

# Your guide to Council Tax 2024/25



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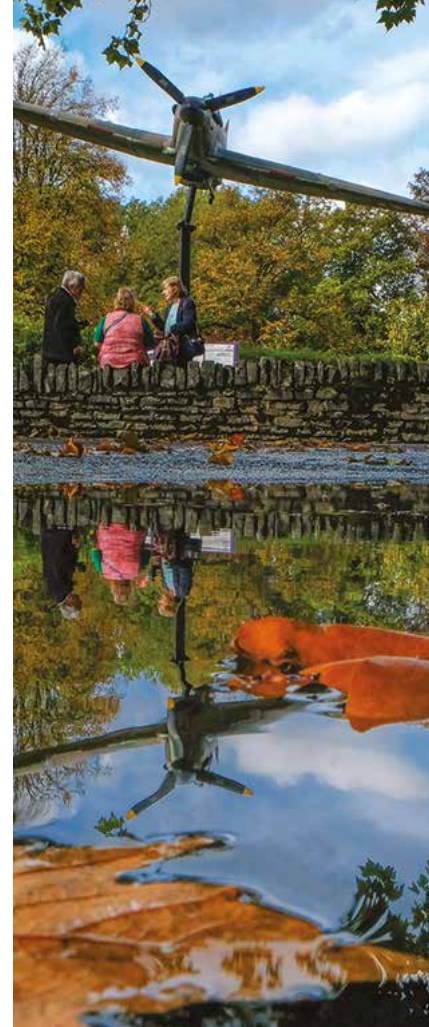
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Royal Borough  
of Windsor &  
Maidenhead

# Royal Borough revenue budget

	2023/24	2024/25			
Service / Expenses	Net expenditure £'000	Gross expenditure £'000	Specific Govt. grants £'000	Other income £'000	Net expenditure £'000
Chief Executive Department	262	959	0	(22)	937
Children's Services	27,882	118,812	(89,620)	152	29,344
Adults, Health & Commissioning	41,336	79,301	(10,984)	(23,995)	44,322
Place	12,859	45,173	(2,642)	(32,382)	10,149
Resources	5,434	40,977	(20,689)	(7,586)	12,702
Governance, Law and Strategy & Public Health	4,261	0	0	0	0
<b>Service Expenditure</b>	<b>92,034</b>	<b>285,222</b>	<b>(123,935)</b>	<b>(63,833)</b>	<b>97,454</b>
Contingency & Corporate	<b>2,895</b>	4,124	0	0	4,124
Non-Service Costs	13,722				<b>17,143</b>
<b>Total Borough Expenditure</b>	<b>108,651</b>				118,721
Funding	<b>(21,428)</b>				<b>(27,833)</b>
<b>Total Council Tax Requirement</b>	<b>87,223</b>				<b>90,888</b>



# Royal Borough budget 2024/25 and changes

The Royal Borough has set a Band D equivalent (including Adult Social Care precept) Council Tax of £1,284.14 for the year ended 31 March 2025. This is calculated as follows - **Tax base (Band D equivalent properties) 70,250.2 for 2023-24 and 69,742.5 for 2024-25.**

	2023/24		2024/25	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR &amp; MAIDENHEAD</b>				
The Royal Borough Budget Requirement		108,651		118,721
National Non Domestic Rates	(14,226)		(15,541)	
Other Grants	(7,202)		(12,292)	
Collection Fund (surplus) / deficit	0	(21,428)	0	(27,833)
<b>Net Council Tax Requirement</b>		<b>87,223</b>		<b>90,888</b>
<b>BAND D EQUIVALENT CHARGE (excluding adult social care and special expenses) (A)</b>		<b>1,060.73</b>		<b>1,097.30</b>
<b>Adult Social Care precept - BAND D EQUIVALENT (B)</b>		<b>162.38</b>		<b>186.84</b>
<b>POLICE &amp; CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR THAMES VALLEY</b>				
	<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>	
Total Budget Requirement	526,307		557,916	
The Royal Borough Police Precept	18,004		18,780	
<b>BAND D EQUIVALENT (C)</b>		<b>256.28</b>		<b>269.28</b>
<b>ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICE</b>				
Total Budget Requirement	41,975		45,964	
The Royal Borough Fire Authority Precept	5,546		5,671	
<b>BAND D EQUIVALENT (D)</b>		<b>78.95</b>		<b>81.31</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL BAND D EQUIVALENT (Excluding Parish figure) A + B + C + D</b>		<b>1,558.34</b>		<b>1,634.73</b>

## Royal Borough budget changes 2023/24 to 2024/25

	£'000
<b>Budget requirement 2023/24</b>	<b>108,651</b>
Inflation	3,247
Savings and Growth	2,311
Funding changes	363
Change in Non service	3,421
Other Adjustments	728
<b>Budget requirement 2024/25</b>	<b>118,721</b>

## Environment Agency

The Environment Agency charges local authorities, including The Royal Borough, a levy for providing flood defence. In the Thames region, this includes maintenance of the river system and the operation of a flood warning system. In 2023/24 The Royal Borough's levy was £166,131, for 2024/25 the levy is £166,084.

# Parish council costs

Each parish council tells the borough council how much to collect to enable them to provide their services, and the Royal Borough collects this and passes it on.

Parish	2023/24	2024/25	2024/25 charge
	Precept £	Precept £	Band D £
Bisham	39,998	45,702	62.89
Bray	217,633	228,493	51.17
Cookham	140,781	159,786	54.07
Cox Green	189,173	193,073	63.72
Datchet	144,531	144,531	63.60
Eton	130,165	147,360	80.64
Horton	45,560	45,560	97.66
Hurley	35,000	34,000	33.71
Old Windsor	175,822	175,822	73.53
Shottesbrooke	-	-	-
Sunningdale	228,962	234,042	66.33
Sunninghill & Ascot	260,360	338,267	51.05
Waltham St. Lawrence	29,000	31,500	45.86
White Waltham	133,014	179,225	137.41
Wraysbury	128,000	134,400	63.20
Unparished*	1,298,736	1,328,778	36.66

\*If you live in Windsor or Maidenhead, you pay a contribution towards the services provided in Maidenhead or Windsor in the same way that a parish charge is made upon people who live in a precepting parish.

## Report it!

**How to report:**

! **Visit** the Department for Work and Pensions Benefit theft website [www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud](http://www.gov.uk/report-benefit-fraud)

! **Call** 0800 854 440 (text phone 0800 3280 512).

! **Write** to NBFH, PO Box 224, Preston, PR1 1GP.



**All other fraud**

To report a fraud affecting the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead, such as Council Tax support, social care, blue badges, housing applications or any other council area, please call the confidential fraud hotline 020 8142 8462 or email [confidential@swapaudit.co.uk](mailto:confidential@swapaudit.co.uk) giving as much information about the fraud as you can (SWAP internal audit services for RBWM).



## Adult social care precept

### What is the adult social care precept?

Since 2016/17 the Government has given councils the power to apply an additional charge on top of Council Tax to provide more funding for adult social care services.

The precept was introduced to ensure council services can support vulnerable residents and meet the increase in demand as our population ages.

This additional funding has paid for:

- More nursing beds for residents with dementia and other complex needs.
- Meeting the increased cost of care in care homes and people's own homes.
- Improving the accommodation offer for residents with learning disabilities.



### Cheques no longer accepted

Cheques are no longer accepted at the Royal Borough as a form of payment.

You will still be able to make payments to us for Council Tax, business rates or anything else using a credit or debit card or via bank transfer.

# Funding for Adult Social Care

The Secretary of State made an offer to Adult Social Care Authorities (these are local authorities, including Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, which have functions under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014), namely county councils in England, district councils for an area in England for which there is no county council, London borough councils, the Common Council of the City of London and the Council of the Isles of Scilly).

The offer was the option of an adult social care authority being able to charge an additional 'precept' on its Council Tax without holding a referendum, to assist the authority in meeting its expenditure on adult social care from the financial year 2016/17. It was originally made in respect of financial years up to and including 2019/20. If the Secretary of State chooses to renew the offer in respect of a particular financial year, this is subject to approval of the House of Commons.

The Government has said that this precept must be shown as a separate charge on all council tax bills. The income generated from this charge is ring-fenced, meaning it can only be used for Adult Social Care services.

The table below for a Band D property shows the total amount to date that has been ring-fenced for Adult Social care, i.e. £186.84

Year	RBWM Band D basic charge & ASC (Opening balance)	Council tax Increase	%age Increase on Ctax basic charge	"ASC Precept Band D Increase"	%age Increase on ASC element	RBWM - Basic charge & ASC (Closing Band D)	Cumulative ASC
2016/17	£906.95	£0.00	0.00%	£18.14	2.0%	£925.09	£18.14
2017/18	£925.09	£8.62	0.95%	£27.75	3.0%	£961.46	£45.89
2018/19	£961.46	£17.85	1.95%	£28.85	3.0%	£1,008.16	£74.74
2019/20	£1,008.16	£27.91	2.99%	£0.00	0.0%	£1,036.07	£74.74
2020/21	£1,036.07	£20.62	1.99%	£20.72	2.0%	£1,077.41	£95.46
2021/22	£1,077.41	£21.44	1.99%	£32.32	3.0%	£1,131.17	£127.78
2022/23	£1,131.17	£22.51	1.99%	£11.31	1.0%	£1,164.99	£139.09
2023/24	£1,164.99	£34.83	2.99%	£23.29	2.0%	£1,223.11	£162.38
2024/25	£1,223.11	£36.57	2.99%	£24.46	2.0%	£1,284.14	£186.84
<b>Total</b>		<b>£190.35</b>		<b>£186.84</b>			

The Adult Social Care precept for 2024/25 (£186.84 for band D) combines the amount charged in 2016/17 to 2024/25.

Adult Social Care services support some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, largely supporting those in old age and adults with disabilities. The Adult Social Care precept has had to be shown as a cumulative figure on the council tax bill since it was introduced. The % increase allowed for 2024/25 is 2% of RBWM's 2023/24 total council tax bill.

Although the amount on the bill shows a change from £162.38 to £186.84 (a change of £24.46) and what appears to be 15.06%, the actual increase is only 2%, or £24.46. This being 2% of 2023/24 Ctax basic charge and ASC (£1,223.11) and not on ASC element only. These values need to be adjusted for the other bands accordingly.

### How can I check the figures?

If you are checking the 2024/25 Precept on your own Council Tax bill, you will need both the 2023/24 and 2024/25 bills in front of you. Remember that the increase in the ASC Precept is calculated from the total amount of Council Tax charged only for RBWM Council services the previous year.

### To check your 2024/25 ASC Precept:

1. Add together the amount for "RBWM basic charge" and "Adult Social Care\*" on your 2023/24 bill to get the total amount for Basic charge and ASC for RBWM.
2. You then need to calculate 2% of this total amount.
3. Add this 2% figure to the 2023/24 Adult Social Care amount. The result is the Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept you are being charged for 2024/25.

Council Tax charges for your local Town or Parish council, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the fire services are shown on your bill separately and you do not need to include them to calculate the Precept.

**Please note:** The government has said that the ASC precept must be shown as a separate charge on all council tax bills. The way that we work out this increase and show it on our council tax bills is prescribed by The Council Tax (Demand Notices) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

By law any increases on your council tax bill must be shown to the nearest decimal point – which means that the 1.99% general expenditure increase must be shown as 2%.



# How much is your total bill?

The amount you will pay depends on which of the eight valuation bands your home is in. The bands are based on your home's capital value at 1 April 1991 and are set by the government's Valuation Office. The table below sets out how much your bill will be depending on your parish and valuation band.

## Valuation band & range

<b>A</b> - Up to £40,000	<b>E</b> - £88,001 to £120,000
<b>B</b> - £40,001 to £52,000	<b>F</b> - £120,001 to £160,000
<b>C</b> - £52,001 to £68,000	<b>G</b> - £160,001 to £320,000
<b>D</b> - £68,001 to £88,000	<b>H</b> - More than £320,000

BAND	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Bisham	1,131.75	1,320.37	1,509.00	1,697.62	2,074.87	2,452.12	2,829.37	3,395.24
Bray	1,123.93	1,311.26	1,498.58	1,685.90	2,060.54	2,435.19	2,809.83	3,371.80
Cookham	1,125.87	1,313.51	1,501.16	1,688.80	2,064.09	2,439.38	2,814.67	3,377.60
Cox Green	1,132.30	1,321.02	1,509.74	1,698.45	2,075.88	2,453.32	2,830.75	3,396.90
Datchet	1,132.22	1,320.93	1,509.63	1,698.33	2,075.73	2,453.15	2,830.55	3,396.66
Eton	1,143.58	1,334.18	1,524.78	1,715.37	2,096.56	2,477.76	2,858.95	3,430.74
Horton	1,154.93	1,347.42	1,539.91	1,732.39	2,117.36	2,502.34	2,887.32	3,464.78
Hurley	1,112.29	1,297.68	1,483.06	1,668.44	2,039.20	2,409.97	2,780.73	3,336.88
Old Windsor	1,138.84	1,328.65	1,518.46	1,708.26	2,087.87	2,467.49	2,847.10	3,416.52
Shottesbrooke	1,089.82	1,271.46	1,453.10	1,634.73	1,998.00	2,361.28	2,724.55	3,269.46
Sunningdale	1,134.04	1,323.05	1,512.06	1,701.06	2,079.07	2,457.09	2,835.10	3,402.12
Sunninghill & Ascot	1,123.85	1,311.17	1,498.48	1,685.78	2,060.39	2,435.02	2,809.63	3,371.56
Waltham St. Lawrence	1,120.39	1,307.13	1,493.86	1,680.59	2,054.05	2,427.52	2,800.98	3,361.18
White Waltham	1,181.43	1,378.33	1,575.24	1,772.14	2,165.95	2,559.76	2,953.57	3,544.28
Wraysbury	1,131.95	1,320.62	1,509.28	1,697.93	2,075.24	2,452.57	2,829.88	3,395.86
Unparished	1,114.26	1,299.97	1,485.69	1,671.39	2,042.81	2,414.23	2,785.65	3,342.78



# Council Tax discounts

## Single person discount

A 25 percent discount is given where a property is the sole or main residence of only one adult aged 18 or over.

## Disregard discount

Some people will get a discount because they or the people they live with are not 'counted' for Council Tax purposes.

The people who are not 'counted' include:

- Full-time students, youth training trainees, apprentices and some student nurses.
- People who are severely mentally impaired.
- 18 and 19-year-olds who have just left school.
- People caring for someone with a disability (other than their partner or a child under 18).

## Job related discount

If you pay Council Tax on two properties because you are required to live in one of them as a condition of your employment, you may be entitled to a 50 percent discount on one property.

## Empty properties

If a property is unoccupied and unfurnished for a period of at least 12 months, a 100 percent Council Tax premium is payable on top of the full Council Tax for the property. From 1 April 2020, the premium rose to 200 percent where the property has been empty and unfurnished for at least five years and 300 percent where it has been empty and unfurnished for at least ten years.

From 1st April 2025 the amount of council tax charged on properties

where there is no one resident, and which are substantially furnished, will increase by 100% i.e. it will double.

## People with disabilities

You may be entitled to a Council Tax reduction if your property has:

- An additional bathroom or kitchen required for meeting the needs of a disabled resident.
- Sufficient floor space for a wheelchair which is used for meeting the needs of a disabled resident.
- A room predominantly used by and required for meeting the needs of a disabled person.



## Appeals

### Appealing against your banding

If you think your property should be in a different valuation band, you should contact the Valuation Office Agency to ask them to check it or to find out what your rights are and how to appeal. Their website is [www.voa.gov.uk](http://www.voa.gov.uk).

### Appeals against liability or amount payable

If you feel you should not be liable for Council Tax you can appeal to the council. You can also appeal if you have asked for a discount or exemption that has not been awarded. For a full list of Council Tax discounts and exemptions, please visit the website.

## Council Tax exemptions

The following unoccupied properties may be exempt from Council Tax:

- Owned by a charity (up to six months).
- Was the home of someone who is in detention (i.e. in prison or detained under Mental Health Act or Immigration Act).
- Was the home of someone who has gone to live elsewhere to receive care (including a residential care home, hospital or with relatives), or was the home of someone who has moved away to provide care for another person.
- Self-contained property which forms part of another dwelling (e.g. an annexe) and it would be a breach of planning law to let it separately.
- Where executors are responsible for the property and are waiting for probate or letters of administration to be granted.

The following occupied properties may be exempt from Council Tax:

- Occupied only by students or people who are severely mentally impaired.
- Annexe occupied by elderly or disabled relatives.

## Council Tax support and second adult rebate

### Council Tax support

Since 1 April 2013 Council Tax Benefit has been replaced by Council Tax Support. If you are not receiving Council Tax Support you could be missing out on support of up to a 100 percent reduction in your Council Tax Bill if you are a pensioner or up to 80 percent if you are of working age. To check if you qualify and make a claim, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/ys9jtqjp>

### Second adult rebate

If you have someone aged over 18 living with you and they have a low income and are not a spouse or partner you could qualify for a 25 percent second adult rebate.

### Had a change in your circumstances?

The amount you are entitled to is affected by many things including the income of your household, the number and ages of the people living there, any disability, your Council Tax and savings.

If your claim is not based on current information there is a chance you could be getting too much support – or not enough.

If your circumstances have changed you must notify us immediately.

## Unoccupied Properties

Please note that, since April 2017 no reduction is available to properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished. This means that full Council Tax is payable on these properties.

if the property remains empty and unfurnished for 12 months, then a 100 percent premium is payable on top of the full Council Tax for the property.

This will increase to 200 percent if the property remains empty and unfurnished for at least five years and 300 percent where it has been empty and unfurnished for at least ten years. There is no reduction for properties undergoing or requiring structural alterations. For further details please visit the council's website.

From 1st April 2025 the amount of council tax charged on properties where there is no one resident, and which are substantially furnished, will increase by 100% i.e. it will double.





## Everyone is feeling the impact of the cost of living.

If you're struggling, please reach out for support. Scan the QR or visit <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/hub-page/here-to-help> for more information or visit the government support webpage at [www.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.gov.uk/cost-of-living) to find out what support is available. Or call 01628 683800 or pop into your local library.



### Energy & Water Costs

**Energy Saving Advice** – you can speak to an energy adviser from Citizens Advice - 0808 223 1133 or use the government's online tool: <https://www.gov.uk/improve-energy-efficiency>.

**Priority Services Register** – you may be eligible to register for free priority services from your energy and/or water provider which includes extra support during prolonged power and water cuts. Contact your provider directly for more information.

**Winter Fuel Payment** – you could receive between £250 and £600 from the government to help your heating bills. Most people get the payment automatically if they are eligible.

**Draughtbusters** – a local community group who will fix the draughts in your home for free. Email [rbwmdraughtbusters@gmail.com](mailto:rbwmdraughtbusters@gmail.com) for more information.

**Green Doctor** – trained energy efficiency experts who visit people in their homes to offer free support to help you reduce your energy bills. Email [greendoctor@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:greendoctor@groundwork.org.uk) for more information.



### Food & Daily Essentials

**Maidenhead Foodshare** - Email: [Lester\\_Tanner@foodshare.charity](mailto:Lester_Tanner@foodshare.charity) or [debbie@foodshare.charity](mailto:debbie@foodshare.charity), or call 01628 262711 if an emergency.

**Windsor Foodshare** - Email: [manager@windsorfoodshare.org.uk](mailto:manager@windsorfoodshare.org.uk).

**All Souls Church, Ascot Foodshare** – every Friday 1-2pm. No referral needed.

**Hope Church, Sunningdale Foodshare** – every Tuesday 11am - 1pm. No referral needed



### Council Tax

**Reduction Scheme** – up to 100 per cent reduction if you are on a low income and are of pensionable age, and up to 80 per cent if you are on a low income and of working age. Apply on the council website.

**Discounts and exemptions** – Visit <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/council-tax>.



### Debt Support

You can access debt support from Citizens Advice by calling an adviser on 0808 278 7914 or National Debtline on 0808 808 4000. Christians Against Poverty (CAP) also offer free debt support. River Church Maidenhead and Kerith Community Church Bracknell are CAP Debt Help Centres. You can arrange an appointment by calling 0800 328 0006.



### Childcare & School Meals

**Free School Meals** – speak with your child's school directly.

**Free childcare** – visit <https://rbwmtogether.rbwm.gov.uk/childcare>



### Housing costs

**Discretionary Housing Payment** – short-term financial help if you are a Housing Benefit claimant or receiving the housing cost element of Universal Credit. Pick up an application form at Maidenhead or Windsor libraries or email [benefits@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@rbwm.gov.uk). Citizens Advice can also offer support and advice on housing costs.



### Benefits

To check if you may be entitled to additional benefits visit <https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators> or [www.entitledto.co.uk](http://www.entitledto.co.uk). For advice on central government benefits, visit [www.gov.uk/browse/benefits](http://www.gov.uk/browse/benefits). For advice on benefits administered by the council, call 01628 796036 or email [benefits@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@rbwm.gov.uk)

The Royal Borough is also launching a new service to help maximise the income of residents. If you would like to discuss your income with a dedicated officer from the Financial Inclusion Team, please email [financial.inclusion@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:financial.inclusion@rbwm.gov.uk) and an appointment can be arranged.



HM Government

www.rbwm.gov.uk



Royal Borough  
of Windsor &  
Maidenhead

# Make maths work for you

# Free adult numeracy courses to help at work and home

**UNLOCK  
YOUR  
POTENTIAL**

**SKILLS  
FOR LIFE  
MULTIPLY**



## Don't let numbers hold you back!

Boosting your maths skills can help you unlock more job opportunities, lead to higher wages or prepare you for further study. It also benefits you in everyday life, such as helping children with homework or making sure your household bills and budget add up.

## Free maths courses for adults

Multiply is a new government-funded programme, working with local councils, to help adults improve their numeracy skills. If you're aged 19 or over and don't have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), you can join free numeracy courses to build your confidence with numbers and gain a qualification.

## What courses are available?

There are courses for beginners looking to get to grips with maths, through to more advanced courses such as GCSE Maths, Functional Skills Qualifications, or equivalent. Online tutorials are also available, so you can learn at a pace that suits you.

## Take the next step today

Take the next step today. Visit <https://skillsforlife.campaign.gov.uk/courses/multiply/> to take a quick quiz to see where you might want to brush up on your numbers and sign up at [www.rbwm.gov.uk/Multiply](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/Multiply).

Email [multiply@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:multiply@rbwm.gov.uk) if you have further questions.

To register for courses:  
Visit [Multiply](#)  
Scan the QR code  
Call 01753 793288



**Further information about Council Tax can be found at:**

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead - <https://www.rbwm.gov.uk/home/council-tax-and-benefits>

The Environment Agency - [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley - [www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service - [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk)

**Mandatory parish precept information available at:**

Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council - <https://sunninghillandascotparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Datchet Parish Council - [www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.datchetparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Bray Parish Council - [www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.brayparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Cox Green Parish Council - [www.coxgreen.gov.uk](http://www.coxgreen.gov.uk)

Sunningdale Parish Council - [www.sunningdale-pc.org.uk](http://www.sunningdale-pc.org.uk)

Old Windsor Parish Council - [www.owpc.co.uk](http://www.owpc.co.uk)

Follow us on Facebook,  
Nextdoor and Twitter @RBWM

Contact Us:

01628 683800

[customer.service@rbwm.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@rbwm.gov.uk)

[www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk)

