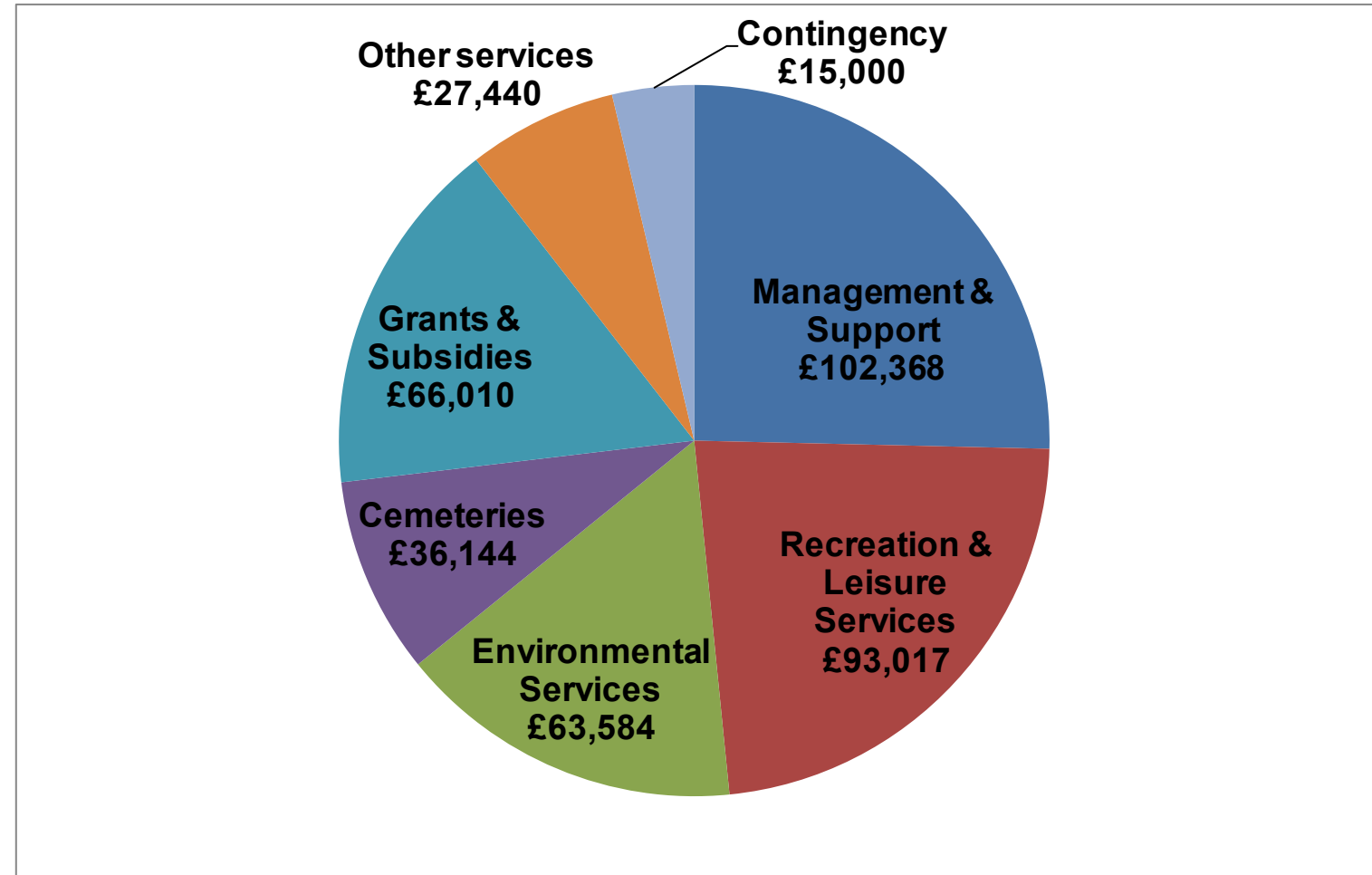


How your money was spent in 2016/17

In 2016/17 the Council's budget was made up of £295,860 collected from the council tax payers of Prudhoe via their Council Tax Precept, £43,643 of reclaimed VAT, £674 interest, £40,904 in grants and sponsorship, £22,953 cemetery income and £41,120 balances carried forward from the previous year. £55,000 was held in an Asset Reverse Fund, separate to the budget illustrated below:

BUDGET HEADING	Budget set at start of budget cycle (January 2016)	Net Spending at year end (March 2017) *money is moved from Contingency and spent in other headings
Management & Support	£93,787	£91,908
Recreation & Leisure Services	£41,275	£39,610
Environmental Services	£60,523	£68,199
Cemeteries	£22,500	£16,005
Grants & Subsidies	£63,850	£61,793
Other services	£4,710	£3,807
Contingency	£11,380	*
	£298,025	£281,322

Prudhoe Town Council Budget for 2017/18



The Council's website contains up to date and historical budget and expenditure data and includes detailed information on assets, contracts, grant aid, procurement, and audit.



Annual Report 2016/17

www.parish-council.com/prudhoe

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS	
Castlefields & Low Prudhoe	
Cllr Gerald Price	833382
Cllr Ignasious Varghese	599316
Castledene & Eltringham	
Cllr Duncan Couchman	832033
Cllr George McCreedy	833801
VACANCY	
Mickley	
Cllr Christine Cuthbert	844737
Prudhoe West & Halfway	
Cllr Eileen Burt	834764
Cllr Tracy Gilmore	836513
Cllr Yvonne Ritchie	832451
Prudhoe Hall	
Cllr Andrew Gill	834921
Cllr Glenn Simpson	835549
Cllr Carol Stephenson	598096
West Wylam	
Cllr Russell Greig	831732
Cllr Jennifer McGee	834653
VACANCY	

Welcome to the 2016/17 Annual Report which gives information regarding the work of the Town Council over the last year. Once again it has been a busy year and I would like to thank all members of the Council for their hard work and dedication.

At the last Ordinary Meeting of the Council, we said goodbye to those Councillors who decided not to stand for re-election and I would like to thank them all for their valuable contribution to the Council; you will all be missed.

For a Local Council the work we do is quite extensive and varied and as time goes on I can see us taking on more duties to benefit our Town. We have recently completed the transfer of play areas from Northumberland County Council to the Town Council and have seen re-furbishments at Castle Dene and Highfield Parks. Summer this year will see new play equipment installed in both Eastwood Park and West Mickley Play area.

2017 will see new Councillors take their place on the Council, they are warmly welcomed; we are all here to do the best for our Town.

Finally, on behalf of the Council, I would like to pay tribute to ex-councillor Mrs Maureen Goodfellow who sadly passed away recently; our condolences go to Walter, Maureen's husband and to her family. Councillor, Mayor, Aged People's Treat Stalwart and a friend to many, Maureen you were a Star.

Councillor Mrs Jennifer McGee
Mayor/Chair of Prudhoe Town Council



Town Council Office
Telephone: (01661) 835487
Email: prudhoetc@hotmail.com

Prudhoe in Bloom 2016 celebrated gardening, community spirit, and much loved individuals. The 2017 competition has already been launched in a bid to get more residents enthusiastic about gardening, in their own patch and in the community. Paddock Close residents (pic. right) were rewarded for their efforts and we hope they inspire more entries to the 'Community Gardening' section.



Mr Howdon won 'Best Front Garden' and Mrs Scott won 'Best Rear Garden' as well as 'Best Hanging Basket' (pic. left). The Best Hanging Basket award is a tribute to the late Mrs Pauline Howdon who, along with her husband supported this local competition from the start, with Rob continuing in her memory. We expect a high number of entries this year for Hanging Baskets and look forward to seeing the results.

Full details of all Prudhoe in Bloom entries, including schools, churches and businesses can be seen on the town council website, www.parish-council.com/prudhoe

The summer of 2016 brought Highfield Fest and the Kite Festival to a newly revamped Highfield Park. New play equipment was installed at the end of September 2015 and improvement has continued with the installation of 11 seats; these were gifted to Prudhoe Youth Charity Shop and painted by young people who attend 'The East'. As well as the seats, the park now has double capacity litter bins and a new path and gate to the lower pedestrian entrance.

Although 2016 was the last Kite Festival, Highfield Fest Family Fun Day will be held again on Sunday 25th June, from 11 am until 5 pm. Prudhoe Highfield Fest has its own Facebook Page, check it out!



The council's website has a wonderfully inspiring video of the **2016 SCA Prudhoe Miners' Race**; the town's legacy event from the 2012 Olympics. This year the race will be held on Sunday 1st October 2017 and entries can be made online on as given below: www.runnation.co.uk/race/sca-prudhoe-miners-run-10k/

The event includes a 10km Road Race, a 5km Junior Race, and 1.5km Fun Run.



Edgewell Cemeteries have seen over £29,000 investment in 2016/17 with new fencing, signage and a roadway. Capital investment has been significant over the last few years and maintenance is now the priority.

Any issues relating to Edgewell Cemetery should be raised with the office of Prudhoe Town Council as the owners of the cemetery; maintenance is carried out by Northumberland County Council on behalf of Prudhoe Town Council.



Allotments

Prudhoe Town Council has 4 allotment sites managed by The Prudhoe Gardeners' Association (PGA); these are at Redwell Court, Stonyflat Bank, Castle Road and Edgewell.

The rent for a full-size plot is £47.50; this is reduced for pensioners and where plots are sub-divided. There are currently vacancies at Castle Road Allotment; if you are interested please visit the PGA Hut behind The West Wylam Inn. 'The Hut' is open from 10 am until 12 noon each Saturday and is staffed by volunteers. You can become a PGA member for only £3; this allows you to take advantage of the discounted stocks of seeds, fertilisers, compost, canes and legal pesticides.



Investing in Our Environment

Prudhoe Town Council has responsibility for the town's formal floral beds, passed over from Northumberland County Council. We are also responsible for roundabouts and gateways and additional grass-cutting in areas that would otherwise not be cut. Also including bus shelters and litter bins, these devolved responsibilities require a substantial investment (see 'Environmental Budget') and the council has recently gone through a procurement process to award 'Contracts for Services' for the next 4 years.

Hollybush Nurseries and Landscaping will continue to carry out the required work for all formal bedding, planters and hanging baskets, as well as looking after the roundabouts and gateways. Please look out for the spring bulbs coming out at the beginning of June, as residents are encouraged to re-use them.

Grass-cutting will be carried out by K.A.M Gardening and Landscaping and as we appreciate there are a number of grassed areas being cut by different contractors, often confusing for residents, we will update the website with our areas of responsibility and the grass-cutting schedules as soon as possible.

The council has ensured bus shelters are cleaned and disinfected throughout 2016/17 and will continue to maintain them to a high standard and repair them when necessary.

Prudhoe has more litter and dog bins than any other town in Northumberland but the council remains committed to responding to need and installing bins in public places, where it is deemed they will have an impact. Please remember that dog waste can be disposed of in any public bin and report incidents of dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping on the NCC website or by contacting 0345 600 6400.

Our Town Twinning with Mitry-Mory (France) is coming up to its 35 Years Anniversary and the Prudhoe Town Twinning Association who arrange visits, as well as sport, music and social exchanges, would welcome new members. Please contact Derek Gillespie for more information on (01661) 834033.