

Retention of Parish Sweeper after loss of B&NES Grant.

The Parish Council employs a Parish Sweeper to keep East Harptree clean and tidy. The sweeper is employed for 32 hours per month at current minimum wage and is currently funded by monies received from B&NES. In 2018/19 the grant was £3649.00 but B&NES have now advised that this grant will cease at the end of March 2019.

The Parish Council has discussed this matter and reviewed the alternatives offered by B&NES which are the occasional visit from the mechanical sweeper and the emptying of litter bins. Councillors do not think this is acceptable and therefore propose the retention of the sweeper funded from the Parish Precept, the money for the parish which forms a small part of your B&NES council tax.

The inclusion of the equivalent of the sweeper grant in the Parish Precept for 2019/20 would result in an increase of more than 30% and, as a result, B&NES have offered to reduce the funding for the sweeper by one third per year with the funding ending in 2021/2. This will mean that the Parish Precept element of your council tax, not the council tax as a whole, will increase by approximately 13% for each of the next three years. In 2018/19 the Parish Council precept was £10,250 or £33.31 annually for a band D property, by 2021/22 that will increase to approximately £48.00. The multiplier table is included below so that you can work out your liability.

Valuation bands	Range of capital values	Multiplier to band D	Parish Precept for 2018/19 For each valuation band
A	Up to and incl. £40,000	6/9th	£21.98
B	£40,001 to £52,000	7/9th	£25.91
C	£52,001 to £68,000	8/9th	£29.61
D	£68,001 to £88,000	1x	£33.31
E	£88,001 to £120,000	11/9th	£40.71
F	£120,001 to £160,000	13/9th	£48.11
G	£160,001 to £320,000	15/9th	£55.52
H	More than £320,000	2x	£66.62

The Parish Council was disappointed by B&NES decision to remove the sweeper grant but feels residents will support the retention of the sweeper to keep the village clean and tidy now and in the future.