

2024/25 Budget – Will Peasedown St John be included?

Dear Panel Members,

Each year we see millions of pounds being spent on numerous projects across the local authority.

All of which are carried out with the desire to invest in our communities and to improve the quality of life of our residents.

We are grateful that the council uses a budget setting and discussion process that allows all councillors to contribute and make representations on behalf of their constituents.

It's for this very reason that we're submitting this statement, and these items for consideration in the 2024/25 council budget.

Each week, we spend time out in the community knocking on doors, meeting residents, and finding out what their desires and aspirations are for Peasedown St John.

This is their 'wish list' for the forthcoming council budget:

- **£50,000** for speed reduction measures
- **£20,000** for hedge maintenance and path clearance in Peasedown St John
- **£25,000** for more play equipment in Peasedown St John

We're also part of the cross-party campaign to secure additional funding for the local authority's invaluable community libraries – which support some of our most vulnerable and isolated residents, providing them with a lifeline in B&NES' rural towns and villages.

We, along with members from the Labour, Green and Lib Dem Groups, have written to the Leader of the Council asking for each of the 11 Community Libraries around B&NES to receive a further £5,000 grant each to help with the rising costs of rental space and energy bills. The previous grants of £5,000 in 2019 have now long come to an end. Without additional support from the council some of our community libraries may close.

We're asking for each community library to receive £5,000 each. That would mean **£55,000** (11 x £5,000) needs to be allocated in next year's budget for this.

Please do consider these financial requests from Peasedown St John residents for the 2024/25 council budget.

Yours,

Cllr Karen Walker and Cllr Gavin Heathcote
Independents, Peasedown St John