

Precept for 2026-2027

Following a detailed review of the budget for April 2026 – March 2027, Hockley Heath Parish Council has made the difficult decision to increase the precept by 20% at its recent meeting. For a Band D property, this will be £96.98 for the year; an increase of £15.77 per year compared with 2025/2026.

The Council noted that the ongoing shortfall between income and expenditure has been met in recent years by drawing on the general reserve. Due to rising costs, particularly for professional planning advice required in response to the increasing number of planning applications affecting the village, and to ensure the Council can robustly represent residents' interests in the face of multiple forthcoming planning proposals and potential appeals, a budget allocation for professional fees has been included for 2026/2027.

The precept funds the maintenance and running costs of the recreation ground, play areas, car park, and the Pavilion hall. It also covers staff and contractor costs, as well as community activities such as the upkeep of the War Memorial and the annual Christmas lights.

In addition, the precept supports one-off improvement projects, including the installation of village gateway fencing and the planned new equipment for older children and adults at the Recreation Ground, which the Council aims to progress during 2026/2027. The Council's accounts are reviewed monthly at Parish Council

meetings, which residents are welcome to attend. Annual audit information is also published on the Parish Council website.

Repair Café – The Pavilion hall

The Parish Council are seeking local volunteers who have an interest in, and knowledge of, repairing and servicing small electrical items, garden tools, minor clothes repairs and bicycle adjustments, to support the community Repair Café. Also required are volunteers to administer the forms and book people in on arrival at the Repair Café.

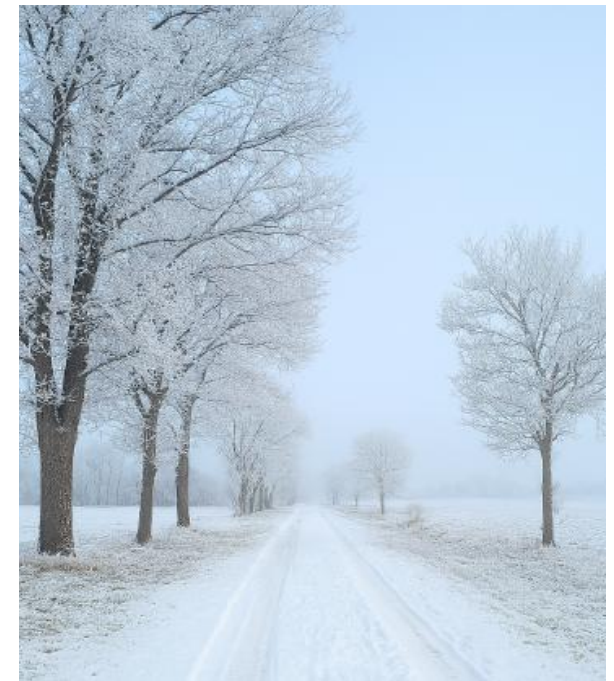
For further information and/or to express an interest in volunteering, please contact the Parish Clerk. The next Repair Café will be held in April (the date will be added to the Parish Council's website and advertised on our Facebook page as soon as it has been confirmed).

Arden Free Tree Scheme

This year's application for free trees has been successful. The Parish Council opted for hedge planting, and the new hedge has now been planted adjacent to the fencing installed by HHFC, helping to soften its visual impact.

Tudor Grange Primary Academy

Your local school needs you! Tudor Grange Primary Academy Hockley Heath is looking to recruit new school governors. No experience in education is needed, and you could make a real difference to your school community. If you are interested and would like to find out more, please contact Jo Ladbrook
jladbrook@hockleyheath.tgacademy.org.uk



Hockley Heath Parish Council Newsletter – Winter 2026

**A digital version of this Newsletter is
available on our Facebook page and the
Parish Council's website:**

www.hockleyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/hockleyheathpc

This edition includes:

- Hockley Heath Neighbourhood Plan
 - Parish Council Drop in Café
 - Gardening Club update

If you have any questions, contact the Parish Clerk on 07591 954002 or email:
clerk@hockleyheathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Christmas Lights Donation

The Christmas lights are funded by the Parish Council and the cost for the 2025 display was £3,516. The Parish Council is grateful to Hockley Heath Social Club for their generous donations made in previous years and to the local business who has also donated generously towards the light fixtures this year, your donations are very gratefully received.

Drop in Café – The Pavilion hall

The drop-in café volunteers are always delighted to welcome residents for a chat and a cuppa. If you're interested in finding out how rewarding it is to help run the café, feel free to pop in and speak to the team.

For the remainder of the winter, the café will stay open until 1.00pm, offering free soup and a bread roll alongside the usual tea, coffee and biscuits. The extended hours will run every other Tuesday from 10.00am to 1.00pm until Easter. Upcoming dates are: **27 January ~ 10 February ~ 24 February ~ 10 March ~ 24 March**

From **7 April 2026**, the café will return to its regular opening hours of 10.00am to 12.00 noon, with tea, coffee, toasted tea cakes and biscuits available. Everyone welcome — do come along.

Hockley Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Resident surveys were delivered in early December, with completed forms collected a couple of weeks later by volunteers and via drop-off points at the Co-op and One Stop.

The Parish Council would like to express its sincere thanks to all HH Action Group members, volunteers, and supporters for their hard work in delivering and collecting surveys, and to the local businesses who kindly hosted drop-off points.

All completed surveys were submitted to Stratford-on-Avon District Council shortly after Christmas. Initial findings indicate that **363 household responses** and **523 individual responses** were received. Thank you to every resident who took the time to participate. Your feedback will directly shape the policies and priorities within the Neighbourhood Plan. Business surveys will be issued in the coming weeks.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is open to all residents. If you would like to get involved or contribute to the development of the Plan, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Gardening Club

In these dark days of winter, it is good to see some signs of spring. If you look carefully around the village, you should see some shoots of bulbs showing through. Members of the Gardening Club have been adding bulbs each year to the planters and planting areas to give some early colour for everyone to enjoy. The primulas and winter pansies should soon start flowering again after being dormant for a while.

You may have noticed a rather different display last year in the planter outside the dentist. When the Post box was removed the WI had nowhere to put their crocheted post box topper, so they have

adopted the planter where they will display topical scenes and flowers. We look forward to seeing the changing scenes over the coming year. If you would like to become involved or just find out more about Hockley Heath Gardening Club please email hhgardenclub@gmail.com

HH Action Group

Hockley Heath Action Group (HHAG) has been busy taking action for our village. They successfully challenged the Rosconn planning application on Stratford Road, making sure residents' voices were heard. To strengthen community connection, they've expanded their WhatsApp network with a new Village Chat, creating more space for everyday communication, ideas and neighbourly support. They've also launched a dedicated Traffic Group to help residents quickly flag and respond to traffic issues, keeping safety and awareness front and centre across Hockley Heath.

Bleed Control Kit at the Recreation Ground

The Parish Council thanks 1st Hockley Heath Scouts for donating a bleed control kit, originally provided by the Daniel Baird Foundation. The kit will be stored with the defibrillator in the cabinet on the external wall of the Pavilion Hall for emergency use.

