

## **Flitwick Town Council 21 October 2025 - Ward Councillor Report**

### Introduction

I agreed to report to FTC in writing prior to any meeting.

### Planning Issues

The appeal for **Steppingley Field** will be held by Public Inquiry starting 20 January 2026.

The Council has taken advice from Kings Council and will announce shortly how it intends to respond to this appeal.

The application for planning permission to the fencing and bollards next to the **old post office** on the High Street has been withdrawn. In essence this means the current set up is not permitted but it will return with further variations.

### Fairer Funding

The Government is changing the funding formula for 26/27 and the council is briefing that it could be £23 million worse off as a result this coming year. It will be a 3 year settlement so this could be the start of what will continue to be bad news.

The concern is that the base assessment of relative need has been downgraded for many shire councils and grant funding will be combined with business rates pooling which will be rebased detrimentally.

The Government calculations are predicated on a 5% council tax increase.

### Council Tax Support

The council is consulting on a change to council tax support for 26/27.

Currently around 4,000 people do not pay council tax based on their universal credit (and some other benefits) claim. The council is consulting on making all working age claimants pay some council tax, likely to be up to 20%.

Given that council tax support is a reduction in council tax, charging more will also have an impact on the council tax yield for precepting authorities such as Flitwick Town Council. Clearly any extra amount charged still has to be collected.

**Councillor Ian Adams**

**20 October 25**