

Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst  
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*Dear resident,*

With this letter you will be receiving your council tax bill. The money you pay in council tax helps fund the vital services that Three Rivers District Council provides. Your council tax also funds the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the largest proportion of your bill goes to Hertfordshire County Council, which provides services including adult social care, highways maintenance, fire and rescue and children's services.

At the district council we strive every year to keep our share of the council tax as low as we possibly can, whilst providing you with the first-class services you expect. This is always a challenge, especially in the light of the ever-increasing costs and pressures which we all face.

I am pleased that despite these pressures and reductions in government funding we have been able to maintain the vital services we provide to our residents from collecting bins, maintaining parks and open spaces, play areas and car parks to determining planning and licensing applications and making strategic decisions for the future.

As leader, I am immensely proud of what this council has achieved, and the employees that make it all possible. Many of the projects we lead and are involved with require strong community spirit and collaborative partnership working.

Over the last year, I have been delighted that the council has been able to fund some major projects that have further enhanced our beautiful district. We have improved play areas across Three Rivers, upgraded our parks and open spaces and soon you will see a brand-new bridge opening at Rickmansworth Aquadrome that will improve access to one of the jewels of the district.

One of the great challenges facing Three Rivers and other councils across the country is balancing the protection of our green and open spaces with the need to provide more housing. In light of the new government's changing policies, we have not yet submitted our new Local Plan whilst we are gathering the required evidence to protect more of our green belt. We want to ensure the right amount of housing is built in the right areas for future generations. It is important to get this right – and so it will take careful planning and time before we submit our proposal to the government.

I know that any increase in council tax is never welcome, but for Three Rivers on average it's less than 12p a week (Band D) and I am delighted that we remain one of the few councils that continue to provide full council tax support to our lowest income households.

*Best wishes,*

*Stephen Giles-Medhurst*

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst  
Leader of Three Rivers District Council

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

