

Councillors consulted with the public before Christmas on raising the precept to help maintain services in the town.

And at a meeting of the full council earlier this month, it was agreed to increase the town's element of the council tax by £12.60 per year per Band D property to £40 per annum.

The council said that there would also be a reduction in the amount of funding it would get from council tax support.

The amount for Wellington in 2016/17 would be £9,180, a reduction of two thirds,



SAVINGS: Wellington mayor Janet Lloyd

which it is hoped will be somewhat offset by the increase.

There would be a another further reduc-

tional services that might be undertaken by the town council in the future.

The council also decided that it's main aims going forward would be to improve the local environment, co-ordinate support for older people, support families and young people, and be proactive in getting people into employment.

Wellington Town Council's proposed expenditure for 2016/17 includes £65,000 for devolved services to meet the costs of service cuts by the Deane and the county as well as improved services.

Firm gets MP backing for weighing devices checks

A WELLINGTON-based company has been working with Taunton Deane MP to raise the importance of protecting customers against incorrect weights and measures in parliament.

An area of legislation recently cut is the checking of weighing devices.

Wellington-based Westco Bilanciai, industrial weighing specialists, says the laws are vital if, for example, you want to be sure that you are getting the weight of goods printed on the package.

In total 35 individuals from the UK Weighing Federation (UKWF) membership attended the reception held in the Houses of Parliament on January 13, and were given cross-party support from 14 MPs.

The MPs, including Rebecca Pow, were keen to understand the wider impact the legislative changes being made by government were having on businesses and consumers living in their constituency.

The question asked at the meeting was: 'has the right balance been struck between reducing the burden of regulation on businesses against the risk of non-compliance that would result in consumers losing trust in the weights they were buying'.

The UKWF produced information showing there was a lack of compliance in the market and dwindling resources within local Trading Standards to prevent non-compliance.

It has seen 1,050 officers capable of



WEIGHING UP THE ISSUES: The firm met with Rebecca Pow in parliament

carrying out checks in 1992, fall to only 257 officers in 2015.

This resource has meant that only 6.6 per cent of machines that weigh the goods that we buy have been checked.

The view of those who attended the event was concern as well as fear that the less scrupulous companies could

easily profit from this reduction in red tape.

"The most important thing is to avoid a race to the bottom with less scrupulous suppliers set to gain the most from weaker regulation at the consumer's expense," said Dave Clark, director of Westco Bilanciai.

It will be preceded by the Finance Committee meeting from at 5.45pm and the Planning Committee meeting, which starts at 6.15pm. The public may speak and ask questions.

For full details, log on to www.wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk.

Museum help

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help run Wellington Museum.

The volunteer-run attraction, in Fore Street, is keen to hear from anyone who may be able to spare time or make a donation.

For more information and to volunteer, visit www.wellingtonmuseum.org.uk, or email info@wellingtonmuseum.org.uk.

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