



# BUDGET

**2023/24 DRAFT BUDGET  
PROPOSALS**

**BUDGET CONSULTATION  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023**



**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY**



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy

## Consultation for the 2023-2024 budget proposals

Press release issued 10/1/23 to launch consultation.

Posted on MCC website <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2023/01/budget-consultation-in-the-midst-of-the-cost-of-living-crisis>

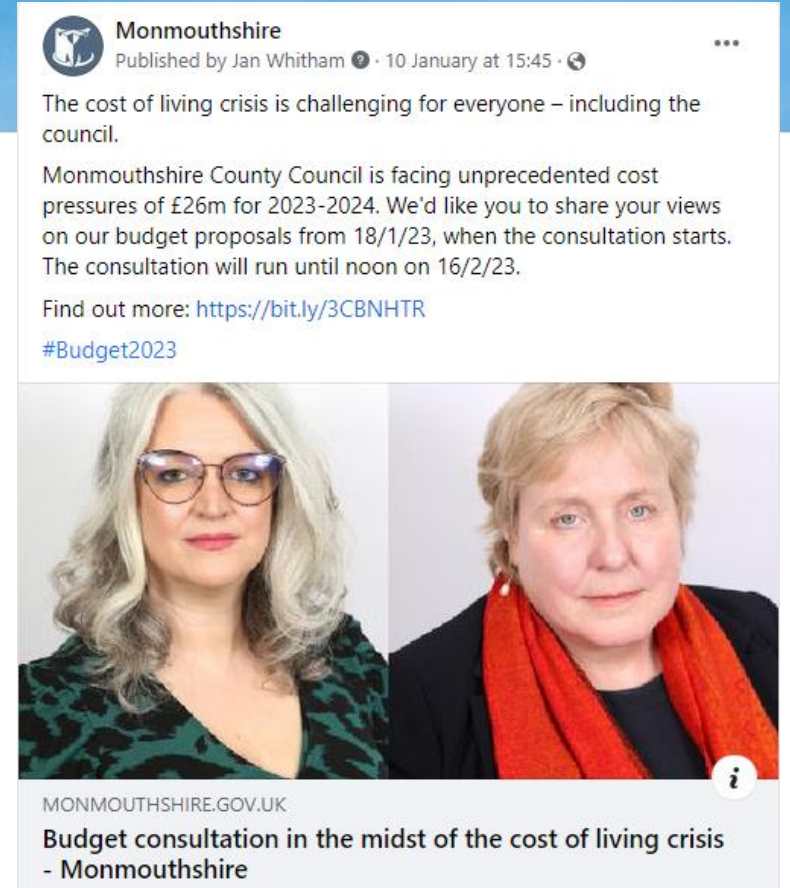
Picked up by my local press online and in papers:

<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23288467.11-4m-monmouthshire-council-budget-cuts-2023-detailed/>

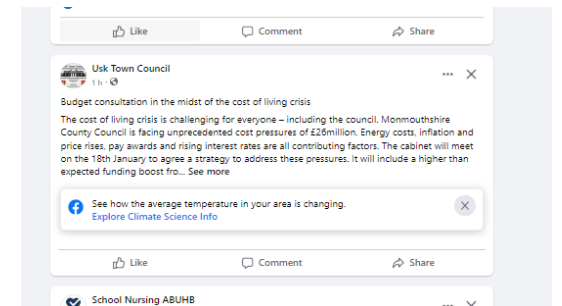
<https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/23243619.monmouthshire-council-tax-increase-april-2023-revealed/>

And shared by local community groups, town and community councils, as well as Ward Members.

Consultation also shared to all schools, and all users of My Monmouthshire (14.5k residents)



Facebook reach 1,670



## Promoting the engagement sessions

The engagement sessions were listed on the press release that went to all media, and included on the budget home page. We also created Facebook events for them and shared with community groups. A full schedule of posts promoting them were included both on **Facebook and Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn**.

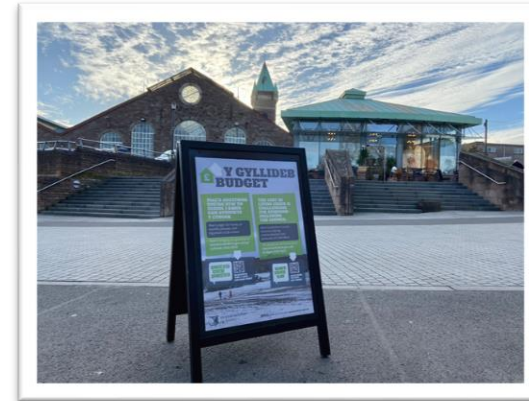
All users of **MyMonmouthshire (14.5k)**, all schools and all town and community councils were also sent the dates.

### Face-to-face budget consultation events

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 6pm. Caldicot Hub, Woodstock Way, Caldicot
- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm. Chepstow Hub, Manor Way, Chepstow
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm. Usk Hub, 35 Maryport St, Usk
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm. Shire Hall, Monmouth
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 6pm. Magor CIW Primary School, Magor
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm, Abergavenny Hub, Abergavenny

### Online budget consultation events

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 10am & 6pm (two sessions – images below)
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February – MyMates
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Youth Forum



### Events

Past



TUES, 7 FEB  
**Budget - Have your say**  
Event by Monmouthshire



THURS, 2 FEB  
**Budget - Have your say**  
Event by Monmouthshire



THURS, 2 FEB  
**Budget - Have your say**  
Event by Monmouthshire



TUES, 31 JAN  
**Budget - Have your say**  
Event by Monmouthshire



THURS, 26 JAN  
**Budget - Have your say**  
Shire Hall, Monmouth · Monmouth  
Event by Monmouthshire



WED, 25 JAN  
**Budget - Have your say**  
Event by Monmouthshire

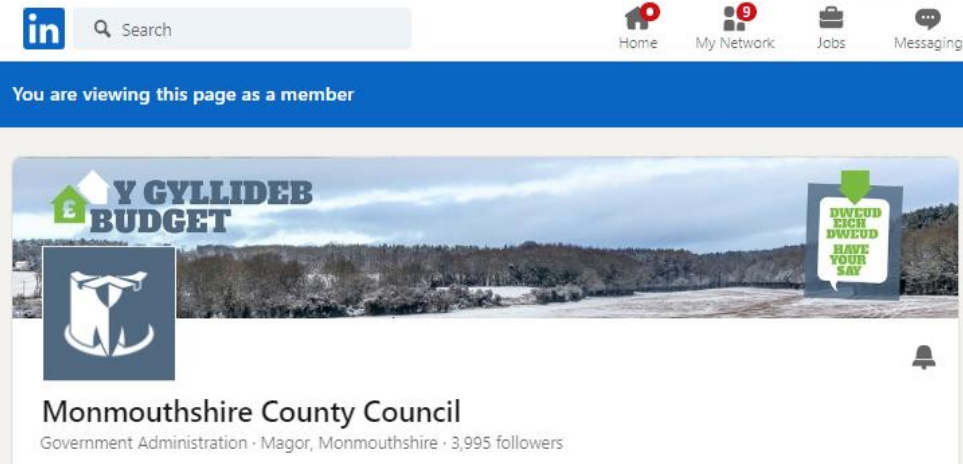


# BUDGET

## Promoting budget engagement on all channels

All our online channels have been branded with budget artwork and links throughout the consultation period to raise awareness of the consultation. This has included an interactive banner on the front page of the council's website, and all social media accounts

## Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn



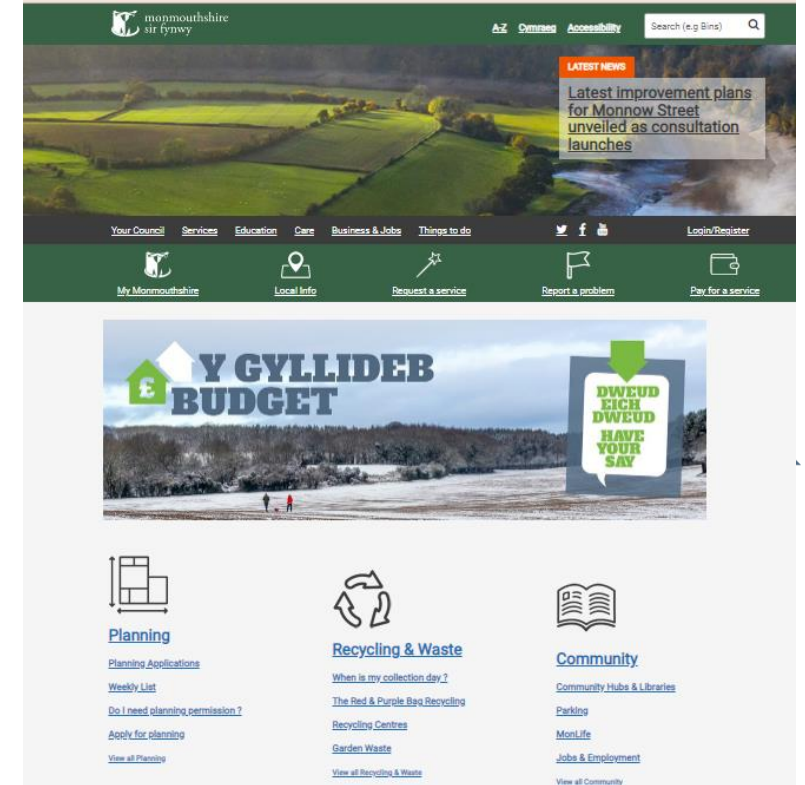
LinkedIn profile for Monmouthshire County Council. The profile picture and banner image feature the 'Y GYLLIDEB BUDGET' branding with a house icon and a 'HAVE YOUR SAY' call to action. The profile name is 'Monmouthshire County Council' with the tagline 'Government Administration · Magor, Monmouthshire · 3,995 followers'.



Twitter profile for Monmouthshire (@MonmouthshireCC). The profile picture and banner image feature the 'Y GYLLIDEB BUDGET' branding. The bio reads: 'Newyddion, gwybodaeth, diweddariadau a sgysiau gan Gyngor Sir Fynwy | News, information, updates & chat from Monmouthshire County Council'. It shows 1,826 following and 19.4K followers. A tweet from Monmouthshire is visible, mentioning a consultation on the Whitestone site.



Facebook page for Monmouthshire. The cover photo features the 'Y GYLLIDEB BUDGET' branding. The profile picture is the council's logo. The page shows 17K followers and 200 following. The 'Manage Page' sidebar is visible on the left.



Monmouthshire website homepage. The header features the council logo and navigation links. A 'LATEST NEWS' banner highlights 'Latest improvement plans for Monnow Street unveiled as consultation launches'. The main content area features the 'Y GYLLIDEB BUDGET' branding. The footer contains various service links such as 'Planning', 'Recycling & Waste', and 'Community'.



Cyllideb 2023-2024

## Cyllideb 2023-2024

Erthygl wedi ei diweddaru: 25th Ionawr 2023



### Cynigion y Gyllideb ar gyfer 2023-2024

Gwelwch y dogfennau isod i ddarllen yr holl gynigion ar gyfer cyllideb 2023-2024. Bydd arolwg ar gael trwy'r dudalen hon o 18fed Ionawr tan 16eg Chwefror 2023 i ddal eich adborth, felly cymerwch beth amser i'w gwblhau.

[DRAFT REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 202324-01 SW.doc](#) [Llywtha i lawr](#)

Mae'r holl ddogfennau ategol o ran cynigion y gyllideb i'w gweld ar yr [Agenda ar gyfer y Cabinet ar Ddydd Mercher, 18fed Ionawr, 2023, 5.00 pm \(monmouthshire.gov.uk/cy\)](#) o dan eitem 6.

### Dweud eich dweud – ffyrdd o gymryd rhan:

#### [Yr Arolwg Cyllideb](#)

#### Digwyddiadau ymgynghori cyllideb wyneb yn wyneb

- Dydd Llun 23<sup>ed</sup> Ionawr, 6pm. Hyb Cil-y-coed, Woodstock Way, Cil-y-coed
- Dydd Mawrth 24<sup>ed</sup> Ionawr, 6pm. Hyb Cas-gwent, Manor Way, Cas-gwent
- Dydd Mercher 25<sup>ed</sup> Ionawr, 6pm. Hyb Brynbuga, 35 Maryport St, Brynbuga
- Dydd Iau 26<sup>ed</sup> Ionawr, 6pm. Y Neuadd Siro, Trefynwy
- Dydd Mawrth 31<sup>ed</sup> Ionawr, 6pm. Ysgol Gynradd Eglwys yng Nghymru Magwyr, Magwyr

## A budget homepage on the website to host all info

Home pages were created to host all the budget proposals, information about the consultation and included direct links to the survey

- <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/budget-2023-2024/>
- <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/cy/cy-llideb-2023-2024/>

These pages were clicked on 1687 times (by 10<sup>th</sup> Feb)

Budget 2023-2024

## Budget 2023-2024

Article last updated: 25th January 2023



### The Budget Proposals for 2023-2024

View the documents on the links below to read all the proposals for the 2023-2024 budget. A survey will be available via this page from 18th January evening until noon on 16th February 2023 to capture your feedback, so please take some time to fill it in.

[20230118-Cabinet Draft 2023-24 Revenue-Capital Budget for consultation-Covering report-Final-v2](#) [Download](#)

All supporting budget proposal documents can be found at [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 18th January 2023, 5.00 pm \(monmouthshire.gov.uk\)](#) under item 6.

### Have your say – ways to get involved:

#### [The Budget Survey](#)

Closes noon 16th February 2023

#### Face-to-face budget consultation events

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## Internal communications

### Budget Digital Cwtch

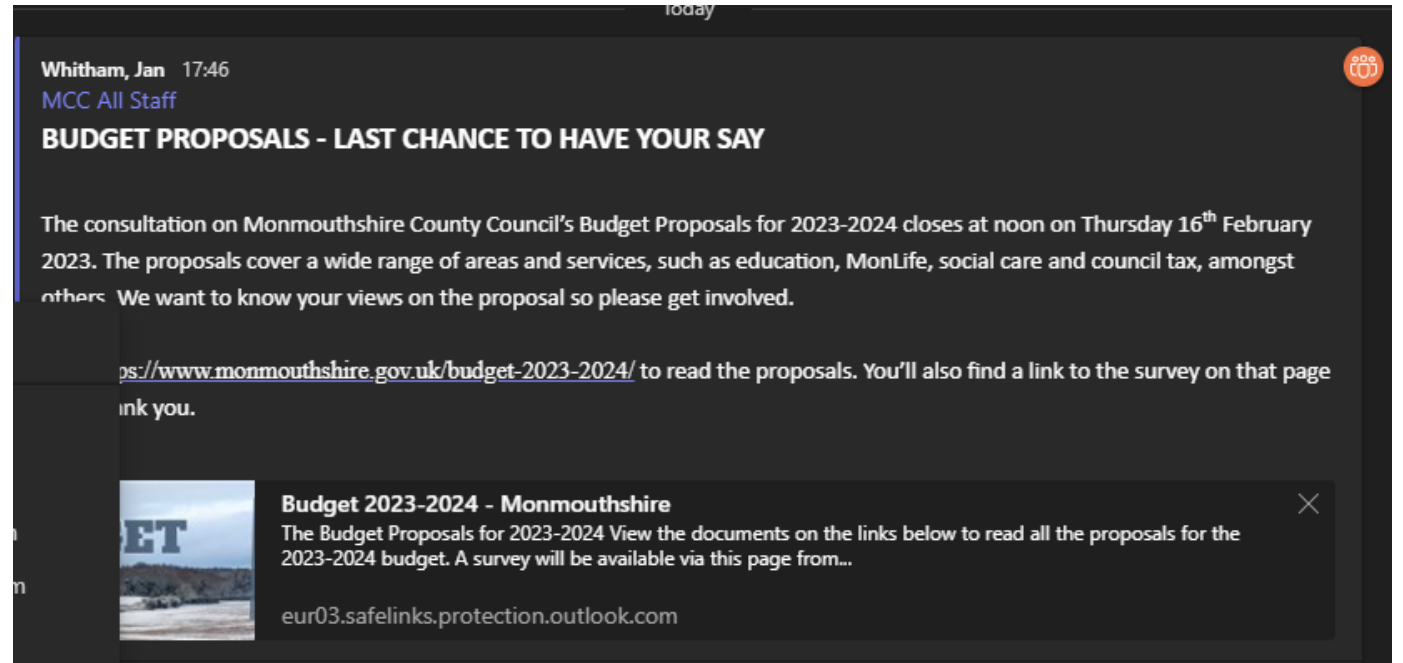
**170 attendees**

Initial launch release sent to all staff.

All engagement sessions promoted in Compass

All staff email, all schools, all town and community councils, and all ward members sent 8/2 to encourage responses

Also posted on the All Staff Teams channel



## The face-to-face events

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 6pm. Caldicot Hub, Woodstock Way, Caldicot**

Nine attendees. Questions around the rising costs within MonLife and proposed savings. Answered by Mary Ann Brocklesby and Sara Burch.

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm. Chepstow Hub, Manor Way, Chepstow**

Four attendees. Questions around the proposed increase in discretionary charges, and car parking etc. General comments and feedback on concerns about the High Street, traffic and businesses. Strong opposition from one person on increase of garden waste charges and on the proposed 5.95% increase in council tax.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm. Usk Hub, 35 Maryport St, Usk - No attendees.**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm. Shire Hall, Monmouth**

Five attendees. General questions about the council's staffing structure and expenditure. Questioning why the savings cannot be made over a shorter time period. Concerns about what savings in the social care/adult services will mean and explanation given by Chief Operating Officer Jane Rogers and Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby.



## The face-to-face events

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 6pm. Magor CIW Primary School, Magor

Five attendees.

### PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

- How much has the change to the local speed limit cost for the 2022/23 financial year and what is the consequent impact on the 2023/24 budget ie what is the incremental change to the 2023/24 and how much will that add to the council tax for 2023/24?

### Questions on the night

- Why does Monmouthshire get the least funding per capita in Wales
- Comments: So we have around 400 empty second home sin Monmouthshire. We have an issue with homeless people. I have had a below inflation payrise since 2009, my mother in law has downsized to a 2 bed bungalow but the value of the bungalow means she pays a lot more in council tax than working people do. What kind of impact assessment has been done on these vulnerable groups. Have we learned lessons from what other councils have done. We have seen Thurrock council fall due to financial issues.
- Q: Education - from schools perspective it's easy to say the 2.8% efficiencies, in reality schools will get in right across the board. For education to continue there is one solution to cut, and that is bodies, less staff. QUESTION How are you as an LA are you going to ensure pupils are not left behind - wellbeing, education perspectives in this cost of living landscape. I fear for our young people and the vulnerable, older part of community.
- Q2 - perfect storm of housing. WG tried to increase liabilities on landlords (private) and they're moving out of the sector. Now we have people accommodated in hotels... how do you square that? - referring to Renting Homes (Wales) Act



This Facebook post has a reach of 4,995



## The face-to-face events

Tuesday 7th February, 6pm. Abergavenny Hub

Seven attendees.

Positive feedback on the level of engagement, how we are approaching it, etc

You mentioned Spytty - I remember when it was bought by MCC, I understand it was bought as an investment. But given the situation have you considered selling it, even at a loss

New question/comment - re staffing as a way of saving money. Gentleman referring to experiences saving 10% on staffing charges, by moving staff, changing job descriptions etc, done with unions involved. Overall they cut staff quite considerably. There are prob MCC staff not full utilised. It was a mammoth way to save money over a year

Comment on the money we use on private services for young people and adults. It's amazing how much one child in care can cost a council. There's a lot of work to be done in that area to save a lot of money. The gentleman would encourage MCC to look in that area for savings.

Suggestion of using private homes for homeless people rather than using B&B.

...it's a total revelation to me that children/social care is such a big part of its budget

Any increase in council tax and increase on other charges will have an impact on families. Mentioned raise in garden waste charges. Small increases have a big impact on people who have little support available

Specifically referring to care line as well. Cllr Burch talking about ensuring that services are joined up, and the lady who raised it making point that many who are eligible for council tax relief do not know they can claim, plus attendance allowance etc.

Another lady commenting - a lot of people only just managing. This increase (CT) how are you going to be able to sell this to the ordinary person who is just about managing. Also the increase in green waste charge.



## The online budget events

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Sessions were recorded – recordings uploaded to the Budget homepage and on YouTube (public setting)

<https://youtu.be/c7SDR-mhjQ8>

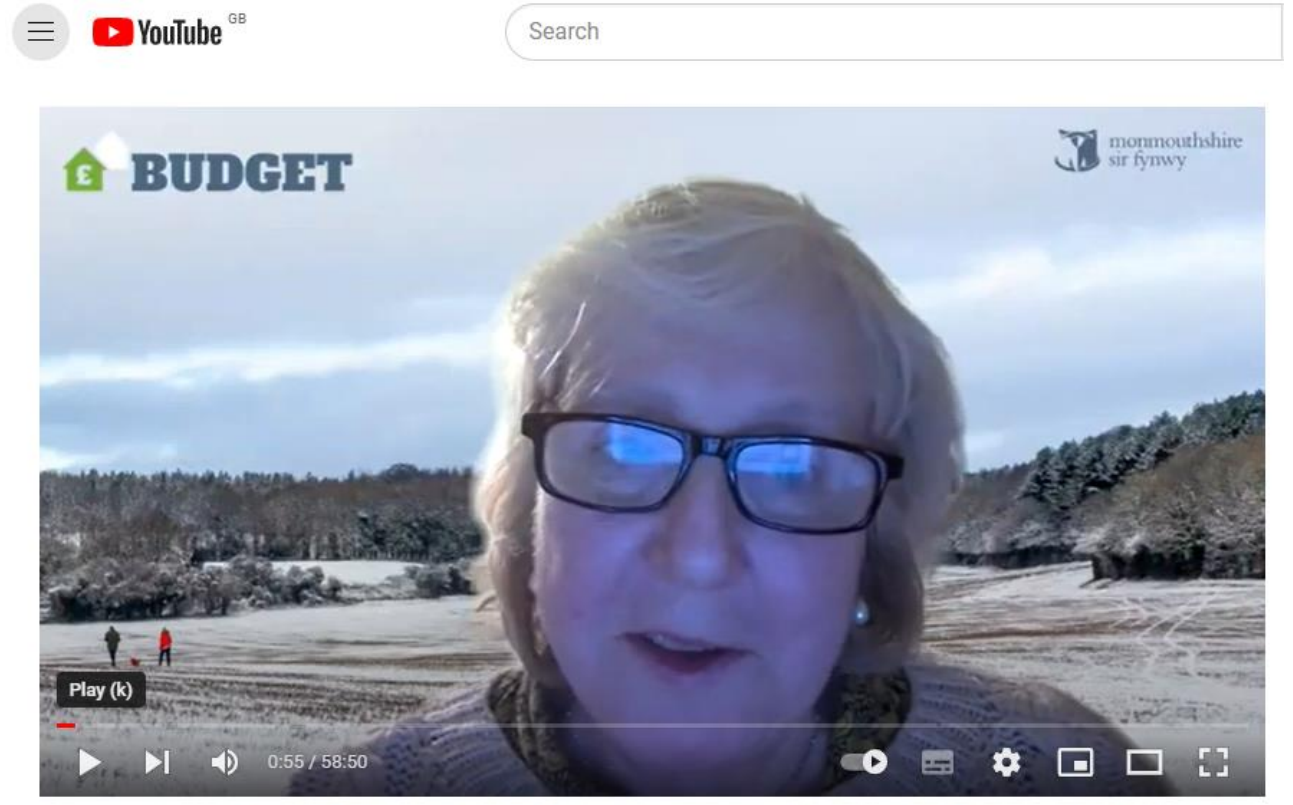
<https://youtu.be/SzbzsQ4wpu8>



Online Budget Session 10am Thursday 2nd February 2023

Monmouthshire CC 455 subscribers

[Analytics](#) [Edit video](#) [0](#) [Share](#) [Download](#) [...](#)



Monmouthshire County Council - Online Budget Session 6pm Thursday 2nd February 2023

Monmouthshire CC 455 subscribers

[Analytics](#) [Edit video](#) [0](#) [Share](#) [Clip](#) [...](#)

## The online budget events

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – 10am livestream

### 11 attendees

#### PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

- I would like to know the management structure of the council. Also, if the number of managers is being reduced. Streamlining is essential. We can no longer support a non-effective organisation.
- What is the council pension burden? Are final salary pensions still being offered to new employees? Why, when Monmouthshire is one of the poorest counties do we insist on paying the CEO a similar salary to other counties?
- It is nonsense to say you that need to pay the going rate to attract good people. We pay the council employees salaries and we have no control over what they are.

#### LIVE QUESTIONS

- I do have a question but firstly wanted to give some feedback. I want to thank MCC for putting on the events both the face to face and this webinar. It's good to see the detail to understand the pressures you are facing and to think about how we can all work together to manage both at home and across Monmouthshire.
- How confident are you that you can get council members from different parties to agree the budget proposals and the Corporate Plan? Thank you.
- There was a slight error in the headline budget figures of £500,000? Regarding the £500,000, £26.6m minus £15.7m equals £10.9m, I think the figure used is £11.4m?
- Green waste charges are increasing from £22 to £50 per bin. I would be concerned that the level of increase will put pressure on individuals to look at alternatives such as fly tipping. Paying more for a a recycling service seems a little harsh morally and ethically?
- Can the politicians confirm how they are preparing for more years of unprecedented change instead of short term knee jerk 12 month budgets and reactions? We are now in our 3rd "unprecedented" year - Brexit, Covid, War in Ukraine - it's really just BAU now so how does this budget deliver on more than just the next 12 months
- Will all members from all parties please agree to stop divisive behaviour and rhetoric on social media as it does nothing to promote politics as being clean/fair or attractive to our younger generations ?

## The online budget events

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – 6pm livestream

16 attendees

### LIVE QUESTIONS

- What consideration/ action is the council taking to work with other local authorities to share resources, develop capacity across LA boundaries?
- Can you provide detail of the kind of services that residents will see an increase in charges please
- What does fairer price for services mean?
- I am absolutely against restricting opening hours of the LC in Caldicot. This is NOT tolerable to me. The repercussions of not being able to do physical activity in the evenings is huge.
- Can you provide detail of the kind of services that residents will see an increase in charges please
- Why don't you reduce the heating of the pool from a very hot 29 degs to 27 or 27.5 - it doesn't need to be at 29!
- I swim 4 eves a week late in the winter and summer.
- Why don't you reduce the heating of the pool from a very hot 29 degs to 27 or 27.5 - it doesn't need to be at 29!
- Can you give an example of what the discretionary fees and charges of 1.4m will be?
- How much money is spent on out of county placements for children and have these costs been scrutinised carefully?

### PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

- How will the budget change if the economy improves or declines please?
- Monmouthshire has increased using private sector and agency staff since covid lockdown and failed to review services which have not been reinstated but staff continue to be paid and premises are empty. How is this justified as cost effective?
- Monmouthshire wastes a lot of money on ill-conceived projects, unnecessary works (eg badly revamping a town centre and inconveniencing traders for months on end so that some cease trading, mowing non-existent grass in a drought, filling tiny pot holes in country lanes on Saturday bonus rates.
- What has happened to the retail properties MCC previously purchased - are they making a loss or profit?
- Do you publish data on the costs associated with statutory responsibilities vs non-statutory responsibilities - if so, would be grateful if the link could be shared.
- Will Crick House be up and running in the next budget year? Will it be staffed in house or with external providers?
- Tip booking. Can we go back to turning up or speed up the booking process as it takes 2 days between wanting a tip trip and first availability. With green bins being more expensive then fewer people will use this option, so tip runs need to be easier.
- Traffic solutions for the Severn Bridge and High Beech roundabout. Also new rules to shut it at 40mph expected wind speed means so much more traffic issues. Apparently the filtering will no longer be in place because between 2016-18 there were 30 incidences of abuse towards staff manning the slip road and filtering traffic. Can the height detection equipment be used instead, or the safety of officers be addressed rather than shutting the bridge at lower wind speeds? This is a budget issue because it involves money to solve.

## **The online budget events**

### **My Mates, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February livestream**

Cllr. Rachel Garrick talked everyone through the current budget position and some key elements of it in plain English. Rachel gave everyone the opportunity to ask any questions that they might have.

- It was mentioned that the leisure centre pool has felt colder lately. Suggestions that it would be preferable for it to be open and colder than close it – query if the temperature of the water is probably cooler to save money
- General comment that it's good to know this stuff
- Mention of a meeting about trying to keep My Day My Life (Tudor St) open
- A participant said that they want Tudor Street kept open
- General comment on enjoyment of bowling and crazy golf
- Another comment on enjoying going on the train and the bus to Cardiff
- The disabled discount card/pass was discussed for train travel – the train journey is preferable in terms of the times for travel. Better to get the train so you're not stuck (buses not as good in terms of times)

## Youth Forum, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February

One young person described today as a positive change from previous years' budget consultation events for young people - as the budget presentation was interesting and understandable compared to previous meetings about the budget.

Notes from Monmouthshire's Engage to Change Group's budget discussion

- 7 young people joined
- Young people were a mixture of different ages (from 14-17), gender, ethnic backgrounds and one person described themselves as an LGBTQ+ champion (this young person didn't describe the gendered pronoun that they identify with)
- Young people who attended live in Monmouth, Abergavenny, Chepstow, Ross and Tintern
- Schools attended were King Henry, Chepstow School, Monmouth Comp, Monmouth Boys and one person is home schooled

Cllr Brocklesby, Cllr Garrick and Cllr Sandles joined

- General discussion held by Cllr Brocklesby
- Cllr Garrick talked through key elements of the budget presentation (a chat as opposed to presenting the slides) inc. schools budget, education psychology and Gwent Music mandates in detail

Questions from young people:

- Q. Do you cover all schools in Wales? A. We cover all schools inc. special education
- Q. Welsh Gov gives funding – would Monmouthshire County Council rearrange its budget so WG changes some priorities e.g. Welsh language, mental health support etc. A. it's a really good question, has anyone heard about the Future generations and wellbeing goals for Wales? We focus on those and follow those priorities
- Q. Re schools being given 5% update in funding. Will schools have discussions about funding as well as today's session A. yes we're speaking to head teachers at schools and heads will speak to representatives in schools

Young person suggested having wellbeing champions in schools linked to Mind training

- Is there anywhere, where young people can volunteer to help people in the community?
- Can you email us and give us the opportunity to respond via email. Cllr G agreed to send the details to all young people so they can read, digest and respond. (I mentioned the online section of the website and link to the survey)

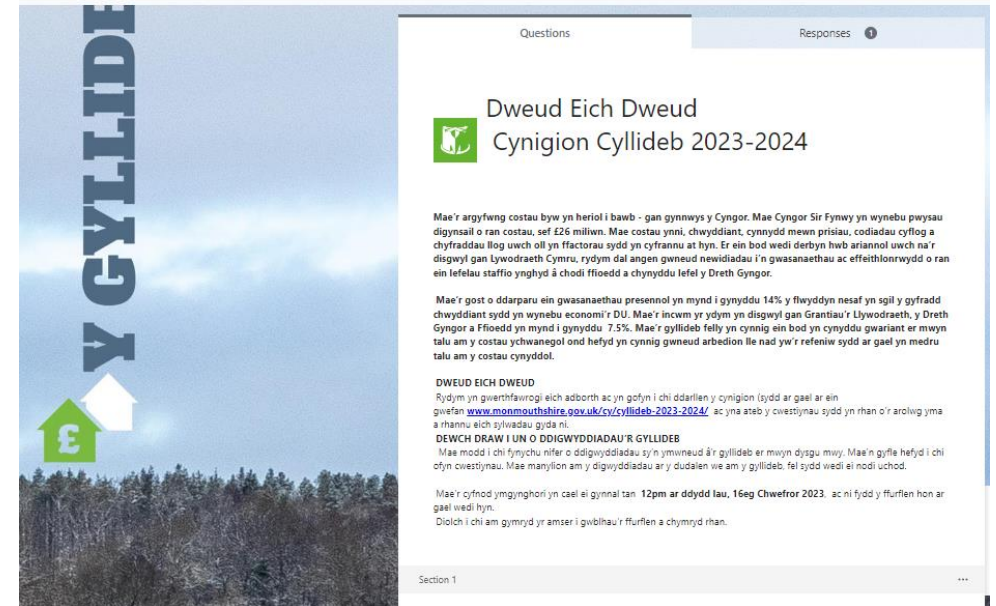
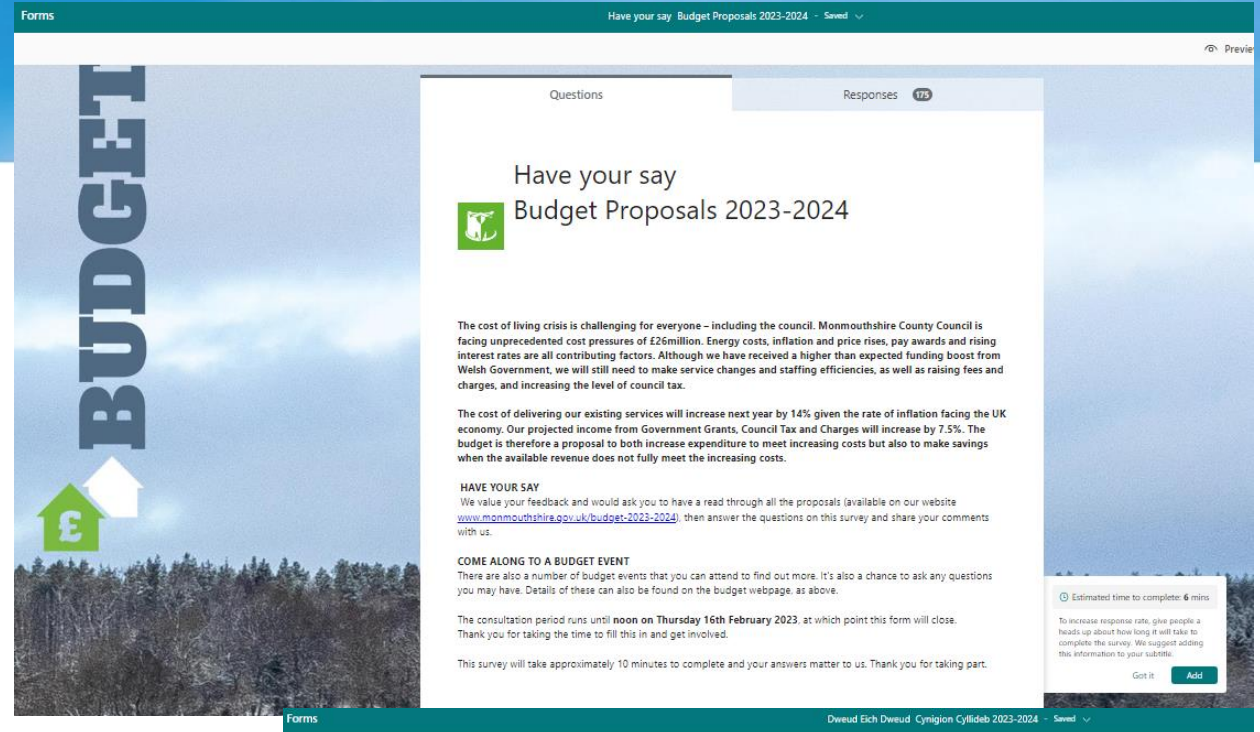
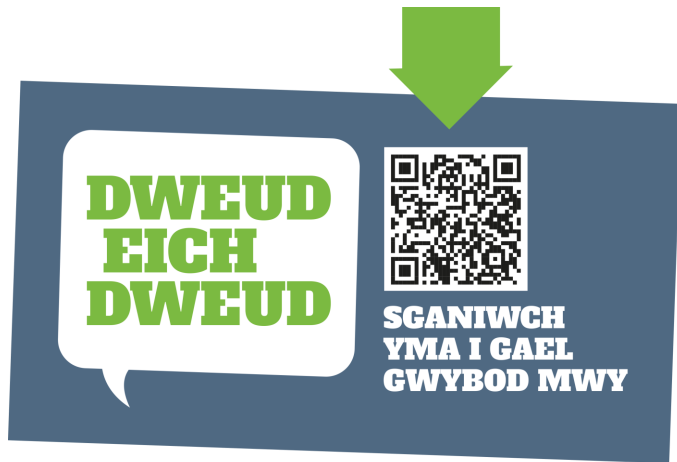
## The survey

Separate surveys were created in Welsh and English with links directly from the budget home page. This page was promoted in a wider range of posts across all channels throughout the budget consultation.

Paper surveys were also produced and shared at all the face-to-face events.

QR codes were created to link to the budget page and used in promotional posts

**238 English surveys were completed online and 2 in Welsh. 4 paper surveys were completed** – the online survey was promoted at the f-2-f events also.



## **The consultation survey results – 244 responses**

Budget Survey results finalised on 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 (NB. The missing % in the figures below are those who answered 'neutral')

**Question 1: Do you agree that a 5% increase in school budgets is the right balance between the needs of schools and other budgets in the Council? 46.8% AGREE 31.2% disagree**

**Question 2: Do you agree with the proposed savings that will see changes to charges and services that we currently provide in support of schools? 57.3% DISAGREE 32.0% agree**

**Question 3: Do you agree with the proposed increase in expenditure in adult social care and the comprehensive review of care being delivered? 55.2% AGREE 21.5% disagree**

**Question 4: Do you agree with the increased expenditure on Children's Services and the review of service delivery? 60.3% AGREE 16.4% disagree**

**Question 5: Do you agree with the proposed savings that are being brought about by a remodelling of our Learning Disability and Mental Health teams? 49.3% AGREE 30.3% neutral 20.2% disagree**



## **The consultation survey results – 244 responses**

Budget Survey results at noon 16/2/23 (NB. The missing % in the figures below are those who answered 'neutral')

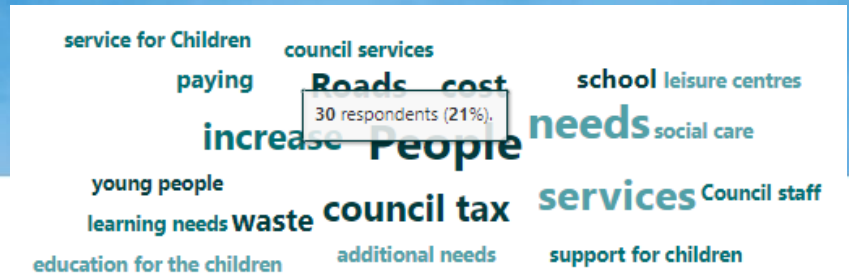
**Question 6: Do you agree with the retention of leisure centres and cultural facilities, the increased expenditure and the proposed savings? 54.4% AGREE 27.4% disagree**

**Question 7: Do you agree with these proposed reductions in mowing schedules? 70.46% AGREE 15.1% disagree**

**Question 8: Do you agree that we need to look to find innovative ways to reduce our impact on the environment through reducing the costs of running and maintaining the council's buildings and vehicles? 83.54% AGREE 9.28% DISAGREE**

**Question 9: Do you agree with us needing to increase discretionary fees and charges as a result of increasing costs and inflation? 43.45% DISAGREE 40.5% AGREE**

**Question 10: Do you agree that the proposed council tax increase of 5.95% is an appropriate balance between the need to continue local services and recognising the financial pressures on households 63.29% DISAGREE 24.0% agree**



## The consultation survey results

### Sample of some of the comments from residents in response to “what matters to you”

- That you strive to enhance the quality of the lives of the people who live in Monmouthshire.
- Quality of council services and local environment, with minimal impact on family finances.
- To reduce the impact on children and vulnerable adults.
- Council tax and education and recycling/rubbish collection
- **Safe streets and walking routes** - in recognising the limitations of the county and the potential expansion for reliable, consistent public transport, walking needs to be promoted and the structures put in place for people to feel safe doing so. **Street lighting and the lack of is a real concern**, again due to the nature of the county, there is less ambient lighting in places and can make walking feel like a real risk when it's dark. **Ensuring walking routes feel safe and adequately lit**, especially for women and girls and the increased risks posed to them, would be of great importance to me.
- **Public Toilets - investment is needed** in ensuring these are maintained and cleaned to a hygienic standard.
- School funding, waste and recycling collections, libraries and leisure centres. **We already pay some of the highest Council Tax in Wales.** Our family cannot afford a further increase in Council tax. **We would prefer a small increase in fees for things such as car parking, entry to leisure centres to raise the extra revenue required.**
- **Increased funding for schools** - not just for wages and energy costs.
- **To have proper regular rubbish collections. Not to have to pay extra for garden waste** collections.
- **Chepstow. This town is now gridlocked with traffic.** Daily traffic jams at High Beech Roundabout in all directions. Something needs to be done.
- **House building- for goodness sake stop building so many houses in the south of the county.** There is no infrastructure to support these houses but you just keep giving approval for them. More houses approved in Undy but no infrastructure to support them. Schools are full.
- **Regular rubbish collections.** Not being asked to pay high charges to have garden waste collected. **Keeping council tax as low as possible** - it is currently too high!
- **Education, additional needs support** for children from an early age.
- **Delivery of essential services. Social care**
- **Care - meals on wheels, help in homes, home help, green spaces. Integrating disabled young adults into the community**
- **Road maintenance, Adult mental health provision, Recycling, Bin schedules**
- **Education and support for schools**, surely they are our future cutting their budgets is just going to make everyone's life harder for many years to come.
- Objection to the proposed changes to school transport from two Mathern residents who contacted MCC directly. Concerns that walking to school along that route to Chepstow put children in danger and it goes against message encouraging people to use public transport. Also that it will lead to more cars travelling to/through Chepstow.

## The consultation survey results - Who has responded:

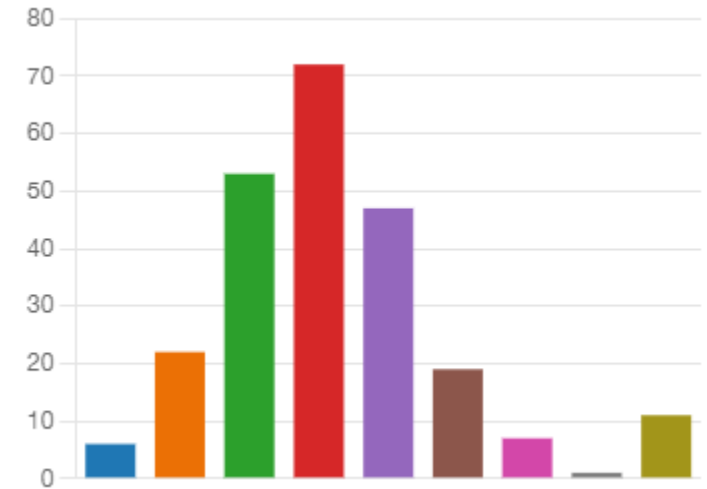
**Nearest town/village:** Chepstow were the lead responders at 23.2%, followed by Abergavenny 15%, Caldicot 14.3%, Monmouth 12%, Magor & Undy 10.54%, with the remaining % spread between Usk, Raglan and Tintern. 10.54% did not identify their nearest town or village.

**Age group:** The largest response was from the 45-54 age group (30.37%), followed by 35-44 (22.36%), then 55-64 (19.8%). One person over 85 responded.

**Nationality:** The largest response from those who identified as Welsh (43.45%), followed by British (29.95%). Four EU citizens responded, and three non-EU citizens.

**What gender do you identify as:** 51.4% were women, 37.5% men. The remaining responses were 'prefer not to say'

**Sexual orientation:** 79.3% heterosexual. Four respondents answered gay, six answered bisexual, 14.3% chose prefer not to say and five chose self-describe



Age grouping of responses (red is 45-54 yrs)

## The consultation survey results

### Who responded:

**Ethnicity:** 81.85% answered 'white British'. Two answered 'Asian or Asian British', one answered 'multiple ethnic groups' and 11.81% people chose not to say. 11 people answered 'other'

**Religion:** 49.7% answered 'no religion or belief', 33.3% 'Christian', 13.9% 'prefer not to say'. Two people answered 'Jewish' and two 'Buddhist', and four 'other'.

**Disability:** 12.2% said they would consider themselves to have a disability as defined by the Disability Act. 10.9% ticked 'prefer not to say'

**Caring responsibilities:** 62.44% of responders stated they were either acting as a primary (54.85%) or secondary (7.59%) carer.



12.2% said they were disabled (blue), 10.9% chose prefer not to say (green) and the remainder (orange) said no.

## The consultation survey results

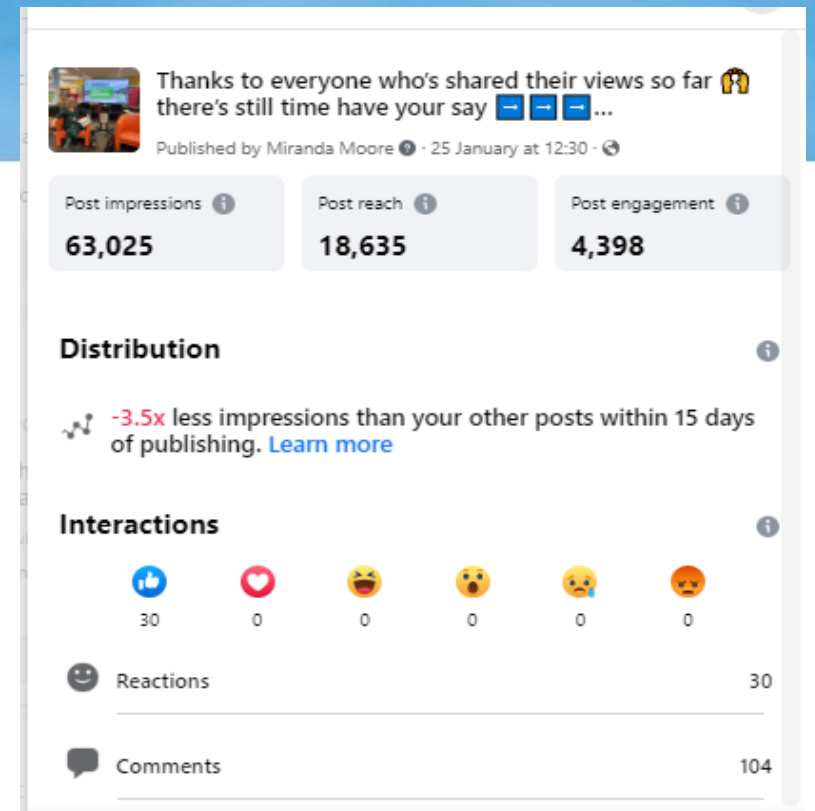
### Views on social media:

Facebook posts promoting the engagement sessions have reached 6k-8k per post. Generic posts linking to the survey have achieved a reach of 1.2k average per post. This boosted post (below) on Facebook reached 63k people and led to 253 clicks on the link to the survey.

A lack of belief that MCC will actually listen to comments and that people's views will not change anything. Overall comments were negative. Questioning green waste charges, council tax increase and linking it to the new 20mph rollout (why 'waste money' on this etc)

***"We can share our views, however MCC really doesn't listen. The councillors who are either retired or have second jobs are paid a more than adequate wage to support their constituents. More than doubling the charges for their green waste annually without consulting is not democratic. Access to the tip should be without appointment, which would help reduce fly tipping."***

***"How do you justify a 78% increase to collect garden waste?!!! £28 to £50 is incredulous [sic]."***



## The consultation survey results

### Views at the face-to-face events

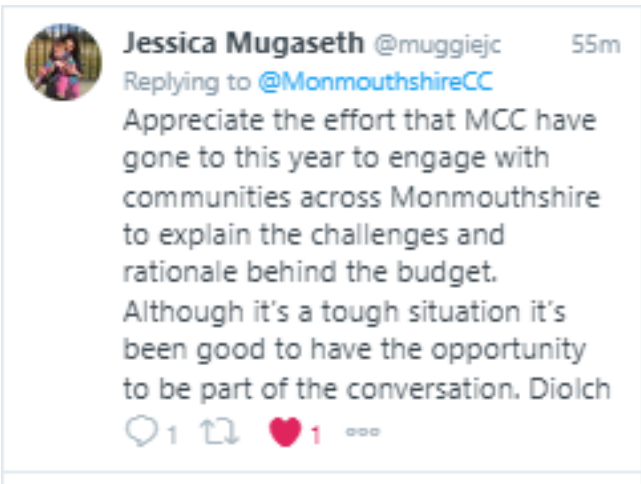
The cost of garden waste collection was mentioned at most of the events. The proposed rise in council tax was raised and questioned as was MCC's own staffing/organisation (*"I would like to know the management structure of the council. Also, if the number of managers is being reduced. Streamlining is essential. We can no longer support a non-effective organisation"*), as was possible reduction in hours for the leisure centres.

There were comments regarding our staffing and expenditure, whether MCC could be more efficient. Overall concern was linked, throughout, to the cost of living crisis and the increasing cost of energy.

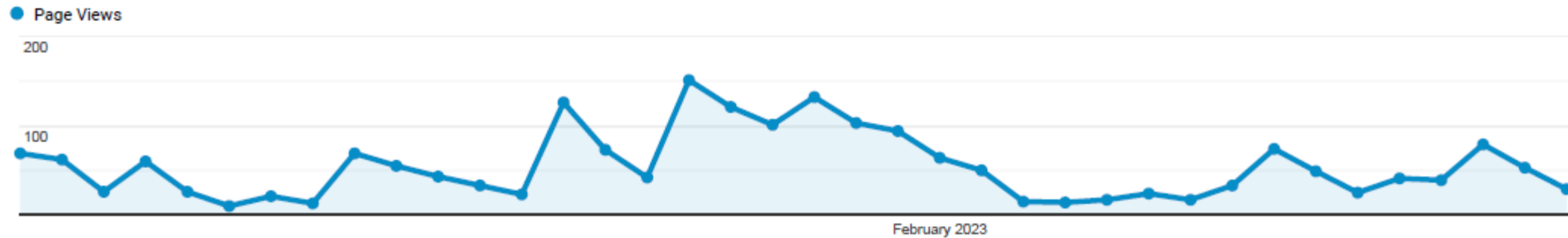
### Views at our online events

**The two public livestreams on Feb 2nd:** Feedback and comments at the two sessions was wide ranging with no clear single theme. Cuts to the leisure centre hours, the proposed increase in fees and charges (incl. car parking and garden waste) and questions regarding our processes and staffing (incl the use of external providers) were raised.

**The My Mates session and Young People session:** Concerns about keeping facilities open, such at Tudor St. at My Mates. Wider concerns about the impact of cost of living on young people and families expressed at the young people's session.



www.monmouthshire.gov.uk statistics – visit to the budget page.  
2,075 page views between 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 and 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023



This data was filtered with the following filter expression: Budget 2023-2024

Page Title	Page Views ↓	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page	Entrances	Bounce Rate	% Exit	Page Value
	2,076 % of Total: 0.63% (330,007)	1,633 % of Total: 0.64% (256,727)	00:02:53 Avg for View: 00:01:17 (124.63%)	1,242 % of Total: 0.93% (133,530)	75.93% Avg for View: 51.43% (47.64%)	66.67% Avg for View: 40.46% (64.76%)	£0.00 % of Total: 0.00% (£0.00)
1. <a href="#">Budget 2023-2024 - Monmouthshire</a>	2,075 (99.95%)	1,632 (99.94%)	00:02:54	1,242 (100.00%)	75.93%	66.70%	£0.00 (0.00%)
2. <a href="#">You searched for Budget 2023-2024 - Monmouthshire</a>	1 (0.05%)	1 (0.06%)	00:00:02	0 (0.00%)	0.00%	0.00%	£0.00 (0.00%)

Rows 1 - 2 of 2



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