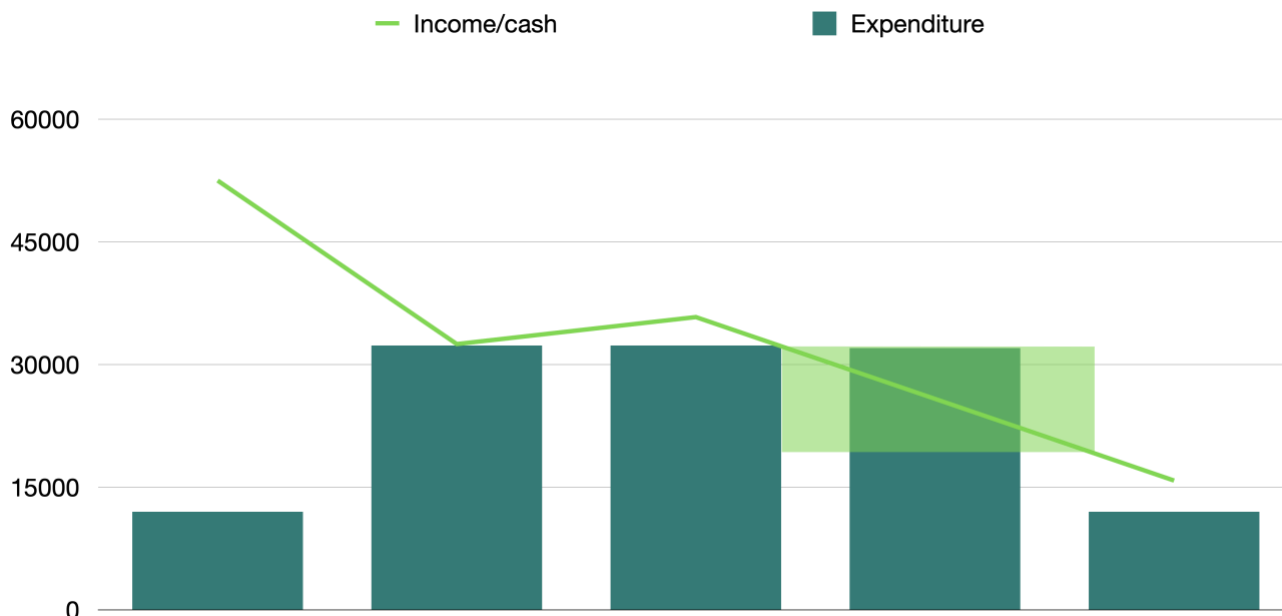


Councillors and volunteers support these projects by offering effort and expertise from their usual occupations. However, there are additional financial costs that must be resourced, like VAT on contracts. Costs such as these are not included in the grant payment but must be paid, nonetheless. They can be claimed back later, but in the meantime, there is a funding shortfall. For example, a £50,000 grant, like for the kissing gates, would result in a further payment of £10,000 in VAT alone. Some grant schemes also withhold a portion of

the money until sometime after the project is completed. Shortfalls like this must be covered if the Council is to pay its bills.

So, we need to create a pot of money, or reserve, to bridge the gaps between grant income and VAT reclaims and expenditure. This is represented by the green bar on the following graph.

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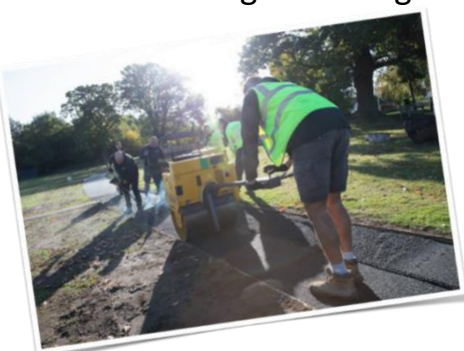
The timeline depends on the project, grant funders, and VAT reclaims

The Council’s finances will be audited next financial year, and to pass we also need to have enough in reserve to run the council, pay our staff and regular contractors and so on, for a minimum of three months.

So, the overall effect of increasing costs due to inflation and other pressures on the Council, as well as raising our reserves to support projects within the community, means that we will have to add 54 pence per week to the Council tax of most Band D households in Llangattock. The biggest Band H properties increase by £1.08 a week. Those on certain benefits won’t have to pay some or any Council Tax.

Precept 2023/4	Band D Annual	Band D Weekly	Band D difference P/W	Band A Difference P/W	Band H Difference P/W
£53,677	£89.49	£1.72	£0.54	£0.36	£1.08

At its budget-setting meeting in December, Llangattock Community Councillors expressed regret at increasing the amount taken from the Council tax at such a difficult time. However, the Council decided to do so because it felt it was the only way to sustain services while also delivering significant improvements for the people of Llangattock. If you want more information about the budget, please visit our website at [www.llangattockcc.gov.wales](http://www.llangattockcc.gov.wales).



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