

Oakwood Centre, Headley Road,
Woodley, RG5 4JZ
www.woodley.gov.uk
admin@woodley.gov.uk
0118 9690356

 @WoodleyCouncil
 @WoodleyCouncil

Precept Leaflet 2023-24



Dear Resident,

The past year has been difficult for many Woodley residents. We entered 2022 emerging from a very dark period with things slowly returning to some form of normality.

In 2021, we had huge uncertainty around the Town Councils finances, with all of our income generating facilities like Woodford Park Leisure Centre and the Oakwood Centre being closed for a period of time. In 2023, with all facilities fully open, usage is steadily growing and we are working hard to get these income streams back to pre-pandemic levels.

All councils need to have appropriate reserves to cover unexpected financial demands which may occur during the year, in addition to the planned expenditure. The Council is currently in a good financial position with a combined general reserve and earmarked reserves (for specific projects) of over £1m.

This has enabled the Council to reduce its precept by around 2.8% for 2023/24.

We have also increased our grants to charities by 10.7% and are providing additional funding to the Town Centre Management Partnership, to cover unexpected financial pressures in the coming year.

2023 is an election year for Town Councillors, which occurs every four years. This means a number of existing councillors will not be continuing after the May election. We would like to thank them all for their contribution over the last four years and we look forward to welcoming new Councillors onto the Council.

Woodley Town Council

Woodley Town Council Budget Estimates 2023/24

Budget Estimates 2022/23				Budget Estimates 2023/24		
Income	Expenditure	Net Exp		Income	Expenditure	Net Exp
258389	1054940	796551	Strategy and Resources	294330	1144730	850400
480516	676481	195965	Leisure Services	485236	761651	276415
	34800	34800	Planning & Community Services		38525	38525
25649	166366	140717	Community Infrastructure Levy			
200000	200000		Section 106 Developers Funds			
51700		-51700	Interest income	80000		-80000
	623996	623996	Capital and Projects		225977	225977
1016254	2756583	1740329	Total Revenue Inc/Exp	859566	2170883	1311317

Budget Summary 2023/24	
Estimated opening balance 1 April 2022	645779
Precept	1195649
Less: Net Expenditure Budget 2022/23	1311317
Budgeted balance as at 31 March 2023	530111
Reserves allocated to fund expenditure	87515

Our Achievements

In 2022, we delivered a number of projects including:

- Retaining Green Flag Status for Woodford Park for the 5th year running
- Installing an exciting, inclusive, destination play area in Woodford Park
- Replacing the flat roofing and building wiring at Woodford Park Leisure Centre
- Installing new pathways at Malone Park
- Replacing the planters in the Garden of Remembrance
- Installing a new irrigation system at the Bowls Club
- Upgrading the fire alarm systems across the Councils buildings
- Celebrated The Queen's Platinum Jubilee with various events
- Mourned the death of Queen Elizabeth II
- The Town Mayor read the Proclamation of King Charles III
- The Town Mayor hosted their first charity event
- Planted a memorial tree for the Loddon Viaduct Disaster with Early Town Council

Our Services

Venues

We provide meeting spaces for businesses, community groups, sports and wellbeing, education and training, social functions and entertainment at the Oakwood Centre, Woodford Park Leisure Centre, Coronation Hall and Chapel Hall. Discounted rates for hall and room hire are available for Woodley residents. The Oakwood Centre is also home to the Alan Cornish Theatre.



Allotments

We lease the allotment site on Reading Road from Reading Borough Council, providing 365 allotment plots for residents and local charities, as well as a number of managed beehives. Demand for plots has increased in recent years, and we currently have a waiting list of prospective tenants. We work with the Woodley Allotment Tenants Association to manage the site.

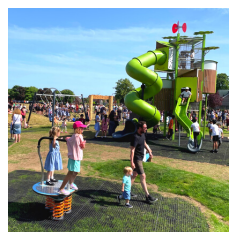


Representation

The Town Council speaks for Woodley on many matters and in response to consultations – national and local, that affect our community. Our Planning and Community Committee also lets residents know about planning applications near them and we pass comments from these meetings to Wokingham Borough Council, where the decisions on planning matters are made. All Woodley residents are welcome to attend Council meetings and have an opportunity to ask questions at the Town Forum, held before each meeting of Full Council. The schedule of Council meetings is published on our website. Our Town Electors meeting has a new format to make it more informative and engaging for residents.

Grants

We allocate funds each year to make annual, community group and individual grants. Guidelines and application forms are available on our website.



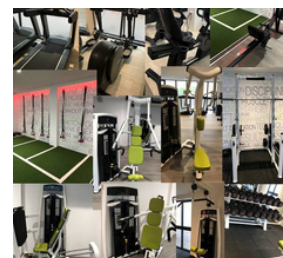
Open spaces

28 acres of parkland at Woodford Park, play areas at Malone Park, the Memorial Ground and Wheble Park, as well as open spaces at Loddon Mead and Bulmershe Park. We can provide memorial plaques in the Garden of Remembrance and memorial seating and memorial trees in our open spaces.



Sports & recreation

Woodford Park Leisure Centre is home to the Gym on The Park, 3G artificial grass pitch, grass pitches for football, and other sports, artificial cricket wicket, badminton courts, tennis court, bowling green, sports and wellbeing courses, holiday camps and rooms for hire.



Awards

We renamed Citizens' Awards to Community Heroes Awards, and introduced six categories:

Neighbour of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Voluntary Group of the Year, Climate Champion of the Year, Young Person of the Year & Mayor's Outstanding Contribution Award. The awards are for individuals and organisations whose good works benefit an individual or organisation in Woodley. They can be good neighbours, people or organisations who carry out voluntary work, or those who care for people in our community.

Nominations will open again towards the end of this year, with a ceremony event at the beginning of 2024. Information is available on our website.





Woodley Town Council
 www.woodley.gov.uk
 [@WoodleyCouncil](https://twitter.com/WoodleyCouncil)
 [@WoodleyCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WoodleyCouncil)
 [Woodley Town Council](https://www.youtube.com/WoodleyTownCouncil)



Oakwood Centre
 www.theoakwoodcentre.com
 [@OakwoodCentreUK](https://www.facebook.com/OakwoodCentreUK)



Woodford Park Leisure Centre
 www.woodley.gov.uk
 [@WoodfordParkLC](https://www.facebook.com/WoodfordParkLC)



In 2023-24 we plan to:

- Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III
- Award Grants to First Days Children's Charity, Readibus, Wokingham Volunteer Centre, Citizens Advice, Keep Mobile, Link Visiting Scheme, and ARC
- Replace fencing in Woodford Park
- Retain Green Flag Status for Woodford Park
- Upgrade the hireable facilities at the Oakwood Centre
- Continue to work towards being a carbon-neutral Council by 2030

**CORONATION PICNIC IN THE PARK**
Woodford Park Memorial Ground
Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III
Bring your family, friends, picnic and join us for a FREE afternoon of fun!
Sunday 7th May 2-5pm
FREE EVENT
Live Band
Circus Skills
Entertainers
Free Ice Creams
Part of the Green Projects
Coronation Big Lunch
* All free to citizens residents. Free entry for all.
www.woodley.gov.uk 0135 540000 www.facebook.com/WoodleyCouncil