



Cllr Sarah Nelmes

Leader of the Council

01923 776611

sarah.nelmes@threerivers.gov.uk

Dear resident,

With this letter you will be receiving your council tax bill. Just a small percentage comes to Three Rivers District Council with more than 75% going to Hertfordshire County Council.

Every year we carefully look at our budget, especially with ever increasing costs. Through careful management we have brought in a budget which means **no cuts in services**, but a small council tax increase to ensure we keep delivering quality local services. The increase this year is on average less than 11p a week. The actual element of council tax you pay for Three Rivers depends on whether you live in an area with a parish council, but is only between 8% and 11% of your total council tax bill.

Despite the ongoing challenges of inflation and the cost of living, I am pleased to say that our commitment to sound management and good value for money means that we can keep on **providing reliable, first-rate services** when you need and expect them, and we have managed to balance our budget with **no service cuts**.

From collecting bins, maintaining parks, play areas, car parks and open spaces to determining planning and licensing applications and making strategic decisions for the future of our district – I am extremely proud of this council and its employees. Added to this is our ongoing commitment to look after our natural environment – and I am delighted that Three Rivers is **consistently one of the highest performing household waste recyclers in England (61.5% for the latest recorded year)**. This has been achieved thanks to the dedication of the council and you, our residents. Recycling and composting are so vital to keep resources in use for longer, as we work to protect our planet.

In 2023/24, we secured £2.5m in grant money to help address the issues caused by climate change and to reach our goal to be a net-zero council and district. This includes a range of innovative programmes to help homes and buildings across the district to become more energy efficient and save residents money. And this year we have set aside a new project fund of £300,000 over three years as we strive to meet that goal.

We have continued to support the most vulnerable members of our communities by, for example, increasing the services provided through our Healthy Hubs scheme, offering support and advice on mental and physical health directly to those who require it and free child swimming for those most in need.

This last year has also seen us take the bold step of rejecting the government's proposed housing target for Three Rivers of 11,466 dwellings and consulting you on a much lower figure of 4,852 over the next 18 years. Of those who responded, early analysis suggests around 90% supported our approach – thank you. If our new Local Plan is agreed by the government, it will protect 98% of our green belt, whilst still providing new affordable homes.

I know that for some people any extra council tax is hard, but for Three Rivers it's a small increase – far below inflation – and as a council we continue to exempt those who are worst off in society from paying council tax.

Best wishes,

Sarah Nelmes

Councillor Sarah Nelmes

Leader of Three Rivers District Council

You can find out more
about what this council
does for you by scanning
this QR code:



Don't forget – local elections will take place on 2 May.
For more information on voter ID requirements, postal voting and more, please visit:
threerivers.gov.uk/services/elections-and-democracy/local-elections