



Ammanford Town Council Statement

Budget 2024-25

Ammanford Town Council has approved its largest budget ever in plans to restore its finances and invest in its parks. In an Extraordinary General Meeting held on Monday, the Members approved a budget to secure the Council's financial future. The decision brings the Council 'precept', the local element of Council Tax, more in line with similar towns around Carmarthenshire.

This year's budget involved outside help and it became apparent that the Council's finances have not been well managed. After over four years of no or minimal rises in the precept the council budget was unsustainable. The Council's depleted reserves and low precept would not cover future investment that residents expect.

In the meeting, members of ATC expressed their dismay that previous administrations had avoided making difficult decisions to secure the finances and had left it to the current members to make unpopular decisions about raising taxes or making cuts.

In raising the precept by £5.38 a month for a Band D property in the town, the Council budget makes provision for new playground equipment in Ammanford Park, replacement equipment at Riverway Park, and upgraded tennis courts. The Ammanford Big Day Out and Christmas Lights Switch-On will also still go ahead.

With work having already started on the tennis courts in Ammanford Park, contractors are expected to start the installation of the new playground next month. This combined investment in the parks comes to more than £250,000 investment in the town, despite the rising material costs and inflation pressures associated with capital projects such as this.

Since the elections in 2022, volunteer Councillors have been trying to turn Ammanford Town Council around. The priority has been to ensure the legal requirements of producing accounts and audit are undertaken correctly, before signing big contracts or taking on risks.

Ammanford Town Council wish to express their gratitude to the public who have shown patience and understanding while the new Members of the Council have undertaken this work.

This year will see Ammanford Town Council turn a corner and start delivering again for its residents, beginning with the new park and tennis courts paid for by a realistic and affordable budget.