



# Long Buckby Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 2026

*Your council, your community, your precept*

# What Is the Precept?

## Your Contribution

The precept is the portion of your Council Tax bill paid directly to Long Buckby Parish Council. It is collected by West Northamptonshire Council on your behalf and passed to us in two instalments each year.

It is entirely separate from the WNC portion of your Council Tax, which funds county-level services such as social care, waste and highways.

## How It Is Set

Each autumn the council reviews its planned spending alongside other income such as grants, fees and CIL receipts. It then sets the precept to cover the shortfall.

The figure is scrutinised at a dedicated precept meeting and approved by a formal vote of all councillors. For 2026/27 it was approved unanimously at the January 2026 meeting.

## What It Funds

It funds services you use every day: street lighting, public toilets, grass mowing, CCTV monitoring, the street warden, waste bin emptying, and the Library and Hub.

It also funds longer-term investment: the Recreation Ground, Cotton End Park, community buildings, trees, and the new Infrastructure Fund for village improvements.

**2026/27 Band D cost for Long Buckby residents: £130.37 per year — £2.51 per week — £10.86 per month (WNC £1959.40)**

# A Busy Year for Long Buckby

*What your council has delivered in 2025/26*

## Street Lighting

90+ lights maintained and upgraded. Three emergency lamp replacements after vehicle collisions. LED column upgrade programme underway to cut long-term energy and maintenance costs.

## CCTV and Safety

24-hour monitoring by Crime Secure. Footage directly assisted police in a serious assault arrest on Church Street. Drug dealing and anti-social behaviour actively monitored.

## Library and Hub

Over £21,000 committed to keep BL&H open. GP drop-ins, Chatty Cafe, wellness sessions, film nights, BBC Radio Northampton Christmas broadcast, World Book Day competition.

## Recreation Ground

Annual safety inspection passed. New roundabout with disabled access in planning. Emergency pathway replaced following an injury to an elderly resident.

## Roads and Highways

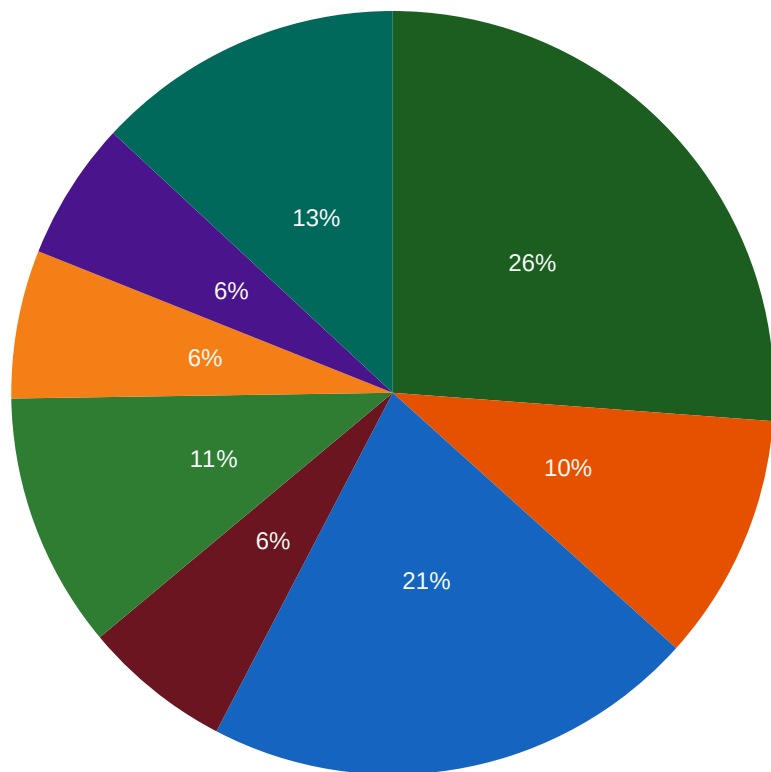
142-page defect report on B5385 submitted to WNC and MP. Traffic Regulation Order secured. Vehicle Activated Signs installed. Pothole and drain reports chased.

## Local Plan

Planning consultant appointed to submit a formal objection to 1,000 new homes near the station. Public meeting held. Leaflet drop to reach residents not on social media.

# Revenue Budget 2026/27

Day-to-day running costs: £143,200 | What it costs to keep the village running every year

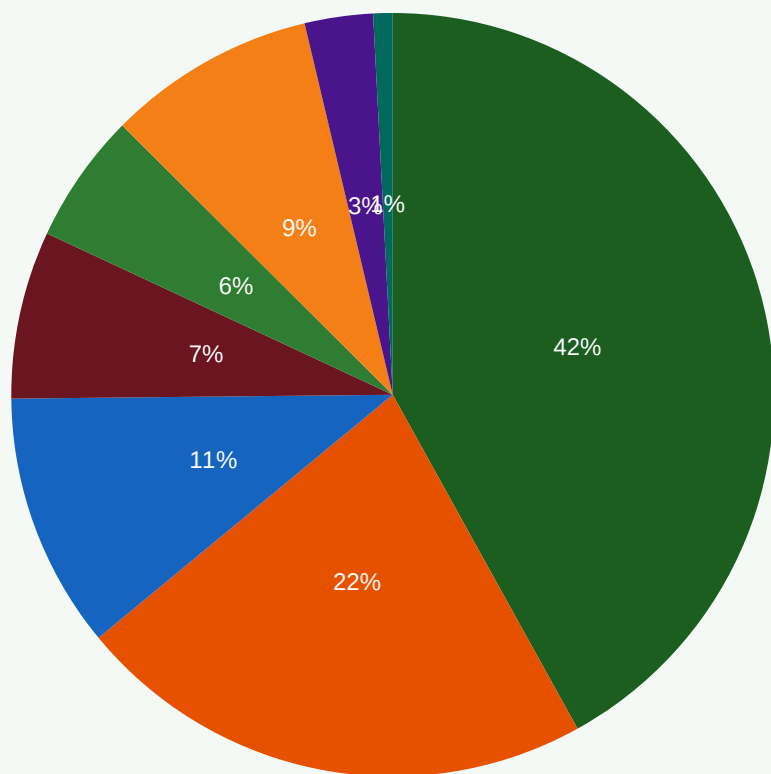


Street Lighting (electricity, replacement & maintenance)	£37,500
Library & Hub	£15,000
Staff & Admin (clerk, insurance, audit, website)	£30,050
Public Toilets (cleaning, electricity & maintenance)	£9,000
Grass, Verges & Recreation Ground mowing	£15,500
CCTV Monitoring	£9,000
Christmas Lights & Community Events	£8,400
Other (warden, bins, baskets, canal, leases etc)	£18,750

These are the services the council must fund every year — they cannot simply be paused or deferred

# Capital and Investment 2026/27

Projects, investment and reserves: £86,430 | Part-funded by CIL (£19,080), existing reserves (£36,027) and grants



Building Financial Resilience (reserves programme)	£38,015
Infrastructure Fund — NEW ring-fenced village fund	£20,000
Recreation Ground improvements	£9,808
Buckby Library & Hub — project funding	£6,439
Community Centre grant	£5,000
Green Spaces, Trees, Raised Beds & Troughs	£8,000
Beacon Maintenance & VE/VJ Day	£2,623
Mill Park Reserve, Buckby Feast & other	£743

£38,015 is the reserves programme — building Long Buckby's financial resilience. See the next slide for why this matters.

# Why Reserves Matter: Real Events in Long Buckby

Major unplanned capital costs from recent years — the kind that reserves exist to absorb

## Library & Hub Roof

£22,000 exposure

Roof deterioration required urgent action. Quotes ranged from £11,330 for an overlay to £22,000 for full replacement. The council ring-fenced £19,080 of CIL receipts. Without reserves, this would have meant an emergency precept increase.

## Recreation Ground Pathway

£6,400 emergency

An elderly resident suffered an injury due to the state of the path. The council acted immediately, commissioning an emergency tarmac replacement. Urgent liability situations cannot wait for the next budget round.

## D-Day Beacon Brazier

£2,777 one-off

A permanent beacon brazier for the D-Day 80th anniversary commemorations. A significant and worthwhile one-off, entirely unplanned in previous years' budgets.

## Street Lights Hit by Vehicles

£5,000+ over 2 years

Three separate vehicle collisions: Brington Road Christmas Eve (£595), Community Centre column knocked over twice (£720 call-out plus new column), Spencer Road HGV strike (£570 make-safe). Each required emergency response.

## Vehicle Activated Signs

£7,116 over two years

Two new VAS signs cost £6,474. Less than a year later one developed a fault requiring an unplanned £642 repair. New equipment can fail without warning.

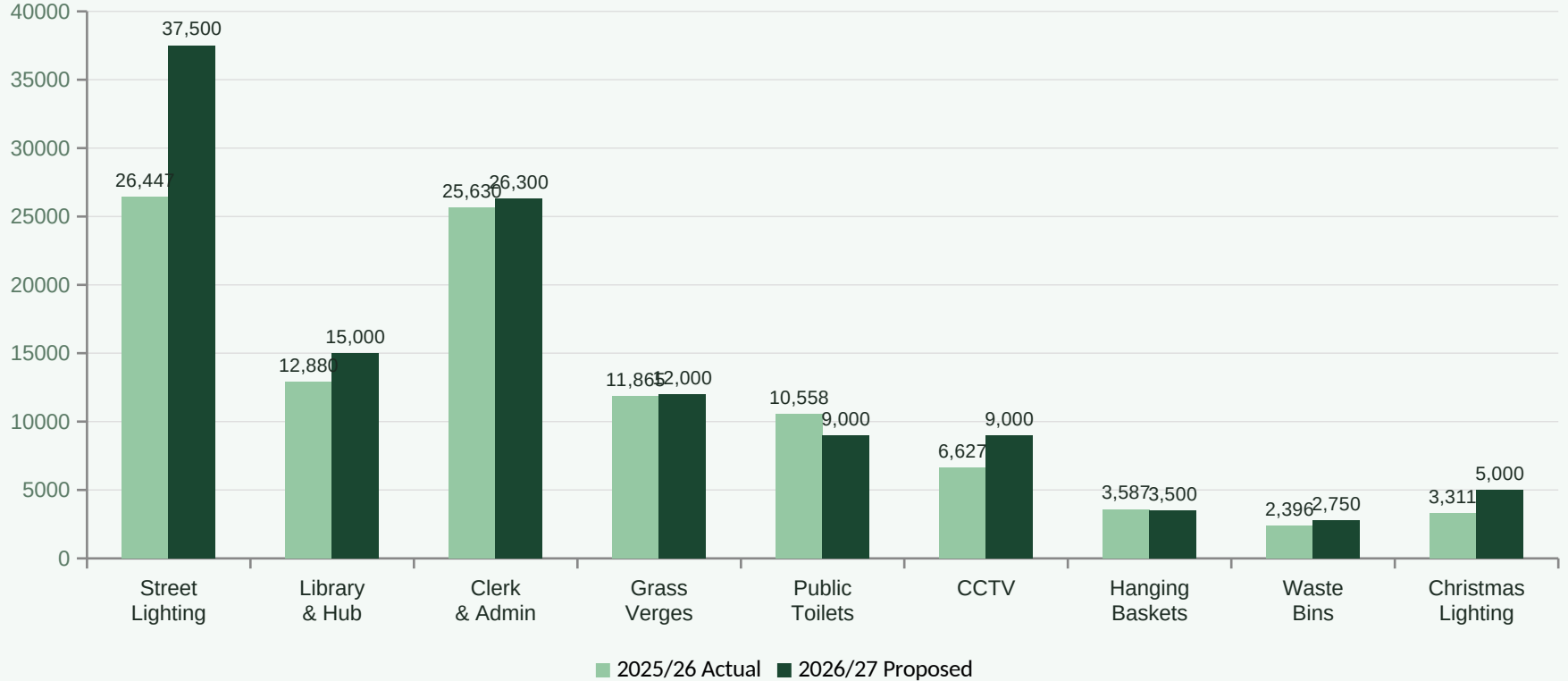
## Community Centre Lift Repair

£13,020 (£2,132 insurance)

A major lift repair required urgent funding. An insurance payout of £2,132 was eventually received, but the council had to fund the work first and manage the claim. Insured events still create short-term cash pressure without reserves.

# Year on Year: Key Spending Lines

2025/26 actual spend vs 2026/27 proposed budget



# How We Compare

Long Buckby Band D cost: £130.37 | Source: West Northamptonshire Council precept schedule 2026/27

## Among all D-area parishes

*62 Daventry-area parishes with a precept*

Lower than 24% of D parishes. £130.37 vs D-area mean of £104.82 — reflecting Long Buckby's much larger service portfolio.

**47th of 62**

## Among similar-size communities

*37 parishes with 500–3,000 properties*

Right in the middle of comparable communities — providing a full range of services at close to the group average of £121.91.

**22nd of 37**

## Across all West Northants

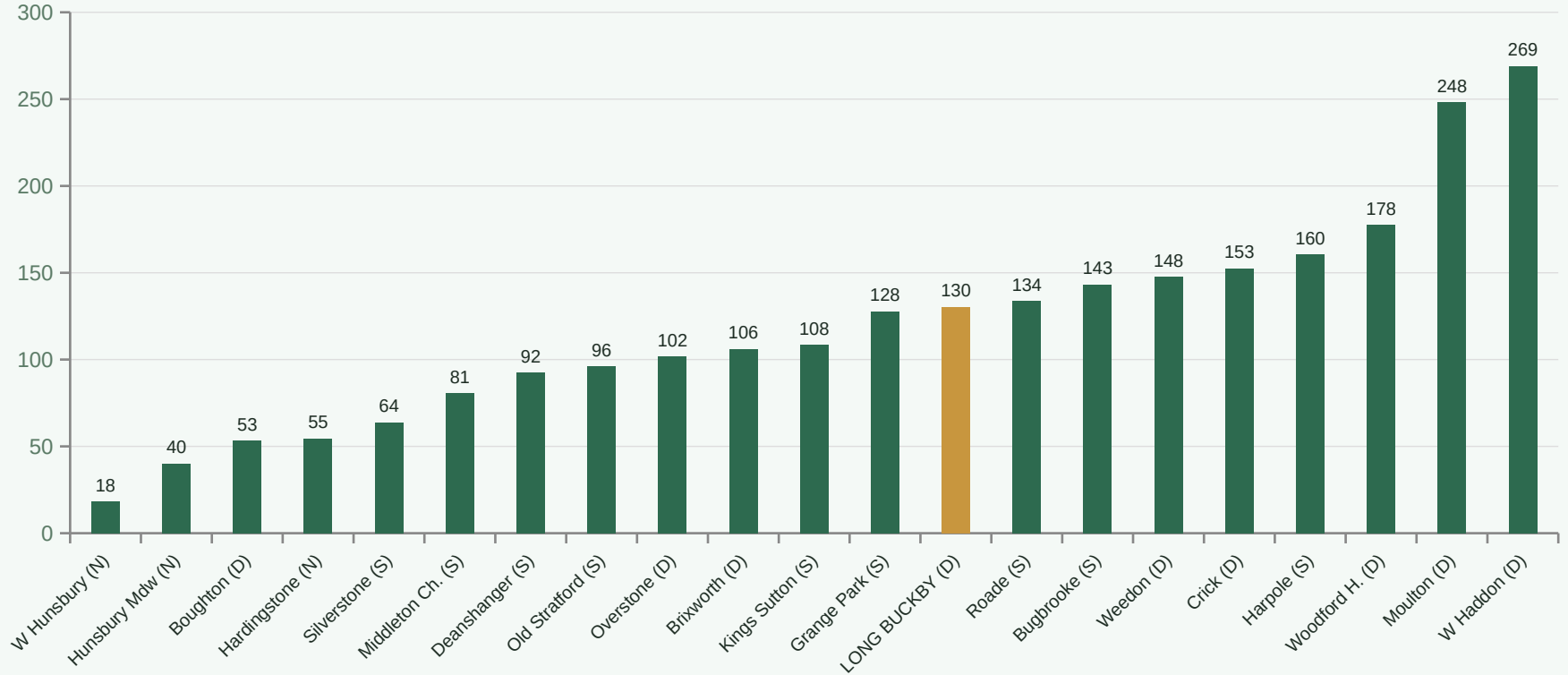
*141 parishes with a precept*

In the upper third — but Long Buckby is one of a small number of rural councils running its own toilets, cemetery, street lighting, CCTV and Library.

**105th of 141**

# Band D Cost: Similar Communities

Parishes with 500–3,000 properties in West Northamptonshire | Long Buckby highlighted



# Why Is the Cost Higher Than Some?

*Long Buckby is one of the most service-active rural parishes in West Northamptonshire*

## Public toilets

Long Buckby maintains public conveniences. Most parishes do not. This alone costs £9,000 per year.

## Street lighting

The council owns and funds its own street lighting network — replacement, maintenance and electricity. Many smaller parishes have no street lighting responsibility at all.

## CCTV monitoring

24-hour crime monitoring through Crime Secure. Rare among parish councils of this size. This year it directly assisted in a serious assault arrest.

## Library and Hub

A £15,000+ annual commitment to keep BL&H open. Parishes without a community facility of this kind carry no equivalent cost.

## Cemetery

The council manages the parish cemetery, which carries maintenance, administration and capital costs not shared by all parishes.

## Cheaper urban parishes

The lowest-cost communities in the comparison (West Hunsbury, Hunsbury Meadow) are Northampton urban areas with minimal service responsibilities — not comparable to a rural service council.

# Street Lighting

£37,500  
proposed  
2026/27

Up from  
£26,447  
2025/26 actual

	2025/26 Actual	2026/27 Budget
Replacement & New	£11,128	£15,000
Electricity Supply	£15,319	£22,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£26,447</b>	<b>£37,500</b>

## What the council has done

**Column replacement programme:** older lamp columns across the village are being progressively replaced with modern LED fittings, cutting long-term energy use.

**Emergency repairs:** the street light outside the Community Centre was knocked over by a vehicle, made safe and replaced. The incident was reported to police.

**Energy costs:** electricity tariffs have risen across all utility contracts. The council is locked into a fixed supply contract to manage exposure.

# CCTV and Community Safety

*£9,000 budgeted 2026/27 | Monitored by Crime Secure on behalf of the council*

**Arrest following serious assault:** Crime Secure footage directly assisted police following a serious assault in Church Street. An arrest was made. The system works.

**Drug dealing and anti-social behaviour:** Drug dealing in the churchyard and anti-social behaviour in unsociable hours are being actively monitored and reported to police.

**Teenagers and vehicle incidents:** Reports of teenagers being approached to enter vehicles prompted a social media alert. Guilsborough School was also notified.

**Monthly reporting:** The council now receives monthly incident reports from Crime Secure for review at every public meeting, ensuring full transparency.

# Buckby Library and Hub

£15,000 revenue + £6,439 project funding | 2025/26 actual: £12,880 | CIL £19,080 earmarked for roof

## Health and Wellbeing

GP surgery drop-ins, SPRING social prescribing team, Gro Health weight management, wellness sessions, NAB van and Police Beat Bus — all hosted at the Hub.

## Community Connection

Chatty Café weekly sessions, warm welcoming space with free soup, film nights, discussion groups, Ukulele Band evening and art exhibitions every month.

## Children and Families

Rhymetimes, half-term craft sessions, BBC Radio Northampton Christmas live show, and a new short story competition launched for World Book Day 2026.

## Building Investment

CIL receipts of £19,080 are earmarked for the roof. The council is awaiting WNC's building valuation and rent review before committing to the full scope of works.

**The parish council is one of the Library and Hub's principal funders — without this support, the facility could not operate at its current level**

# Everyday Services

*Core services managed by the council for the whole community*

## **Public Toilets £9,000**

Cleaning contract renegotiated, saving £1,500 on the year. Ongoing maintenance includes door repairs, lock improvements and vandalism response.

## **Street Warden £7,000**

Restored to full budget. The warden supports village maintenance, litter picking and upkeep of the public realm week in, week out.

## **Village Maintenance £3,000**

Seats installed at Brington Road and East Street. Grit bin purchased and installed at Mountcroft. Ongoing work across the village.

## **Grass Verges £12,000**

Mowing across all village verges throughout the season. Tree maintenance undertaken on Grasscroft, Greenhill Road and South Close.

## **Waste Bin Emptying £2,750**

Commercial misuse of village bins is being tackled. The council has reported businesses using public bins to Environmental Health.

## **Hanging Baskets £3,500**

Award-winning seasonal floral displays across the village centre, maintained throughout the summer season.

# Roads, Pavements and the Village

*Work pursued on your behalf — often beyond the formal budget*

## **B5385 Long Buckby to Watford Road**

A 142-page defect report was produced by councillors and submitted to WNC's Chief Executive and the MP. The road is collapsing at its edges.

## **Traffic calming**

A meeting was held with WNC Highways. Speed humps are no longer supported. A chicane near Mill Park Reserve is being investigated.

## **Drains and fly tipping**

Blocked drains at Cotton End and George Lane reported. Fly tipping in Brington Road and Long Lane pursued with WNC.

## **Pothole and highway repairs**

Defects on the Market Place, Lodge Lane and the Long Buckby to Daventry road all reported and chased via Fix my Street.

## **Parking and road markings**

Double yellow line repainting requested on the High Street. Traffic Regulation Order approved for Hall Drive and Skinyard Lane.

## **Tree and pavement safety**

Tree roots causing trip hazards on Grasscroft reported to Highways. Tree maintenance completed on Greenhill Road and South Close.

# Infrastructure Fund

**NEW for 2026/27 | £20,000 | Ring-fenced for major capital projects & infrastructure**

**Why now?:** The standard annual precept only covers day-to-day running costs (grass cutting, lighting, standard maintenance). Recently, the Parish Council has been hit with massive, unexpected capital expenses for aging community assets. This fund ensures we have the dedicated capital to protect major village infrastructure without needing sudden, reactionary precept spikes.

**What it will cover:** Large-scale, one-off capital projects and structural repairs. This includes major renovations to critical community buildings, emergency replacements of damaged public infrastructure and significant upgrades to community spaces (like the Recreation Ground).

**Real examples:** The £22,000 required for the Library roof replacement, the unexpected £13,000 Community Centre lift failure, adopting 80 new streetlights from the Mountcroft/Buckby Meadows estates, and large-scale tarmac pathway upgrades.

**Accountability:** Strictly ring-fenced as a capital reserve and entirely separate from the standard revenue budget. Every deployment of these funds requires a formal vote at our public monthly meetings and will be transparently reported in the Buckby Buzz.

# Projects and Investment 2026/27

One-off funding | Total: £86,430 | Part-funded by CIL receipts, reserves and grants

## Topping Up Reserves

**£38,015**

Building to the recommended 50% of annual running costs (~£80,000). A three-year programme agreed by the council.

## Infrastructure Fund ★ NEW

**£20,000**

Dedicated ring-fenced fund for village infrastructure. See previous slide.

## Recreation Ground

**£9,808**

Three-year project. New roundabout with disabled access planned. Annual safety inspection completed.

## Buckby Library & Hub (proj)

**£6,439**

Project funding alongside revenue. CIL £19,080 earmarked for roof repair.

## Community Centre

**£5,000**

Stage refurbishment underway. Defibrillator replaced. New treasurer and trustee in post.

## Green Spaces

**£4,000**

Cotton End Park maintenance. Pond clearing and ditch work completed. Pruning underway.

## Trees, Raised Beds & Troughs

**£4,000**

New trees planned for West Street. Raised beds installed outside the Rugby Club.

## Beacon Maintenance

**£2,623**

Carried forward with additional funding for VE and VJ Day commemorations.

## Mill Park Reserve

**£2,493**

Annual maintenance and running cost contribution.

## Buckby Feast

**£250**

Annual community event support.

# Financial Health and Reserves

*The council manages public money responsibly — and uses other income to keep the precept as low as possible*

## **Reserves target: 50% of annual running costs = ~£80,000**

Current reserves (Oct 2025): £36,027 | Bank balance (March 2026): £137,043 | Adding £38,015 in 2026/27 as part of a three-year plan to reach the recommended level.

## **How other income reduces what residents pay**

### **CIL Receipts**

**£19,080**

Community Infrastructure Levy from local developments. Allocated to the Library roof.

### **Existing Reserves**

**£36,027**

Brought forward to fund projects, reducing the precept requirement.

### **Cemetery & Allotment Fees**

**~£1,600**

Fees for use of parish-owned assets.

### **Bank Interest**

**£1,330**

Earned on council balances.

### **Grants & Other Income**

**~£2,760**

Charter Fayre donation, wayleave payments, insurance recoveries.

# Representing You: The Local Plan

*The council has been actively opposing proposals for 1,000 new homes near Long Buckby station*

**Planning consultant appointed:** Ian Gidley of Land and Planning Consultants was commissioned at £1,000 to prepare a detailed formal objection on behalf of the council. Approved unanimously.

**Public information meeting:** A public meeting was arranged for February 2026. The Community Centre was used to accommodate the large number of residents who attended.

**Leaflet drop urged:** The council urged a leaflet drop to reach residents not on social media, maximising the number of individual objections submitted to WNC.

**Website and social media:** The parish website and council social media accounts were used to keep residents updated and direct people to the consultation response process.

**Ongoing scrutiny:** The council continues to monitor the Local Plan process and will maintain its objections through the Regulation 19 stage.

# Your Council At Work in Long Buckby

- ✓ Band D cost of £130.37 — in the middle of comparable communities, delivering a full service portfolio
- ✓ Street lighting maintained and upgraded — LED replacement programme and energy contract in place
- ✓ Library and Hub supported — health, community and cultural services for all residents
- ✓ CCTV active — directly assisted in a serious assault arrest in Church Street this year
- ✓ B5385 and highways — 142-page defect report submitted. Roads and pavements actively chased
- ✓ Local Plan — 1,000 homes proposal formally opposed with a planning consultant objection
- ★ **NEW: Infrastructure Fund — £20,000 ring-fenced so the council can act on village infrastructure directly**