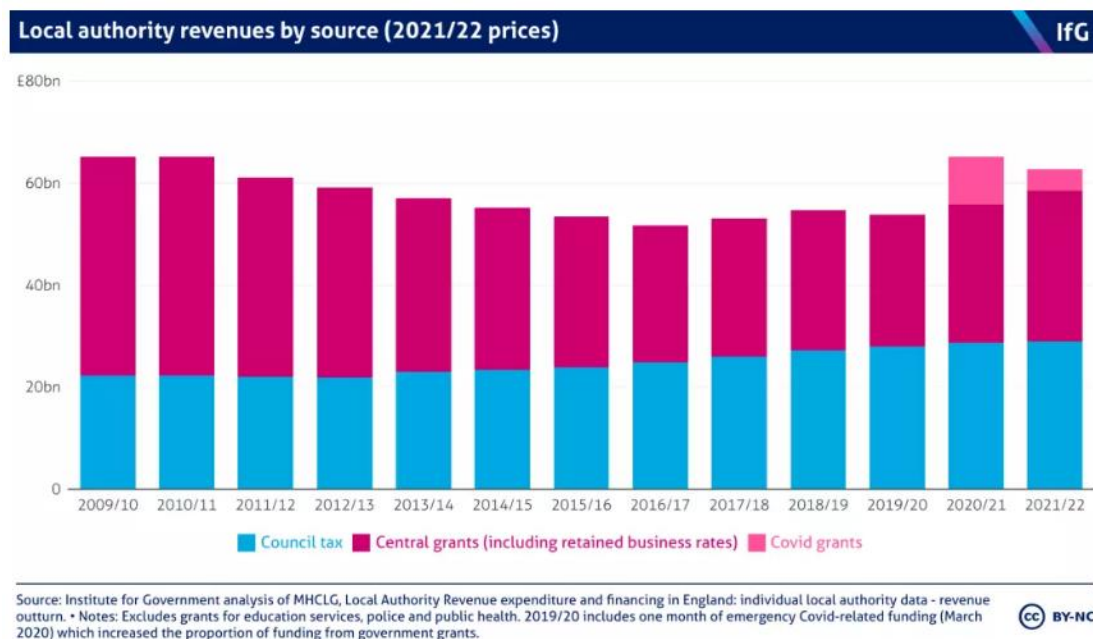


Hilton Focus Team

Council Tax

Council Tax bills land on everyone's doormats in March, never welcome and always going up. The actual Council Tax hasn't been formally set at the time I write this, but it is highly likely that the organisations that get funding from it will put up their share by the maximum amount. I do know that the one organisation that isn't doing that, is Hilton Parish Council, as they voted on their meeting 31st January to reduce the per average (Band D) household amount from £56.17 to £54.87 for the year a reduction of 2.3%.

One graphic I think shows why other Councils have to put up their Tax so much.



As you can see the amount that Local Councils have to spend is now less than it was 13 years ago (allowing for inflation). The proportion provided by Council Tax has gone up. It is little wonder that we have so many Councils are running out of funds, despite year on year increases in Council Tax. This doesn't take into account the extra rises allowed to support the Police and Fire services.

With this background, I actually have some sympathy (albeit not a lot) with the Conservative administration at the County Council who are now suffering from decisions made by their own Government in Westminster and having to make significant cuts in their budget.

The Labour administration in Swadlincote (at South Derbyshire District Council) are likely to set a budget that continues to need to use reserves to fund Council activities and new expenditure. As Lib Dems, myself and Jayne

will be looking to see that a fair share arrives here and that it isn't all spent in and around Swadlincote.

Flooding Update

Having got together people from the County Council, the District Council and the Parish Council, a plan was agreed and the County Council have taken a lead in both clearing the gullies around the Aldi Roundabout and investigating the culvert underneath. They haven't yet completed these investigations and I await their findings. In the meantime, I continue to pursue Severn Trent about issues with their flood tanks on Egginton Road, so far with no response at all!

Accessible Gates



South Derbyshire District Council have recently updated the gates at either end of the Mease Meadow to both replace a rotten/broken unit at the Humber Street end and make both sets usable by wheelchair users and people with large pushchairs / strollers. They've been made wider and deeper to match ones elsewhere in the village. It's taken about 6 months from my initial

request, but they now have arrived and hope those on the Memorial Meadow will be done soon...

Come along and meet us

On the last Thursday of each month myself and Jayne are holding informal Councillor surgeries from 1:30pm to 3:00pm at the Don Amott Café.



There is room for people to park bikes and there is also car parking available, no purchase necessary, but the Costa Coffee and cakes other food on offer are lovely!

As always we can be reached on email
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