



January 2025

Chairman's Blog



Cllr Helen Jones

Happy New Year to you all. As always, the big piece of work that the Council has been working on this month is the budget for 2025/26. This is something that we consider very carefully to ensure Aldenham Parish Council is delivering its usual excellent service for the best value.

The Finance and General Purpose (F&GP) Committee work on the budget for several months, before taking it to Full Council in January. Our draft budget had been put together when the government's budget was announced in October 2024. As a Parish Council we are subject to the raises in National Insurance, but are excluded from the ability to claim it back like Borough and County councils, meaning we have to bear the full brunt of the changes.

As a result, this year we will be raising the precept by 4.3%, of which National Insurance raises accounts for 1%. For a Band D household this is equivalent to an extra £5.88 a year.

In return, APC can continue to efficiently care for over 165 acres of land, manage over 1500 trees, maintain and improve two parks as well as multiple woods and open spaces across the parish. APC have moreover for many years organised free events for children at Phillimore Recreation Ground, the Winter Fair at the Radlett Centre, the Remembrance Day safety provisions as well as producing a twice-yearly magazine. The Council also provides the winter lights each year, and APC has agreed to provide grants in 2025/26 to The Radlett Centre and Citizens Advice Service so they can both continue to provide support and entertainment for residents.



Communication Board

APC is delighted to have been able to install a new communication board in Phillimore Recreation Ground's children's playground. The board is a composition of images to support communication by touching and pointing. Installing a communication board will not only make the park more accessible for nonverbal users, but will raise awareness of autism and get people who use the park talking about those children who communicate in other ways.

Coffee Morning for SEND parents/carers

Come and join us for a chat!

A safe space for families to be able to come together, share their experiences and concerns, and have the chance to seek support from professionals. If you would like to join us on **Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 11am** in the Douglas Hicks Room, 1st Floor, The Radlett Centre, WD7 8HL, please call 01923 856433 or email admincomms@aldenham-pc.gov.uk

Group discussion on everyday challenges

Informal help and support from local organisations

Which services can I have access to?

Want to speak to other parents of children with SEND?

