

Cllr Stephen Giles-Medhurst
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Dear resident,

With this letter you will be receiving your council tax bill. This bill outlines the funds that go to Hertfordshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and – depending on where you live – your local parish council too. Only around 10% of your total bill goes towards funding Three Rivers District Council. Understandably, no increase in council tax is ever welcome, but we have worked hard to keep the increase as low as possible, and for Three Rivers on average it's just 12p per week (Band D).

This is a time of significant change in the resources that we receive through business rates and grants from central government as we approach the biggest shake-up in local government finance for many years. Despite this, as a council we continue to protect our services, and have kept our council tax increase below the rate of inflation.

Thanks to careful and responsible financial management, we have avoided cuts to any of our services. In fact, we are continuing to respond to residents' requests for improvements. I am also conscious that, with the possibility of a new large unitary authority being created in April 2028, some local priorities could risk being pushed aside. That is why we are acting now to invest in the things that matter most to our communities.

We have added an extra £1 million over the next two years to enhance services across Three Rivers. This additional funding will support a wide range of projects, including a major programme to protect our district's heritage, as well as improvements to our much-loved parks.

We are introducing a new programme dedicated to cultivating, maintaining, and caring for our trees - an investment in both our environment and our future. Alongside this, we will be putting extra funding into completing new projects to improve parking across the district.

We have already carried out Conservation Area Appraisals for historic parts of the district, including Rickmansworth and the Church End area of Sarratt. Over the next two years we are accelerating that work to cover more areas so we can better protect their unique character from future developments that may be harmful.

We have put aside funds for a town improvement project for Rickmansworth, to reinvigorate our district wide litter picking initiative and increase investment in upgrading footways and alleyways in Three Rivers. Meanwhile, we are expanding our e-bikes hiring scheme to reach new areas of the district and moving forward with our exciting project to enhance and restore the beautiful Rickmansworth Aquadrome. And we are working to ensure we retain our position as one of the top recycling authorities in the country - all whilst continuing to invest in the daily services you expect from your district council.

Best wishes,

Stephen Giles-Medhurst

Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst OBE
Leader of Three Rivers District Council

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about council tax**



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