

Appendix 5 - 2021/22 Budget Survey Results

- 1. Having considered all of the services provided by the Town Council, do you feel that the Town Council Tax of £166.72 per year represents value for money?**

Yes	14	58%
No	10	42%

- 2. All things considered, are you in support of the Council's proposed 2021/22 Revenue and Capital Budget and the freeze in the Town Council Tax?**

Yes	23	96%
No	1	4%

- 3. Do you have any specific comments to make on the 2021/22 budget proposals and what, if any, changes would you like to see in the final budget?**

1. Find savings.
2. Scrap GATC. Roll on the local elections to rid the town of the Labour Party.
3. Investment in the golf course.
4. Why should the majority of people subsidise the minority who play golf?
5. I would like to see a major overhaul in the management and events at the Oak Leaf as I feel it could be a lot more cost effective if run differently.
6. I think considering DCC offered no relief at all in 2020 for people and still redundant you should be decreasing council tax. Tax payers paid more in 2020 for less services.
7. Selling redundant machinery and equipment by sealed bids is not getting the best price. These items should have been professionally auctioned in machinery auctions to achieve best value for money for the tax payer.
We also have too many councillors, the council could still easily operate on 2/3rds of the current councillors. This would give further significant savings.
8. We pay that price per month.. And so far I don't feel like its money worth spent.
Especially with covid going on. All the councillors want to do is line their pockets with our hard earned cash. £50k pay and annual increases? For what? Doing sod all.
None of them are worth the wages they are on. That's why they don't have any budget
9. Any consideration to improve facilities at Oak leaf. Town is in desperate need of 3g pitches for kids to play football. Grass pitches around the town are unplayable for large periods of the year.

- 4. Are you in favour of passing back the savings made by the Council this year as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic via a COVID-19 Recovery Reserve?**

Yes	23	96%
No	1	4%

5. Do you have any specific ideas for how you would like to see the COVID-19 Recovery Reserve allocated and invested?

1. Bring back the old Aycliffe show to the complex with all the big entertainers and rides. Hiring in a specific events company can make this the biggest and best yet summer 2021!
2. Aycliffe Walk needs improving - footpaths need clearing and resetting, maps updating, benches, bins, lights in some areas, repairs to the art sculptures or new ones.
3. More trees and wildflowers would help the environment, particularly in the western area.
4. It should be used to reduce peoples council tax this year, since you essentially made a profit and people are struggling to pay bills.
5. Cycle only routes.
6. Send it on the old people - they've had it tougher than everyone this year.
7. Here's an idea, with all these empty shops in the town centre, why not buy them and lease them out to people who want to make their own business?.
8. I think making sure people have access to food will be a priority for the coming year.
9. Provision of 3G/4G pitches for the local football clubs and the wider community to be able to use. The lack of them in Aycliffe is becoming a major issue for the teams to get games played in the winter and most have to go off the town to pay other councils for training and games over the winter period. Money that could come straight back into the town if we have the pitches to hire.
10. 3g pitch investment for local football clubs to share NAJFC and NAYFC. Revenue would be recoverable at £30 per hour. Payback would be achieved on 2 x 11 a side pitches in 3 to 4 years.
11. I agree with tree planting and wildlife meadows. Improvements to Great Aycliffe Way , such as drainage and tarmac in places.

6. Which Council services are most important to you i.e. where budget cuts should not be made and where any future investment should be targeted?

Service Area	Votes
Environment and Open Space	14
Litter and Dog Bins	14
Santa Tours	13
Parks and Play Areas	13
Park Patrol Service	11
Fireworks Display	11
Sports Complex	10
Christmas Lights	10
Large Community Events	9
Fun in the Parks	9
Public Seating	7
Senior Citizens' Trips	6
St Oswald's Pre Schools	6
Flower Beds	6
Cemeteries	5
Golf Complex	4
Bus Shelters	4
Allotments	4
Moore Lane Environment Centre	4
Football Pitches	3
Financial Management	1
Corporate Management and Admin	1
Councillors	1
Civic Events and the Office of Mayor	1

7. Which Council services are least important to you i.e. where budget cuts, if they are required in the future should be targeted?

Service Area	Votes
Civic Events and the Office of Mayor	13
Councillors	12
Golf Complex	11
Corporate Management and Admin	9
Allotments	8
Sports Complex	6
Moore Lane Environment Centre	5
Financial Management	5
Large Community Events	5
St Oswald's Pre Schools	4
Fun in the Parks	3
Flower Beds	3
Fireworks Display	3
Bus Shelters	3
Senior Citizens' Trips	3
Football Pitches	3
Christmas Lights	2
Park Patrol Service	2
Santa Tours	1
Cemeteries	1

8. Are there any new services or initiatives in which you would like to see the Town Council make investment in the future, either by raising the Town Council Tax or by reducing spending in existing services?

1. There should be less councillors, could savings be made on combining the town clerk and finance officer posts?
2. Get rid of GATC.
3. Cycle tracks.
4. DCC should be reducing spending in the amount they pay councillors and managers in bonus schemes.
5. I'm all for abolishing the council and let it be run on lines of Chester le Street.
6. Maybe look at how America does Halloween. I'd love to see our town take part in something like what they do.
7. Some provision for disabled or sensory disadvantaged children, in the parks.
8. More allotments.
9. Footpaths around local streets require improvements. 3G and 4G football pitches. Improved drainage of grass pitches.
10. Increase in allotments sites if possible.

9. Do you have any other comments that you wish to make about the Council and the services it provides, or do you have any issues or concerns that you wish to raise?

1. I believe where I live is a good area within DCC and DCC do a good job to a certain level. DCC do however charge far too much for the services they do offer.
2. Get rid of GATC.
3. The fact they are overpaid and force the tax payer to pay more money to cover their costs.
4. The outside lighting where I live is terrible some places are very very dark this is Greenfield estate.
5. On the whole Great Aycliffe is a good place to live. I see Town Council Staff, around the town 7 days a week.
6. The grounds staff spend too much time sitting around. Well overstaffed. Give them targets then get rid of a few and save money that way.
7. We have 7 county councillors, so therefore do we really need as many town councillors? I think 15 is enough, also the public should be allowed to vote for the town mayor.