

# WHERE DID ALL OUR MONEY GO?

## INTRODUCTION

I have now completed my audit of the council's books and worked with John to finalise the Audit Commission paperwork. The formal accounts are attached, which I am happy to sign off. I would particularly draw your attention to the third schedule which sets out where the major changes have taken place over the year.

## OVERVIEW

- The council had a surplus for the year of £8,414. This compares with deficits of £7,386 and £30,395 in 2009/10 and 2008/09 respectively.
- In 2009/10 the grant for the MUGA was received (£50,000) but was offset by the construction costs (£61,974). In the year just finished there were no major projects at this level although a number of remedial issues were addressed and are listed below.
- This was the first year that the new accounting software was used. It has facilitated the production of monthly accounts and reconciliations in a more timely and productive fashion.
- The surplus has helped restore the council's cash reserves, but they are still some way short of the target, which is approximately the equivalent of one year's precept.

## INCOME

- Excluding the MUGA grant, revenues were up by just over £10,000.
- The precept was increased by £4,000 which gave the council some headroom to meet its budget and start to restore its bank balance.
- Revenues from hiring out Longburrow were up by £4,055. Much of this increase came from Barnados, who used the hall as its Sure Start centre whilst the Scout headquarters was being built. Needless to say, this revenue will be lost in 2011/12.
- Without wishing to dwell too long on the subject, cemetery income was up 88%, showing an increase of £1,665.

## EXPENDITURE

- Stripping out last year's MUGA costs, expenditure rose by £6,865 (+7%).
- Major 'one off' costs incurred were:
  - Revaluation of leases (£3,750)
  - Kings' Row Footpath (£3,950)
  - Longburrow Hall - Renew fire doors and windows (£3,816)
  - Studley Green Bus Shelter lighting (£1,330)
  - Longburrow Hall - New disabled ramp (£680)
- Significant savings were made on the grass cutting contract (£6,400) and in the cost of running the village website (£1,500).
- John has schedules detailing all income and expenditure if further information is required.

## 2011/2012

- The council has increased the precept by £1,000 and has budgeted to break even at the year end. Control will have to be maintained on costs, taking due cognisance of the likely diminution in hall revenues and the need to continue to build up reserves.