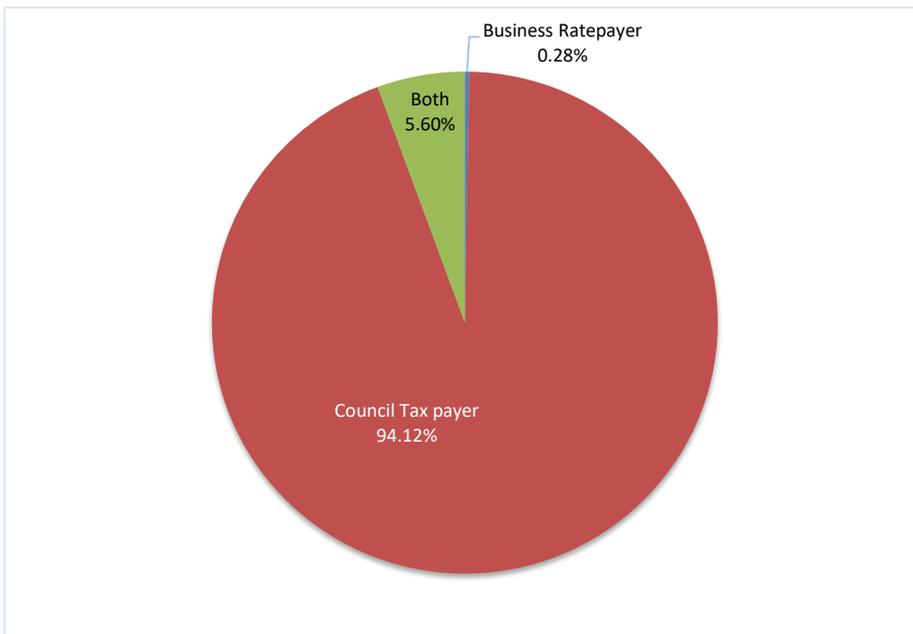


West Oxfordshire District Council Budget consultation 2022/23

Q1 Business Rate payers and Council Tax payers in West Oxfordshire are being asked for their views on the District Council's budget setting strategy.

Are you are a ...

Answered 357 Skipped 0

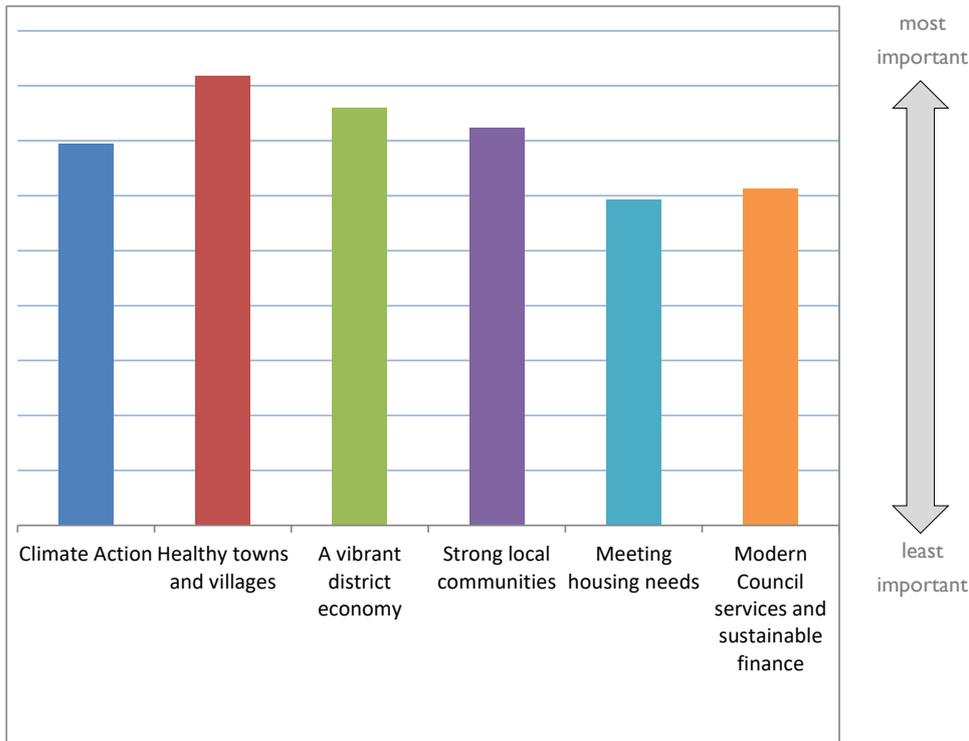


Although we had 357 responses to our survey, 46 people did not go beyond the first question. To prevent skewing the results, the remainder of the survey has been analysed out of a possible total of 311.

West Oxfordshire District Council Budget consultation 2022/23

Q2 Council priorities: The Council has set the following priorities in its Council plan. Please rank them in order of importance.

Answered 311 Skipped 0

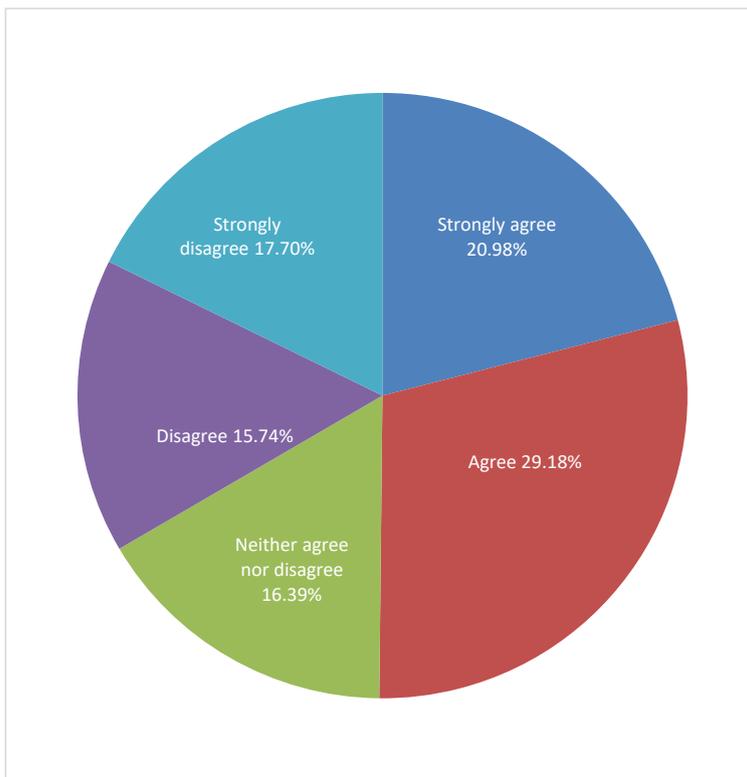


Please rank the priorities in order of importance from 1 to 6, with 1 being the most important.

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE RANKING
Climate action: Protecting and enhancing the environment by taking action locally on climate change and biodiversity	3.5
Healthy towns and villages: Facilitating healthy lifestyles and better wellbeing for everyone	2.9
A vibrant district economy: Securing future economic success by supporting existing local businesses and attracting new businesses	3.2
Strong local communities: Supporting and building prosperous and inclusive local communities	3.4
Meeting the housing needs of our changing population: Securing the provision of market and affordable housing of a high quality	4.0
Modern Council services and sustainable finance: Delivering excellent modern services whilst ensuring the financial sustainability of the Council.	3.9

Q3 Council tax: The Council is considering raising more money to fund services by increasing the total collected across all Council Tax bands. This increase would be 40p per month or approximately 5% on band D. West Oxfordshire still has one of the lowest Council Tax charges in the country. Do you think this increase is appropriate to help us maintain the services we currently deliver and also the other proposals in our plan?

Answered 305 Skipped 6

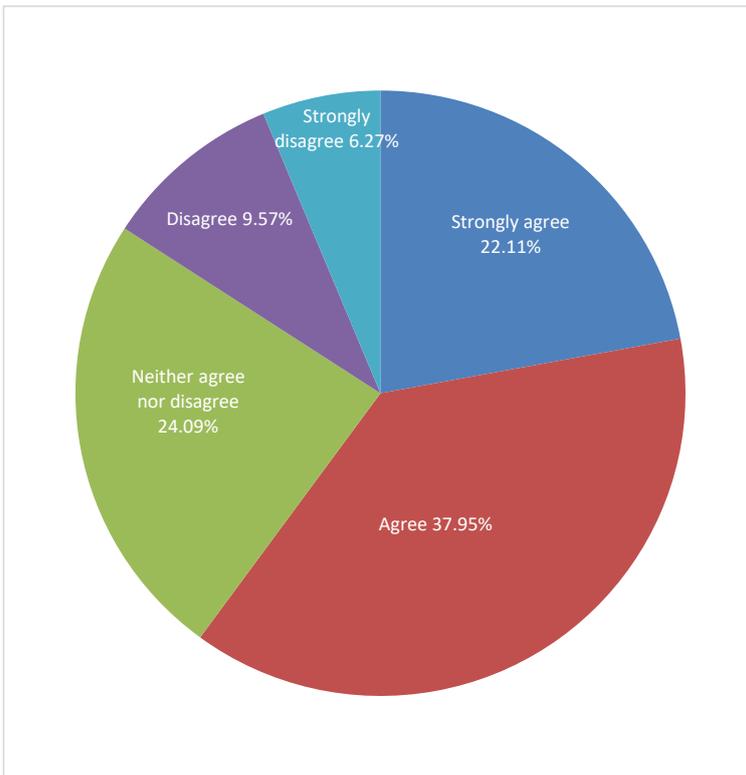


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	20.98%	64
Agree	29.18%	89
Neither agree nor disagree	16.39%	50
Disagree	15.74%	48
Strongly disagree	17.70%	54
TOTAL		305

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Q4 Voluntary Bodies: The Council is not proposing any changes to the budget allocation of £200K of grants to the voluntary sector in 2022/23. The grants help local communities to deliver local projects and access funding they would otherwise struggle to raise.

Answered 303 Skipped 8

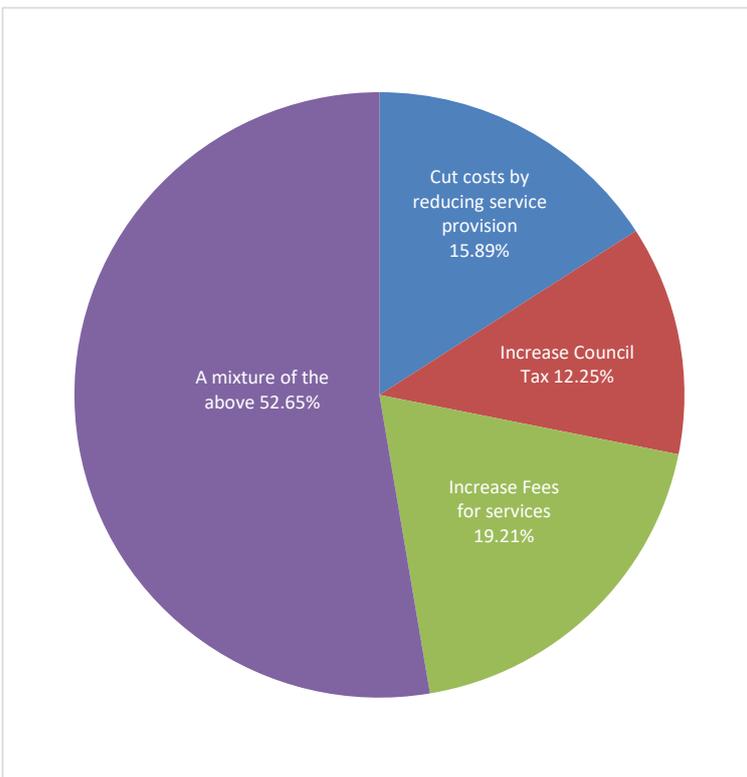


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Strongly agree	22.11%	67
Agree	37.95%	115
Neither agree nor disagree	24.09%	73
Disagree	9.57%	29
Strongly disagree	6.27%	19
TOTAL		303

West Oxfordshire District Council Budget consultation 2022/23

Q5 Future funding: The Government funding for local councils has been steadily decreasing for the past decade. Looking to the future, all Councils are anticipating more changes to Government funding which are likely to leave us with less money to deliver local services. If this were to happen, should West Oxfordshire District Council:

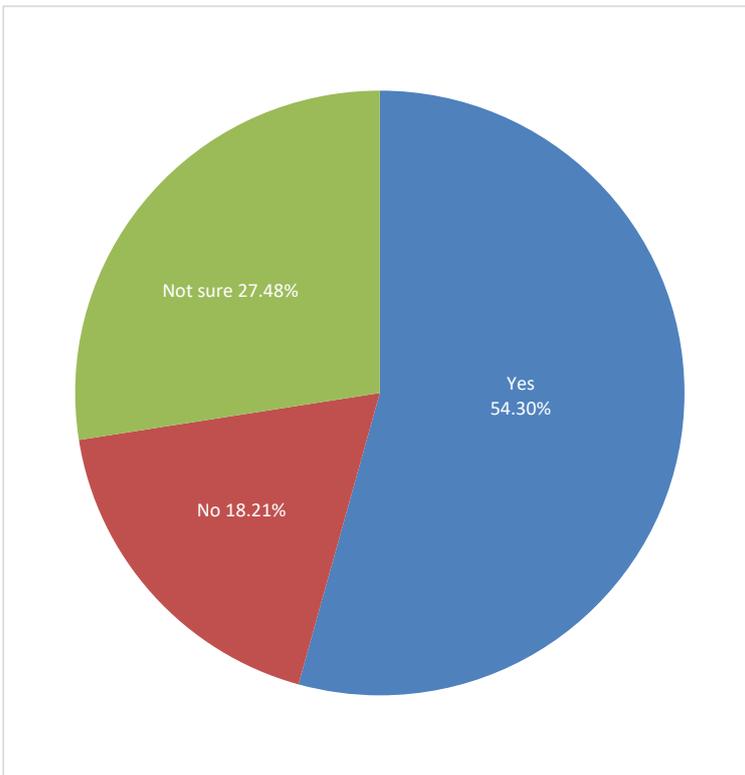
Answered 302 Skipped 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Cut costs by reducing service	15.89%	48
Increase Council Tax	12.25%	37
Increase Fees for services	19.21%	58
A mixture of the above	52.65%	159
TOTAL		302

Q6 Leisure Centres: As part of our work to tackle the climate emergency, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint, including at the council owned leisure centres across the district. Would you support a change in service practice to meet industry guidelines to reduce energy consumption?

Answered 302 Skipped 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.30%	164
No	18.21%	55
Not sure	27.48%	83
TOTAL		302

West Oxfordshire District Council Budget consultation 2022/23

Are there any other comments you would like to make on our priorities or any other aspect of the Council's spending and service delivery?

RESPONSES

- 1 I feel the council offers poor value for money in regards to the services available to partake in and lack of policing.
- 2 The priorities of west Oxfordshire district council are all wrong - wasting money on stupid cycle lanes on corn street, the closing of Witney high street, the council should focus on care services for the elderly, council housing for tenants in genuine need and also sorting the hideous roads out in the area instead of wasting money on things that arent needed.
- 3 If taxes are to be raised, I'd want to make sure that they go towards frontline services rather than bureaucratic head count
- 4 allow people who want to recycle more to have a larger bin, I would be happy to pay a small amount for this. The rule that there must be 6 people in the household is ridiculous - you are supposed to be promoting recycling? Spend less money on employing people to blow leaves around. Make people in affordable housing do their own gardening. Fix the potholes.
- 5 A lot of these issues are related. Housing continues to be increased, but: Are the houses well enough insulated to be heating fuel efficient? Other than gas what are the legally permitted and viable energy sources? What infrastructure is in existence or being developed to ensure Thames Water does not pollute local rivers with sewage. Are the houses for people living locally or are they holiday and weekend homes? Are the houses and parking facilities, including garages, viable for families? Can delivery vehicles and refuse vehicles negotiate the housing estate streets? Are the school and medical facilities adequate for the increased population? Should residents choose to use bicycles are there adequate safe bicycle tracks? Increased runoff will increase the risk of flooding. What measures are being developed to stop the Windrush and Evenlode and tributaries from flooding? This includes increasing the flow capacity under the Witney Bridge. A link road from Hailey Road/West End to Woodford Way will only increase congestion and pollution, adding to "climate change". Will a link road further up the valley be built to provide better access to the A40?
- 6 Any cuts need to be balanced by need - for example where bus services have been cut to villages, school buses cannot also be cut.
- 7 Transport for secondary school children must be addressed.
- 8 The communities team at the council need to consider reviewing where they spend their money, they give a ridiculously large amount each year to the local CAB and appear to also allow them to direct community needs!!! There should be more parity across community sectors. Our community is made up of a cross section of different people with different needs, each of which are entitled to support from the council!!
- 9 I would like to see more independence from elected councillors to vote for proposals presented in the interests of West Oxfordshire rather than blindly following the Conservative Party line.
- 10 Community should be at the heart of the council's decisions. But this must be reflected across the whole of the community, including those with disabilities etc, not just the general public.

West Oxfordshire District Council Budget consultation 2022/23

RESPONSES

- 11 Please stop subsidising well-off motorists through free parking. It is unconscionable that you subsidise free parking but not the overpriced, infrequent buses that poorer people rely on to get to work. There is a climate emergency - the time for subsidising motoring has long passed.
- 12 School bus services from Middle Barton to Chipping Norton School should be free. Regardless of "as the crow" flies measurements and free schools with limited capacity (and possibly quality) this is our local secondary school and our community for secondary school students revolves around this, not to mention the village primary school working with all the other schools in the CNS catchment area
- 13 More effort should be given to supporting local bus services e.g. by encouraging the creation of day tickets that can be used across a range of bus operators, as is possible in Oxford. Get on with constructing a second river crossing to reduce traffic congestion & associated pollution
- 14 Parking for motorbikes in Chipping Norton and signs to say where it is - not the current bad joke which makes me shop in Banbury.
- 15 Healthier towns and villages need to have fees for parking to increase the use of buses, walking, better bike sheds. To improve health gyms need to be cheaper more accessible with better bike sheds and on bus routes. Need running and walking routes and less driving in towns and villages. Buses don't need to drive through all of Eynsham and other villages. We need safer biking routes not along the a40. It is too easy to drive and park in west ox. Need to learn more from the city.
- 16 Improved efficiency would give you the ability to deliver better services for less money, The services are inefficient poorly managed and bad value for money The planning department for example is ludicrously slow, inefficient, and generally not fit for purpose, this causes a knock on effect of time wasting and applicants having to spend money on unnecessary fees and surveys whilst having to wait for months for poorly considered responses which demand more time and money to sort out
- 17 Road quality improvement unless potholes are part of a plan to decrease the carbon footprint
- 18 I feel £200,000 for the voluntary sector is extremely low in comparison to neighbouring districts considering the amount of work local charities are doing more should be causing them at this time
- 19 what Witney could do with is Police in the area, there are never any about so this is why violence and crime is so high. There is no respect for the elders or the services. i dont agree with rises in council tax, we pay enough and we only get our bins emptied and free parking, i dont see anything else this council give us. You need to let the shop premises be open, stop charging such high ratee, if you keep uping the prices the town will have no shops and everyone will travel out of town, through covid the only good thing you have done is shut off the town, this has now been made permanent, yet since this has happened, the street is still full of cars because so many small minded people can not be bothered to walk, so now park in the street
- 20 WODC should join other councils in protesting if there are further cuts to funding from the national level. I don't know how this can be done, but the Council should do everything it can to halt the closure of so many local shops in Witney - we do NOT need any more coffee shops, we DO need shops that cater for people on a low budget

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RESPONSES

- 21 The priorities are too vague to prioritise meaningfully. What does "a vibrant local economy" mean? What does "strong communities" mean? You would gather more useful comments if you developed a range of alternative budget options, detailing the expected outcomes and costs, and then asked for comments on those.
- 22 Priority should be given to funding regular maintenance of the river Windrush and its tributaries to help protect Witney from flooding. I don't feel the flood threat to Witney is taken seriously. In 2007 it affected many houses and businesses with the centre of Witney being cut off to most areas north of Bridge Street. You should not underestimate the significance of financial loss to householder and businesses, the disruption in terms of moving to rental properties for many months and the mental anguish this causes every time we have heavy rainfall. Our property was badly flooded in 2007, had a near miss in 2014 and an even closer near miss (water in the garage and less than an inch before it entered our house) at Christmas 2020.
- 23 infrastructure in Chipping Norton to support a sustainable fast growing town needs far more funding from WODC and all sources priorities Parking facilities modernised, upgraded leisure centre sewerage (all those sewage discharges etc
- 24 I think a realistic increase, say minimum 10% on band D (pro rata) in Council Tax is required to ensure that the services are given a chance to improve, rather than simply maintain them.
- 25 End gold plated pension scheme for staff. Focus on core responsibilities.
- 26 Not once do you suggest increasing efficiency or cutting costs to help this budget. Why not? Question 5 in particular should have given this option. Yet again the average family will suffer with another increased council tax bill, on top of increasing energy and food costs, Yet saving money seems to be off the agenda at WODC.
- 27 Just to say thank you to you all for your work and efforts. I am now retired but when young wanted to work in our local council but life took over and I ended up working for companies which involved my having to do a great deal of foreign travel.
- 28 It doesn't matter what you say in a Survey the final decision is made by a group of Councillors sat around a Table who have a good Salary from the Taxpayers. The questions in the Survey do not give enough details as to what services you would cut or increase.
- 29 Reduce Executive pay? why on earth does a chief executive of a provincial council get paid more than a leader of the country its preposterous and absurd. if the executive pay was reduced, services could be paid for, reducing on the ground staff by making efficiencies, adversely effects the lowest skilled, adversely effecting their life chances, the cuts have to take place at the top.
- 30 I believe we pay way too much for our services.. increasing council tax is just an easy way out.. the waste of monies I believe that goes on is unbelievable..too many Managers earning too much money...too much emphasis on social care and looking after druggies etc..I have complained so many times for non collection of waste/recycling bins..ordered numerous replacements due to the contractors smashing and breaking bins etc..been waiting for ages only to find you now charge for replacements..laughable..
- 31 lack of car parking too much bus lanes council waste money allowing developers to build bad housing
- 32 Stop building new houses until we have infrastructure in place to deal with the waste created.

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RESPONSES

- 33 It would be nice to see you listen to your customers. High streets dying and witney looks awful with amount of shops closed. Park in town which is usually full of young families is derelict because nothings been done to it just closed off. I get climate change is an issue but surely other things matter too. Most people driving in to witney could walk but free parking encourages them to drive in. If paying an extra 10p a week as well as whatever everyone else wants let's see decent changes to save our town
- 34 Future Funding.... There was no option for better accountability and less waste in the duplicating So many services and associated HR and administration. It is a very disjointed council and could be far better administered with cooperation and less departments fighting for their individual budgets.
- 35 Introduce residents parking on Woodgreen and New Yatt Road and charge for it
- 36 More safe cycling routes
- 37 Notice free car parking will continue in Council owned car parks. Is it fair to require non car owners who are council tax payers to subsidise car owners. Car fuel duty has been frozen for many years and the cost of running a car has reduced in real terms over the years. Quite rightly you charge for garden waste so no subsidy from non garden owners. For the record, we have two cars in this household that are regularly used and will subscribe to the garden waste service as we benefit from a garden.
- 38 Clean the road in villages
- 39 The methods that you use to calibrate Council Tax needs to be completely looked into and recalibrated again. My home falls within the D band, it faces one of the main roads in Witney, the nearest place I can park a car is the carpark on Woodford way. There are no bus stops along this stretch of road, not even the local community one. Therefore perhaps some of you budget could be spent bringing the tax bands up to date.
- 40 The sports facilities in Witney are poor and need to be updated. We are falling behind the rest of the country especially with tennis facilities and other outside sports.
- 41 I would happily pay more council tax for adequate services. You seem to think that you are already providing adequate services, which you are not. However, if that is really your view, then I would not wish to provide additional funds to facilitate further maladministration.
- 42 The council should become more transparent in all its actions. At this time most rate payer feel like the long standing mushroom, kept in the dark and fed s**t. Concerns never seem addressed, many actions taken without consultation and basically once elected the councillors seem to sit in the ivory tower without a care for the people who put them there and pay their exorbitant salaries.
- 43 Improving footpaths in Carterton and hedges to be cut back to edge of footpaths so that the relevant footpaths can be improved so that those with mobility issues can use the footpaths. Also the roads are also in a poor state and very noticeable, in particular driving a wheelchair accessible vehicle. It should not be up to me to notify this but the Town Council. Having already notified Oxfordshire County Council of a number of overgrown hedges narrowing or blocking footpaths, nothing was ever done so the Town Council should resolve this as they are not doing anything else it seems.
- 44 Stop all council pensions and replace with private sector ones Then we would have to make no cuts Can we see figure published for all pension payments made I know people who have been payed more in pensions than they actual were payed in there working life why does the taxpayer pay for this when most of us get nothing ! Make councils private companies with pensions in line with small companies

West Oxfordshire District Council Budget consultation 2022/23

#	RESPONSES
45	Better facilities for safe cycling.
46	The bridges over Langel common have been broken for months ! It's a disgrace considering the amount of people who walk in and out of town hence cutting car emissions. Something needs to be done
47	Maintaining free parking in West Oxon and the car park in Woodford way is critical to keeping the town vibrant. Maintaining pressure on county council to maintain roads in West Oxon also vital.
48	Reduce garden waste collection cost.
49	The beginning of this year and being pensioners you put our council tax up by 14 pounds and garden waste up 5 pounds a total of 19 pounds .it's time these boxes in the street were taken away as far as I am concerned they are an eyesore
50	Local Housing: I reported a possible case of fraud (a tenant having given false information on a housing application). This has also been reported to Places for People who manage the property. No action has been taken and I have heard nothing regarding this from the council. Myself and neighbours are extremely unhappy about this situation.
51	Carterton pavilion is a vital leisure facility for children and young adults, playing for Carterton town football club. The pitches are totally neglected by the council and simple measures could be put in place to improve this. Throughout covid, mental health has been very much in the spotlight, sporting activities are proven to help greatly. Please look at the allocation given to this vital environment for our children
52	Could we improve the bus service please
53	Once again you have consulted at the very last minute. You do not listen to the people, you decide then pretend to listen before implementing your own way. You make so many excuses and continue to operate in a 'old school' environment I suspect you need to allow the more efficient and customer focused staff to lead the provision you offer and get rid of any dead wood indecisive middle management. Being a district councillor I am sure is a thankless task at times, but be bold and stand up for the people you represent. Break a few eggs and make an omelette we can all be happy with. Difficult decisions may need to be made but don't be scared to do them and be open and honest with us that you have no money in the coffers because you must managed it's spending previously. Honestly Is truly the best policy.
54	1. Considering we never see a police presence it's hard to justify the current expenditure. 2 We are not getting much education for our money. It's apart time industry and we pay full time money 3 We need to spend more on maintaining our highways as they are the lifeblood of modern society 4 Spend less money eco projects of dubious benefit.Green credentials will not feed anyone or put a roof over thir heads.
55	Keep costs low, collect the bins, do not pedestrianise the high street
56	Your questions are too biased and do not reflect the majority consensus opinion
57	The roads are falling apart and you waste money on bike lanes and 20mph signs on roads you can't get over 10mph on. Stop wasting money putting bike lanes on roads there are plenty off the main roads and the number of people who use bikes are tiny compared to cars. I walk most of the time if I go into witney but if I need to get anything it's not possible to carry home again if it's heavy so a car is a must.

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RESPONSES

- 58 Please join up with the WTC or OCC regarding grass cutting. For an instance, the cutting of grass on entrance to Burwell Meadow, off Thorney Leys Witney, is done by two different contractors and at different times and makes the whole road look very wonky...i.e short grass and long grass and visa versa How about joining up and one council doing it all the mowing one week, then the other doing all in two/ threes weeks later? Would be much more environmentally friendly and will look much better. Seems a simple win...one of many I could mention! Kindest regards
- 59 1) Keep Parking Free in West Oxfordshire 2) Actively promote local businesses and services. 3) Get pollution under control, Thames Water, Lack of Road provision etc. 4) Create an alternative to Oxford Centric Policy.
- 60 Adequately resource strategic planning. Revise the local plan ASAP and work more effectively with local communities. Too many years of low council tax.
- 61 Replace street bins when they are damaged etc. Don't just remove them leaving us with piles of crap to deal with. I don't pay my council tax for Carterton to be a second class town!
- 62 Make road repairs a priority. Stop funding pc items that don't support 90% of taxpayers Remove cycle lanes that cannot be justified ie, less use than cars slowly moving pumping out fumes. Dual carriageway the A40 throughout Oxfordshire, bypass Oxford City the "very anti car owners" Park & ride is not practical for shopping, I have driven to Swindon a far car friendly Town.
- 63 Please keep environmental issues a priority.
- 64 Grassroots are important. Get the basics right within the community such as refuse, street cleaning, hedge maintainable services rights sort out the high street and crime. Reduce pointless traffic wardens who do nothing (especially if you are a friend of theirs) Maintain the green spaces
- 65 Fix the roads. If you're increasing taxes then I shouldn't have to worry about spending another £1300 on cracked suspensions and shock absorbers
- 66 Cut out waste of finances and manage correctly. Don't kill off the high st,the stores need help at this time. perhaps link store rates to turnover or a fairer system.
- 67 Please do everything you can to prompt OCC Highways Dept to renew the white linings on all WODC roads and to repair (properly) the potholes that are getting deeper every day
- 68 With the urgency of fuel price increases ,climate changes, air quality. Planning must include more hedges on housing and industrial development proven to help combat pollution more than trees. Planning must include solar or wind technology and outside space near homes something covid has taught us.
- 69 Ensure you're getting the agreed level of service from external contracts - Windrush LC seems to have hardly any staff working on any given day leading to a decline in standard of service being provided yet I bet they are still getting the full contact payment from you
- 70 You should concentrate on local people local issues stop wasting money on things like cycle lanes and cycle markings on the roads which will have little if any effect. Sort out local football facilities as participation is increasing

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RESPONSES

- 71 If the council only receive 7p from every £1 in council tax, how do you either ensure any rises in CT will result in the entire 'rise' going directly to WODC, or do you only get a 7% cut of any increases. We should be getting more from the £1 first, then raising taxes second, there shouldn't be any reduction in services. Efficiencies, digitisation and better prioritisation of outputs should be clearer, not broad-brush 'priorities'. Take it down to the base-layer and show your workings and prioritisation/decisions taken.
- 72 The council could start to think outside the box more, for example there are many older people in the community who are still fit and would be more than willing to help maintain some of the local green spaces if the council could provide the removal of green waste etc. Engagement with the population to support money saving projects is key but there must be a benefit to those involved, such as supporting environmental targets.
- 73 1. The infrastructure needs to be addressed to meet modern requirements. It needs to be more fluid across town and have separated bicycle/bus lanes for safety. 2. There needs to be less funding spent on projects that only benefit a minority i.e. a childrens park or white line paint on a small road for bicycles. 3. Lower business rates may attract more businesses to the town and increase tourism. By introducing a low parking payment money can be raised and local traffic can be reduced.
- 74 To be honest this questionnaire is a waste of time as the answers are what you want as are written by you and not a true opinion of what people think or want. You have built a vast amount of new properties which like you say bring in 7p per household however what extra has been done with this money. Sorry couldn't hear you that's right nothing.
- 75 Make planning smoother and achieve reasonable timescales.
- 76 It is vital that free parking is retained in order to attract people to West Oxon towns and villages. However, this needs to be supported by reasons to come such as a variety of shops and leisure facilities.
- 77 Please continue to deliver the current services you offer to a high standard. You do a good job The alternative is oxford city council where you try and be all things to all people and result in offering poor services to everyone, strapped for cash despite charging more then the districts in council tax
- 78 With climate change and such wet winters, council should prioritise drain and ditch clearance and road sweeping.
- 79 Keep the free car parking. Keep the excellent refuse and recycling service Support more youth services to enable positive mental health in our young people Ensure any housing developments do not add to traffic on the A40 or Toll bridge and ensure the voice of local people is heard in terms of integrated transport solutions to where we actually work for example the JR, Oxford Brookes, BMW and all the science and technology parks around Oxford, Abingdon and Harrell.
- 80 Who is responsible for foot bridges in Witney? As there is need for repair on the bridge from Langel Common to Witney.
- 81 I very strongly support a move to deliver strong healthy life styles and leisure opportunities to deliver strong healthy communities, community engagement and support.
- 82 If you want to build more houses in Caterton we are desperate for doctor provision, its virtually impossible for them to cover the housing we have now, let alone the ones being built in Carterton. It is already putting lives at risk

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RESPONSES

- 83 1. Strictly limit the number of new homes on greenfield lands, allowing only genuinely affordable homes (£250-300k). 2. Begin work on a rapid public transport system linking Carterton, Witney and Oxford. 3. Purchase key empty high street properties and re-configure them to allow for small, independent traders to set up on low cost, flexible contracts. Prioritise artisan and locally sourced product retailing.
- 84 Perhaps in doing a survey you should ask for the public's personal point of view instead of only providing your own box answers which only give the answers you want instead of what the public actually thinks!, by doing this you have not given me any real choice at all. Perhaps stop allowing the public to control the public's money by sending it to districts outside of our borough of West Oxfordshire, stop allowing the bosses/managers within WODC to own and give contracts to their own businesses like the waste management and gardening etc where they are lining their own pockets with overpriced and diabolically bad service this would save a pretty penny, also stop sending money to and our resources to Cirencester, the people in West Oxon are fed up of lack of face to face service and rude can't be bothered staff on the end of a telephone when they need to discuss paying their council tax or seeing someone face to face about housing and benefits. Gone are the friendly helpful faces, the ability to house vulnerable people around their own families in towns they have known their whole lives, instead shipping them off far away to other districts which causes untold mental health issues that this council already has no idea how to handle. No doubt my opinion will go unheard and in noticed and WODC will do what they want and make more locals more miserable and financially worse off while still managing to supply even less quality services. Start listening to your public, stop mis-spending our money on rubbish companies, silly road closures killing our towns, dangerous cycle lanes and the extremely overpriced flower boxes on chains used to block the town center!.
- 85 I believe that the council should reduce the amount of new house building, especially on green sites in West Oxfordshire. Any new developments should be created with the maximum available environmental sustainability. Gas should not be part of new developments but perhaps community energy generation should. Improved infrastructure and community provision are essential. The amount of new housing across Oxfordshire in recent years has been ridiculous and should be consolidated to allow communities to settle. Perhaps consideration should be given to additional restrictions on housing to only make available for people already living in the area - very effectively used elsewhere. The council should be prioritising making itself and the area sustainable for the future.
- 86 WODC is proposing an increase in taxation, public sector workers have received a 0% cost of living increase. How do you justify a decrease in the standard of living of those you require in order for the district to be a viable place for people to reside and visit?
- 87 Would like to see better litter picking up from streets and rural roadside verges. Not sure if this is in your remit...
- 88 If housing developers build shoddy houses without sufficient parking, they should be fined. More importantly, if they build 2000 houses the supporting infrastructure needs to be improved accordingly.
- 89 Whenever I see your staff like last week standing around chatting I think it could definitely be more efficient. In the private sector you would be unable to stand around chatting for an hour

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RESPONSES

- 90 West Oxfordshire has increased its council tax steadily for the past three years. I think a council tax increase for higher earners would help but for people such as nurses, teachers and other public sector workers who live and work in West Oxfordshire this is crippling to their finances.
- 91 Roads around Carterton and surrounding areas are absolutely shocking, with pot holes. Pavements cracked and raised - those around Shilldeane Drive area horrendous. We have had THREE elderly neighbours trip and fall, I very very badly in the last 4 months!!!! Yet you have more than enough money for idiotic traffic calming measures in Brize village that you have placed ON A BLIND CORNER with no lighting!!!!
- 92 Stop wasting money on stupidly badly planned road calming measures that cause more problems than they solve! For example..... cycle lanes in Witney that cause serious accidents.... where hardly anyone cycles..... Stupidly dangerously positioned slabs at entrance roads to villages that cause road rage, and noise nuisance and terrible air quality for people living next to them!
- 93 Concentrate on providing the services that the customer is paying for and do not throw funding at projects and schemes that merely appear good in the eyes of the electorate. People are aware that services cost money and that costs must increase over time. People however do not appreciate having their costs raised (often in the most difficult of circumstances) to fund so-called 'popular' schemes and trends that materialise on the tails of the zeitgeist. Our tax contributions must be used for essential spending and not supporting those sectors that only serve a minority and should be funding themselves.
- 94 There needs to be more investment in sports centres in Witney & Woodstock. Currently the swimming pool facilities do not meet the needs of the growing towns. There is pressure on swimming lessons and there are not as many public sessions as there could be. Further improvements to making village communities more connected to the council needed.
- 95 Where I appreciate being given the opportunity to comment. Feedback is meaningless without the details of how budgets have been managed so far i.e. you ask how much we agree to keeping the budget of £200k for local grants, yet how can one realistically provide feedback without knowing how the budget was utilised in previous years and whether it was sufficient or not. You will receive a meaningless vote from people, which you plan to use to support your decision. Not very well thought through in my opinion.
- 96 AS THE SECOND LARGEST TOWN IN WEST OXFORDSHIRE CARTERTON NEEDS MORE SUPPORT
- 97 The questions are leading. For example, you ask if I agree to not changing funding for local projects. I don't agree with cutting funding or maintaining funding: funding should be increased. In the question about leisure centres you don't explain what changes are planned: how am I supposed to agree or disagree? With regard to meeting housing needs, the level of priority I would assign depends on how the need is to be met. At the moment most housing being built is of the very expensive and profitable type and does not address the needs of less affluent local people who want to stay in the area. It feels a bit like you are trying to trick us into agreeing to things that aren't quite what they seem, so that the statistics can be wheeled out to counter opposition to things such as new housing developments, LTNs, reduced opening hours for leisure centres and such like.

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- 98 The current provision is good. Free parking, waste collection and recycling, parks and outdoor facilities are good. Investing for the future is important BUT high energy prices and the pandemic have really damaged people financially. Any additional spend seems extravagant and needs to be carefully considered. Flooding the area with too many affordable homes will change the character of where we live and reduce house prices for those who have saved and invested. expensive investment in trying to be carbon neutral needs to Demonstrate that is IS value for money and not just a lot of work that actually damages the environment in the change process....
- 99 Housing is a major problem in Witney. New developments go up everywhere, all the time, and yet a tiny minority of people get them. I am a single person, who has worked her whole life, never taken benefits, and then when I DID hit an extraordinary period of trouble in my personal and financial life, I was told that unless I got pregnant, I would basically be homeless within 2 weeks. In the current climate, I worry about others like me who aren't blessed enough to have family/friend support - if I had not had those, I have no idea what would have happened to me. The other service that infuriates me is the roads (which I appreciate are not controlled directly by you). I pay the highest rate of road tax, and I pay Council Tax, and the roads where I live are ATROCIOUS. Because we are a very rural village, we don't get gritted when it gets cold, the roads are NEVER repaired and in place are now on the verge of causing accidents because the edges near the verge are not safe to be driven on.
- 100 Contract management to deliver saving through your the life of contracts Put contract in place with relevant kpi Stop wasting tax payer money with poor contacts and poor contract management Get qualified staff that are commercial and strategic - that most definitely included senior/top management
- 101 Totally applaud your commitment to the provision of free parking. For me, this differentiates us from so many other areas of the country and is a huge enabler to businesses.
- 102 There needs to be more accountability for the services provided by the housing companies that profit from the new housing. Where are the promised playgrounds, sports facilities,community services and amenities that enable the building work to be pushed through?
- 103 Invest more in public libraries
- 104 Very glad that free parking is being retained. Generally think that WODC do a really good job and the waste collect service is excellent.
- 105 It is interesting that despite WODC declaring a climate and ecological emergency there is little direct expenditure related to these issues. It is great that Witney cricket club now is able to fund an electronic score board, village halls get a grant and play areas are being refurbished but compare these grants with the amount of money given to local nature conservation projects and organisations such as TVERC, Wild Oxfordshire, BBOWT and Wychwood Trust. NB It's an emergency.
- 106 Free parking in Witney should be eliminated. This would raise more money and avoid yet another significant increase in Council Tax. Council Tax payers current fund the provision of this parking: cost of the land, maintenance, lighting, someone to go around and check that maximum times are not exceeded. At minimum, car park users should meet these costs, they should not expect to be subsidised by Council Tax payers.

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- 107 Encouraging and enabling the public to remain local will help the economy and the environment at the same time. Free parking is a big help in this, improving efficiency and cutting waste is a must in modern day society but not at the cost of people's ability to go about day to day living. Hundreds of new houses have and are being built in and around Witney which will bring in new revenues but they also bring the need for more infrastructure, what plans are there for this? I think the council tax increase is fair, but as a single pensioner, will see an increase in my state pension to cover it. Generally I feel that you do a pretty good job, so credit where it is due.
- 108 Thanks to all at Council you do a great job. But Council tax is too high and needs to come down. With thousands of new houses you must be getting millions of extra pounds each year. We are being totally ripped off.
- 109 The approval of all developments along the A40 serves to work severely against current community and it's physical and mental health, Things this budget appears to want focus on. What a shame our perspectives have been walked all over in the past. I hope those who don't use social media or any internet have been able access this consultation
- 110 Resources should go towards supporting travel via public footpaths and cycle routes, together with 20mph speed limits on roads where people live and walkers and motor traffic share space. Air quality monitoring should be restored in villages with main roads through.
- 111 Climate should not be a priority at all well not with my tax anyway. There's nothing money can do to help the climate cause mother nature will do what it will do so stop wasting money on climate change c**p. We should have services and our town top priority rest is not that important. Business are suffering due to council deciding closing the roads. Waste of money in lot's of areas. Start by cutting top earners wages in council they can earn same wage as other people do.
- 112 Stop allowing building on farmland and woodland. Stop allowing solar farms to destroy the vegetation beneath the panels and insist on dual use of the land for free range farm animals. Trees, grass, and vegetation holds carbon which is much more relevant and actually effective than going vegan, for example.
- 113 Reduce number of administrative (including managerial) staff as far as practically possible.
- 114 Avoid waste Focus on essentials
- 115 I would suggest wage reductions for senior council workers before any increases in costs to the tax payers or decreases in services.
- 116 Look into how social services do their returns. It seems they do not follow any standard practices. From what I have witnessed first hand there is a lot of lazy bad practices going on and they make it impossible to audit anything accurately.
- 117 I have always found it odd that I can park my car for nothing, but I am charged if I want to use a public lavatory.
- 118 I want to see local people having priority on local housing and not preference being given to those who enter into the country legally or illegally and have not made any contribution. I also want to see the council be robust in pursuing and attempting to gain convictions on fly tippers. Less funding should be given to the travelling community as they do not contribute to the local economy and simply take. Non of the monies they earn through tree topping and driveway building comes back into the economy. They also do not abide by usual employment laws but nothing is done about this

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- 119 Allow no more big housing developments; the destruction of communities in Hanborough, Woodstock, Witney, Chipping Norton and Eynsham is heart-breaking and ineradicable. Instead, take measures to counter second-home ownership and holiday lets. A train line from Witney to Oxford should be a priority. We need to do everything we can to phase out car use except for the very few who need them. Electric vehicles are not good for the environment; batteries require huge amounts of scarce resources - like diesel was it's simply a ploy by car manufacturers to maintain their businesses.
- 120 I've no idea what change in service practices means and I work in leisure.
- 121 The roads have not been reasonably maintained for a number of years, their condition is such that they cause danger to cyclists and vehicles, so people in fact. They need proper maintenance not the ad hoc poor quality hole filling when enough people complain about a specific hole, which seems to be the current modus operandi. I think this is short term and ultimately an expensive repair regimen. West Oxfordshire has some of the worst road surfaces in the country, an embarrassment for such an affluent area.
- 122 Supporting the elderly who are not computer literate. Councils are pushing everything online and seem to forget we still have a generation that is not computer literate. In order to save money authorities are acting a generation to early.
- 123 1) Would be happy to support short term increases for items such as Bio waste heating for swimming pools, where there would be long term savings and ongoing carbon reduction. 2) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the council, cut out bureaucracy and red tape to reduce the overall spend. 3) Penalize departments who don't spend all year and spend in March so they can maintain the previous years budget.
- 124 Would be nice if we could be offered more competitive leisure facility prices at our local leisure centres, which are run in partnership with WODC. This helps promote healthy communities and healthy people. Better Leisure Memberships costs in WODC vary in price from £34.20 for pay as you go up to £60.00 for everything, whereas other areas of the country or other leisure companies operating, cost far less. Free parking in Witney is the only thing that keeps me going back to shop in local shops and I believe keep the local high street active. If parking costs were introduced, the inconvenience alone would make me question is the visit worth it when everything is so readily available online.
- 125 As part of our work to tackle the climate emergency, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint, including at the Council owned leisure centres across the District. 6. Would you support a change in service practice to meet industry guidelines to reduce energy consumption? What service practices? Cannot answer without an explanation of the proposals.
- 126 A need to modernise the Leisure facilities with a variety of equipment such as Pilates and Yoga and the related rooms for these would be appreciated.
- 127 Return the Town Centre shop to a first point of contact hub for the District. There are a lot of elderly and less able members of the community that can not use the internet or do not have mobile devices and at the moment we discriminate against them in the name of progress. The District Council services all not just those that can afford to access its facilities.
- 128 Invest in youth services- young people have suffered the most during this pandemic, and with the reduction in youth work and support for young people, this will have increased the risks to young peoples mental well-being, risk of exploitation. They are the future and need to be looked after to prevent long term impact on society

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- 129 Too many vanity projects undertaken such as cycling lane nonsense and community grant funding.
- 130 Outsourcing of contracts needs to be better managed and monitored. One example is.....
Madeley Park Teenzone has now had 2 sets of hedge saplings and trees planted but no one seems to have bothered to check that the work was done properly (saplings and stakes were not deep enough into the ground) and no watering was done in the hot weather. Very few of the plants have survived so there has been a lot of money wasted. Also, if the council is serious about climate change, why are the lights on the Teenzone always on till 10pm even though there is often no one there. A complete waste of money and electricity. Why can they not be changed to PIR lights?
- 131 Stop increasing council tax. Make SOD higher 30-40%. Make additional services such as pest control full charge for all. Concentrate more on climate change. Stop building so much when the highway infrastructure in Witney is so poor. The pollution on Bridge Street etc must be terrible. Increase planning and building control fees especially for large developments. Leave more land for wildlife and natural sources for environmental reasons.
- 132 Councillors need to fully consider the impact that any rise in Council tax has on those paying it. Increases by the County, Police and Parishes also need to be taken in to account when determining affordability. Service provision, in terms of quality has fallen since the Council engaged with Publica... a faceless body seemingly intent on financial cuts at the expense of service standards. For example Waste collection, litter bin provision and the removal of "bring sites" across the district, a retrograde step necessitating travel to Dix Pit with the associated environmental impact of car miles and emissions. Short sighted at best but really undertaken because of the inability of Council staff managing the contract service standards with Ubico..i.e an excuse. Climate concerns are being vastly over played and need to be better targeted at achievable targets... not just words which are costly when arriving via a consultant as well as impractical. A return to traditional service is paramount for hard pressed (financially) residents.
- 133 There should be less councillors and paid office management and greater transparency as to what other initiatives are being funded by council tax levees.
- 134 I noted that question 5 options no longer ask if the council should look to close funding gaps by becoming more efficient and better value for money. Have you reached the end of that program
- 135 You say you want to play your part in climate change and want to support biodiversity, and yet you cling to the outdated policy of free carparking. Time surely to stop encouraging car drivers and start helping them to contribute towards the environmental damage that every car journey causes.

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- 136 **PARKING** I have a particular interest in parking provision for tourists with motorhomes and campervans. I would like to see the District make provision for short term overnight parking (often known as Aires) that can be used by these visitors. I know that there are formal campsites within the District but these generally do not cater for the nomadic nature of motorhome and campervan usage that often requires just a single night stay in order to visit local attractions, businesses, and hospitality such as cafes, pubs and restaurants. Easy access to these destinations could be achieved by allocating dedicated motorhome and campervan parking spaces in existing town and village car parks. Motorhome and campervan holidays are increasingly popular, particularly so with the staycation boom, and it appears to me that there is a lack of awareness of the potential revenue that could be generated for local businesses by the relatively inexpensive provision of some dedicated parking in or close to town and village centres. For further information on the subject can I recommend <https://campra.org.uk/business-hub/> I would be happy to discuss this
- 137 I'm very pleased with the way WODC runs services in the District, despite the squeeze on budgets. I am however surprised none or very few of the many housing developments across the District are required to install heat pumps (far more easily and efficiently done in highly insulated new builds) rather than gas central heating. This may be more of a central government responsibility but it does seem very odd that new houses are being fitted with gas central heating, given the recently stated government objective regarding heat pumps, etc. I am also keen that the District remains independent and is not swallowed up into one large unitary authority.
- 138 It is vital that we keep free parking. However, to encourage bus use we should have a flat fee of £1 per journey for all users, including pensioners. Highest band houses should bear the brunt of council tax increases. Independent retailers should have their council tax held low, while national chains should pay more. All children should have access to free swimming.
- 139 Road and pathways in Eynsham are disgusting with grass growing out of the curbs, have reported this many times but nothing done .,
- 140 There should be more support for our local leisure service Charlbury Community Centre
- 141 Stop being fixated on the green agenda. Of course act responsibly but be realistic. The UK input to global warming is tiny, one percent.
- 142 This is a fixed consultation. For years WODC has kept unsustainable amounts of reserves, basically squirrelling away our money for no good reason. The survey did not set out the use of reserves as an option - yet the spending of reserves on futureproof projects would be a win-win. You talk about spending money on play parks. Here in Charlbury we look forward to receiving our share of this money, and the EV chargers you are putting in place everywhere else but here.
- 143 Switch rubbish collection to monthly. Easy way to save money, and most households imo would have no trouble adapting to this.
- 144 **THE CLIMATE AND NATURE EMERGENCY MUST BE A PRIORITY ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF THE COUNCIL'S WORK. TACKLING INEQUALITIES THROUGHOUT OUR SOCIETY MUST ALSO BE TOWARDS THE TOP OF THE COUNCIL'S AGENDA..**
- 145 Is street cleaning really necessary? Is it effective? Shouldn't resources target the litter problem?

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146	Do away with Free parking & Start charging for parking like other council's do. Why should people who rarely use the free parking have to pay Extra in council tax so others can park for Free . If you use it you pay .
147	Our local villages have been severely left behind where road maintenance and maintenance is concerned. Roads between villages are appalling with far too many potholes and are more akin to farm tracks. Signage along so many of our rural roads and villages desperately needs clearing of overgrown trees and bushes. Quite frankly services in West Oxfordshire District Council are desperately lacking and appalling.
148	If you raise council tax you just give more payments to those who cannot afford it and penalise those who don't qualify for benefits. So again the working person pays more . Try recruiting refuse collectors instead of paying exorbitant fees for workers through agency, offer a decent wage and benefits and you can afford to pay higher rates than the agency pay and still save money. Give rates on business a break it's the main reason companies leave Witney and insentive companies to come to Witney , we need local and independent shops as well as chains, it works in other towns so look at their business plan and change Witney.
149	It appears to us that WODC is very efficient and provides excellent services whereas OCC is wasteful, top heavy with management and provides poor services/value for money particularly in West Oxon.
150	Suggest council considers doubling council tax on properties where owner is resident less than 11 months per calendar year. Cutting all non-legally required services. Cutting the communications budget to essential information only. e.g. 'Our West Oxfordshire'. Focus on supplying core services and cutting admin staff accordingly. Checking sub-contracted services and applying penalty clauses rigorously.
151	I have disagreed with the standstill on grants to the voluntary sector for a number of reasons. I believe that our voluntary and community organisations offer outstanding value for money, and deliver many immeasurable positive outcomes that contribute significantly to the health and wellbeing of the district. Without this fragile infrastructure, much essential support would be lost. For a long time, there have been very rare increases to grants, despite the costs of rents, fuel, employment costs etc all continuing to rise. I believe that there should be an increase to the overall amount of money made available and that inflation increases should be applied where appropriate to ensure that this valuable part of our thriving communities are valued and sustained.
152	Much of West Oxfordshire is rural and isolated. As the Witney Parish Transport Representative I would like to see WODC take a more proactive role in supporting and restoring local bus services. This does not just combat isolation but helps to support the local economy and improve mental wellbeing.
153	It might be an idea to add where the remaining 93% of our council tax bill goes - I had no idea that so little ends up in the hands of West Oxfordshire District Council and am now curious to know what this ever increasing chunk of money from our household is being spent on.

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- 154 Your use of the money is wasteful and that is what needs to be addressed. I appreciate that the last decade has seen conservatives take money from your budget but what is left us often wasted on unnecessary work, poor planning and project management and also a failure to prioritise the things that matter most to the residents who pay Council Tax. Roads being painted weeks before being resurfaced? What on earth is that about? That kind of incompetence sees all involved sacker in any private sector business. And whilst the health stuff creates a nice soundbite, its not down to the council to make people live healthier lifestyles.
- 155 Please help to support those of us trying to keep our county clean by deploying services along verge sides full of litter between community boundaries; or incentives for landowners to cut and follow up/clear up perhaps? Please consider future planning applications in rural villages with a special understanding of the increased vehicle use and parking impact (business and domestic). Local businesses in rural communities may enable better resilience but blights the life of residents without sufficient (or any possible room for additional) infrastructure in place. Housing developers building homes for families of 4 or more in rural locations, eventually facilitate 4 or more cars per household on local roads as young children grow into young drivers. Thank you as always, to everyone at WODC for the amazing service you deliver on our behalf.
- 156 Noise and exhaust pollution from the A40 needs looking into for all those residents that live near to it. It is being expanded/improved which will no doubt lead to more noise/particle pollution and I would like a programme of noise/pollution barriers erected along the A40 where they do not currently exist to help aid with your points 1 and 2 of you priorities. Please spend as much time and resource as you can afford in keeping existing infrastructure up to standard so it does not degrade. Pavements, pathways, hedges and trees seem to have been left to wild and this only accelerated the need for servicing and replacement.
- 157 Responding to the climate and ecological emergencies should be a priority, as these go beyond West Ox and far into future