

Motion submitted to Full Council by Cllr Barrett

Having requested data from the Councils Council Tax team I have been advised that there are currently 1,688 properties listed for Council Tax in West Wittering parish. On looking through the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/council-tax-bands> for West Wittering there were a significant number of entries where properties have had their Tax Band 'Deleted' thus do not pay Council Tax. Whilst there are a number of potential reasons for that, it may be that these properties now fall under the Business Rate structure as they are being rented out as holiday homes.

In West Wittering Parish there are currently 326 properties registered as Second Homes of which many may be let out as holiday accommodation. The Councils business rating list indicates there are 33 properties registered as holiday homes in the parish. However, it would appear that if the Rateable Value of the Business property is less than £12000 there are no charges to pay as small business rate relief is applied. In the case of holiday accommodation the Rateable Values are well below £12000, and the average in West Wittering for this type of business is £4,750, meaning that no business rates are actually paid.

It is apparent that these properties do not contribute to the Councils cost of providing services so I would like to put forward the Following Motion:

That this Council write to the Member of Parliament for Chichester to raise this matter with the Secretary of State for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to have this matter addressed and propose a solution whereby Councils are reimbursed for the services they provide.