



WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

50% Reduction in Grant funding by Colchester Borough Council

Colchester Borough Council has informed the Parish Council that it will reduce the Rate Support Grant (RSG) to the village by 50% for 2011. This means that the income to the village will be reduced by £4,140 unless it can be obtained from other sources. Obviously, if this is not possible then it would have an adverse effect on the services supplied within our village.

The income to the village helps pay for a large number of services including:

- ✓ Maintenance and upkeep of the children's play area
- ✓ Upkeep and maintenance of the Lorkin Daniel playing field, Poors Land and the village heath
- ✓ Upkeep of the three village ponds
- ✓ The publication of the village bulletin
- ✓ Production and maintenance of the village web site
- ✓ Employing the part-time village handymen
- ✓ Employment of the Parish Clerk (a statutory requirement)
- ✓ Liability insurance premiums
- ✓ Association fees, licences and external audit fees

Fortunately, and due to good management, the Orpen and John Lampon Halls remain self financing with any profit earmarked to fund future improvements.

The Parish Council has decided that the service provided to the parishioners should not be adversely affected by Colchester Borough Council's proposed action and regrettably, the Parish Council will need to raise its element of the Council Tax paid to cover this reduction in the RSG. Currently the amount paid by each "Band D" household is £25.75 p.a. For 2011/2012 the amount paid by an equivalent property will be raised by £3.51 to £29.26 p.a. to compensate for this reduction and take into account inflation. **This equates to less than 1p per day per household.**

It is expected that Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Council, the Police, Fire and Ambulance services will not increase their part of the Council Tax demand for 2011/2012. In doing so each will benefit by receiving a grant from central government equivalent to a 2.5% increase in the total applicable Band D figure multiplied by the latest available tax base figure. It should be noted that this government grant will not be available for Parish Councils.

Your Parish Council regrets that it will be necessary to impose this small increase in your 2011/2012 council tax payment.

Yours sincerely

John Gili-Ross
Chairman - West Bergholt Parish Council