

BELPER TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT TO FGS COMMITTEE: IMPACT OF ELECTRICITY PRICE RISES

Belper Town Council has five premises using electricity:

- 1 Coppice Car Park
- 2 Market place
- 3 Memorial Gardens
- 4 St John's Chapel
- 5 Strutt Street Toilets

The electricity accounts for premises 1 to 4 are on fixed tariffs with EDF Energy who have confirmed that fixed tariff customers are not impacted by the current situation.

Electricity for Strutt Street Toilets has been supplied by Bulb since March 2020. This is on a variable tariff which means that the Council has no protection against energy price rises although the price per kWh remained at 12.88p per kWh until June 2021 when it rose to 17.48p per kWh. It increased to 19.38p per kWh in September and will increase to 30.95p per kWh in November with no guarantee that there will not be further price rises until the market stabilises. There has been no change to the standing charge which remains at 27.4p per day.

There is some speculation that Bulb may be one of the energy suppliers that does not survive. If this was to happen, the energy contract would be transferred to a new supplier with no loss of supply.

Electricity charges for 2020/21 were £469. Up to 5 October this year, charges are £496 but this includes a higher bill in September taking account of an actual meter reading. Adding the two figures together gives an average of £54 per month so, based on the price increase of 55%, this will rise to £84 per month giving an annual cost of £1,004.

As this is a variable tariff, the Council can move to a new supplier with no exit fees. I would advise looking at alternative suppliers with a view to a short-term fixed price contract to protect against further price rises.