

# Wyre Forest District Council's Conservative Group Propose Alternative Budget

Conservative Group Leader on WFDC Cllr Marcus Hart says, "This Labour, Green and Independent led Council is letting residents down. Consistently now you are being asked to pay more Council Tax for less. **We believe that front line services that are important to you should not only be protected but enhanced.** That is why we are proposing":-

- **To increase the number of Environmental Protection Officers** that tackle fly tipping from two to four officers.
- **To increase the number of Civil Enforcement Officers** from six to seven to specifically tackle parking enforcement on double yellow lines in our villages.
- **To increase the number of litter pickers** at peak seasonal times across the District.
- **To increase the grant support to our Parish Councils** to undertake litter picking, bin emptying and grass cutting on a local level.
- **To invest in arts, leisure and cultural activities** in our District.



Cllr Chris Rogers says, "We believe these investments will make a real difference to the lives of local residents."

## Pension Triple Lock

The Chancellor has announced that the September inflation rate of 10.1% is confirmed for increasing the State Pension from April 2023.

The triple lock was brought in under a Conservative Government to rectify the low pension rate after years of low rises under Labour.

State Pension increased by only 44% in the last 10 years of the previous Labour government, compared to 72% between 2011-2021 with the Conservatives.

\* All benefits will increase by 10.1% including the benefit cap

Cllr Beri Dawes added, "It is clear that your local Conservatives are on your side, tackling the issues that matter to you. I recognise and support the need for the additional officers to tackle illegal fly tipping and illegal car parking."



## Tackling Illegal Immigrants

The number of people entering the UK illegally in small boats has more than quadrupled in the last two years, from 8,404 in 2020 to more than 40,000 people in 2022.

A problem shared across Europe with the number of illegal arrivals up by over 50 per cent, with France alone receiving 100,000 asylum applications this year. Our co-operation with the French has led to 31,000 small boats crossings being stopped in 2022 – almost 50 per cent of the total crossings.

But more needs to be done to protect our beaches in Kent and to speed up the number of Asylum claims, with the Government announcing the following actions:

- **A new agreement with Albania so that the vast majority of Albanian claimants can be removed** with weekly flights until all Albanians in our backlog are sent home.
- **A new, permanent, unified Small Boats Operational Command in the channel with 700 new staff** to bring together military and civilian capabilities.
- **Tougher immigration enforcement with 200 new staff and better data sharing with banks** so they are unable to open bank accounts.
- **Cheaper accommodation sites so we can move migrants out of expensive hotels.** We will identify a range of alternative sites such as disused holiday parks, former student halls and surplus military land.
- **Clear the initial asylum backlog in 2023** by doubling the number of caseworkers and radically streamlining the process.

Wyre Forest Conservatives - working hard all year round



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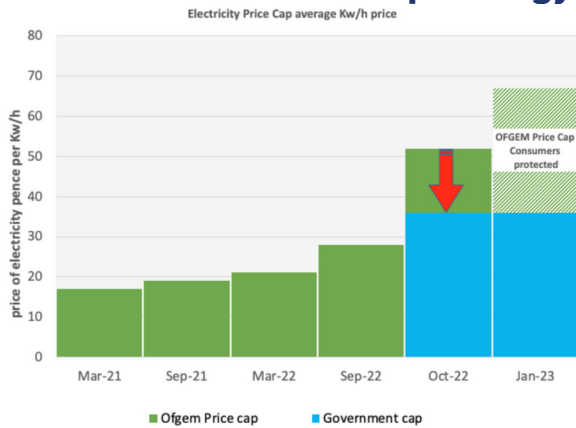
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# Government Energy Support this Winter

## The Government Caps Energy



- Pensioners Winter Fuel Payment - an additional £300**
- Low income families - £650 cost of living payment**
- Disability benefit recipients - £150 cost of living payment**
- Household energy bill relief - doubled to £400**
- Household Support Fund - Total £1.5bn since Sept 2021**
- Alternative Household Fuel Support - £150**

## Energy Support from April 2023 - Announced

- The Government **will continue to protect all households from high electricity and gas prices** with a new Energy Price Guarantee.
- **£900** Cost of Living Payment for households on means tested benefits.
- **£300** Cost of Living Payment for Pensioner households.
- **£150** Cost of Living Payment for individuals in receipt of disability benefits.

## Contact Details For Further Advice and Support

### PENSION CREDIT

It is estimated that 30% of pensioners who are entitled to Pension Credit are not claiming it. This top up to the State Pension will also enable pensioners to access additional financial support and benefits, including £650 additional Cost of Living support from the Government and free BBC TV licence. Contact Age UK for assistance to see if you are able to claim.

#### Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest

**Phone: 01527 570490**  
 enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk  
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf/>

### HERE 2 HELP WORCESTERSHIRE

Assistance with a wide range of issues.  
**01905 768053**  
<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

### CITIZENS ADVICE WYRE FOREST

General advice and information regarding debt management.

**Phone: 0808 278 7891**  
<https://www.wyreforestcab.org.uk/clone-enquiry-form>

### ACT ON ENERGY

Energy advice, including energy efficiency tips, billing issues, grants & funding for energy efficient measures & grants for broken heating systems & help with fuel bills & energy debt. Act On Energy is delivering the Household Support Fund in Worcestershire.

**Phone: 0800 988 2881**  
[www.actonenergy.org.uk](http://www.actonenergy.org.uk)

## Contact your Conservative team for **Mitton** if you have any concerns



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