

## **Westbury Town Council**

### **Area Board Report – 2 February 2017**

As reported verbally at the last Area Board Meeting the Christmas Fayre and Light switch-on were both highly successful and attracted good crowds. This was particularly true of the switch-on where it was great to see so many people packing the High Street. The Council received a lot of favourable feedback and also some comments about how things could be improved. The Events Committee will take all these points into consideration for next year's event.

The main item to report is that the Town Council will be raising the precept this year by 12%. This equates to approximately 23p per week increase for a Band D property. The reasons for this are that the Council will be taking over more things which will no longer be done by Wiltshire Council. In addition to the Public Toilets which has already occurred we will also have to start paying for the Play Areas and an increased area of landscape planting.

The main reason for the increase is, however, that the Town Council have agreed to reinstate 2 hours of free parking in the High Street car park. This will cost approximately £35, 000 per year but we believe that this is a good move to help re-vitalise the Town Centre for the benefit of everyone.

Stephen Andrews

Mayor of Westbury