

## Supporting Small Businesses relief

The Supporting Small Businesses Relief is designed to help ratepayers who as a result of the change in their rateable value at the revaluation are losing some or all of their Small Business or Rural Rate Relief and, as a result, are facing large increases in their bills.

The Supporting Small Businesses Relief will ensure that the increase per year in the bills of these ratepayers is limited to the greater of:

- a) a cash value of £600 per year (£50 per month). This cash minimum increase ensures that those ratepayers currently paying nothing or very small amounts are brought into paying something, or
- b) the matching cap on increases for small properties in the transitional relief scheme [The cap being 5% for 2017/18, 7.5% for 2018/19, 10% for 2019/20, 15% for 2020/21 and 15% for 2021/22]

Formal guidance on the operation of the scheme including more complex cases and future financial years has been provided. We have 56 ratepayers entitled to this relief and they have been informed and instalments reduced pending the ability to award the relief on our system.

### Business Rate Relief Scheme for Pubs

The Government introduced a new relief scheme for pubs that have a rateable value of below £100,000. Under the scheme, eligible pubs will receive a £1000 discount on their 2017/18 bill. This is a one year relief scheme. DCLG have now published guidance as shown below:

The Government's policy intention is that eligible pubs should:

- be open to the general public
- allow free entry other than when occasional entertainment is provided
- allow drinking without requiring food to be consumed
- permit drinks to be purchased at a bar.

For these purposes, it should exclude:

- restaurants
- cafes
- nightclubs
- hotels
- snack bars
- guesthouses
- boarding houses
- sporting venues
- music venues
- festival sites
- theatres
- museums
- exhibition halls
- cinemas

There are 116 pubs in our area that would be eligible for this relief and applications have been sent to all ratepayers.