



# FELIXSTOWE

## TOWN COUNCIL

### Where does your council tax go?

In Felixstowe the (2022/23 Band D Equivalent) Council Tax bill is **£156.42** per month. This amount is split between:

Suffolk County Council: **£116.42** per month (for Education, Adult Social Care and Health, Roads & Transport)

Suffolk Coastal District Council: **£14.27** (for Car Parks, Waste Management, Planning & Licensing, Coastal Protection, Housing & Benefits, Sports & Leisure Centres, Economic Development & Tourism)

Suffolk Police: **£19.81**

Felixstowe Town Council: **£5.91**

However, unlike the other councils, the Town Council does not receive any other central government funding or funding from local business rates.

So, for less than **£1.36 per Band D ratepayer per week being exclusively dedicated to Felixstowe**, the Town Council:

- Provides Allotments across five sites
- Manages Felixstowe Cemetery, subsidised for Felixstowe residents
- Owns Felixstowe Town Hall, which is the home of the Council and from which the Council is able to offer weddings, events, public meetings, host community initiatives (such as SNT meetings), house its office staff and also accommodate the Suffolk County Council registrar, Suffolk Coastal District Council Resort Team and Felixstowe Forward
- Owns and maintains Walton Community Hall which is available to hire by community groups and is the home of 8<sup>th</sup> Felixstowe Scouts as well as providing social housing accommodation on the site under management by Orwell Housing association
- Owns Broadway House which is let to Felixstowe Old Peoples Welfare Association and also provide social housing accommodation on the site under management by Orwell Housing association
- Owns and maintains land at Peewit Hill which is currently being considered for a community nature reserve
- Owns and maintains the War Memorial
- Owns and maintains the Flood Memorial
- Considers every planning application submitted for developments in Felixstowe, making recommendations to the District Council
- Considers many public consultations throughout the year, submitting formal comments and recommendations to other statutory bodies and lobbying on behalf of the town
- Funds the Christmas Lights
- Arranges Remembrance events in conjunction with the Royal British Legion
- Provides a Youth Forum so that schoolchildren can share and get involved in local matters

- Provides the floral bedding alongside the central area of the promenade and at The Triangle
- Runs Felixstowe in Flower
- Owns and maintains the Town's CCTV system
- Provides a number of litter and dog waste bins and benches
- Provides some local play equipment installed at Allenby Park, Gosford Way Park and Cavendish Park
- Produces a quarterly newsletter and an award winning local website
- Supports our twin-town partnerships with Wesel and Salzwedel in Germany
- Makes available grants of up to £25,000 per year to support eligible local organisations
- Provides key annual funding to support a range of local organisations such as:
  - Level Two Youth Project
  - The Landguard Partnership
  - Felixstowe-Harwich-Shotley Ferry
  - Felixstowe Forward
  - Felixstowe Council for Sport and Recreation
  - Citizen's Advice Bureau
  - Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Rescue Service
  - Felixstowe Carnival
  - Felixstowe Ferry Boatyard
  - Art on the Prom
  - Wesel and Salzwedel Twinning Associations
- Recognises the hard work of local people through the Civic Awards
- Appoints representatives to around 20 outside bodies, organisations and partnerships
- ...and regularly considers many other opportunities for the town; for example, leading on the provision of an Ice Rink in the run up to Christmas and approving the installation of a Community Public Access Defibrillator at the Library.

The Town Council achieves all this with less than twelve full-time-equivalent local staff members who are also here to respond as quickly and helpfully as they can to public and other enquiries.

The work of the Town Council is directed by 16 Town Councillors who are all unpaid, Felixstowe-resident volunteers. (Although the Mayor does receive an allowance to cover the cost of representing the Town at 200+ meetings, activities and charity events a year.)

Being local Members, rather than resident elsewhere in the district/county, Town Councillors are solely focused on Felixstowe and are readily contactable to take on case work, raise queries, lobby and call for action on behalf of Felixstowe residents.

Felixstowe Town Council is an award winning and audited authority. Strong governance by its Members coupled with effective management by its Officers and a clear commitment to openness and transparency means that the Town Council is well-placed to deliver ever-higher quality services at the best possible value to its residents.