

NEW COUNCIL TAX RATES FOR 2009

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Our Council would have us believe they have fought a valiant battle against Government underfunding to keep the rise in Council tax down to 3.9% let us examine the facts.

All politicians including our local ones are famous for being economical with the truth. According to the figures released with the Council tax bills the actual grant from central government was 4.9% a pretty good settlement. The Council did a bit of kite flying and suggested an increase in Council tax of 4.9%. This at a time when inflation is heading rapidly to .9%.

The Council in their wisdom decided to put a series of propositions to the Forum groups not noted for high attendances and then decided to abide by their democratic decision and came up with the magic figure of 3.5%. So far it all sounds reasonable or does it. Other Councils do things differently a band D property in the City of Westminster costs in 2007/8 £698.76 in SKDC the same property would cost £1346.85 this difference is huge. Remember Westminster is a Tory run Council maybe our esteemed Leader should seek guidance from Westminster.

Lets look at what they could have done. Cut the yearly expenditure of some £500,000 spent on management Consultants. Cut the Councils advertising budget by some £50,000. Carry out a top down review of all staff posts and pension payments with a view to achieving a balanced budget after all do we need a budding Tour de France entrant as a CEO. There is another £90,000 saved.

Our Council has set its face against anything as drastic as this they would rather increase Council tax and prosecute OAPs and poorer families for non payment.

According to a BBC news flash Notts City Council has warned some 1000 staff that there jobs are on the line. If these sort of savings are achieved their Council tax can be frozen for a while

None of this is likely to happen here because our Council is run by an elective dictatorship with a blocking majority. They believe democracy means giving the electorate a chance every five years to decide which bunch of buffoons can waste more of our money. Just remember £1 in every £5 goes to pay for pension pots of our local Town hall officials. Good value for money I think not.

The views expressed here are personal to the editors and is nothing to do with MANTRA

