



Tenterden Community Hub

St Mildred's Church Hall Meeting Rooms

St Mildred's Church Hall, Church Road

Tenterden, Kent TN30 6AT

Tel: 01580 766155

Email: info@tenterdencommunityhub.co.uk

2 November 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Local Charity concerned Interest Rate Rise will affect “Just About Managing” residents

The announcement on 2nd November of a 0.25% rise in Bank of England Base Rate, up to 0.5%, might seem small but it will be a blow for people in the Tenterden area who are Just About Managing (“JAM’s”). The warning that interest rates may rise to 1% by 2020 will fill many households with dread.

The Resolution Foundation suggested a year ago that there are 6 million JAMs in the UK and this appears to be growing. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation suggests that figure is much higher at 8 million.

The Tenterden Community Hub know that local people who are most likely to suffer are often working families with children living at home. They have no spare money, no accessible savings, often with a mortgage and frequently slip in and out of debt through credit card use, payday lending or overdraft borrowing.

With pay levels stagnant and inflation eating into the value of our money, any additional financial pressure could put those families into debt especially at this time of year.

Banks and Building Societies have been quick to increase their lending rates. But few, if any, have increased savings returns. 8.1 million households have a mortgage of which 46% are on tracker or standard variable rate loans and these will immediately be hit by increased payments.

Mike Stephens, Chairman of Tenterden Community Hub, warns that families need to be more aware of the risks to their money and should try to plan their spending carefully in the lead up to Christmas, when the pressure to overspend or borrow will be at its highest.

The interest rate rise will cut into people’s spending. Mortgage payments will rise for those not on fixed rate loans, rents are likely to rise where landlords have mortgages to pay, overdrafts and credit card charges will increase. This will affect everyone in some way or another but the Just About Managing will really struggle to keep their heads above water.

Finances are often at the centre of family difficulties and the additional strain of Christmas along with interest rate rises may cause tensions in households leading to other ‘social’ problems.



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Note for Editors: About Tenterden Community Hub (TCH)

Tenterden Community Hub is a Kent based charity (1168923), formed in 2015, to provide local support for individuals and families relating, but not limited, to financial help along with a listening ear for any other matters that might affect them. We provide signposting services once the need for expert advice has been identified. We further work with local schools to provide training lessons and workshops on home budgeting and money management for pupils and parents.

TCH is based at St Mildred's Church Hall, Church Road, Tenterden, TN30 6AT. It is open between 10.00am and 12.00 noon every Friday for drop-ins and will meet individuals at other times by appointment. It can be contacted either through the website www.tenterdencommunityhub.co.uk or by email to info@tenterdencommunityhub.co.uk or by calling 01580 766155. TCH also meets at Rolvenden Market, Rolvenden Village Hall on the 1st Thursday of each month between 10.00am and 12.00 noon.

TCH is fully independent and its funding comes from donations by local people, its Members/Friends and organisations. Anyone interested in providing support either as a donor or a volunteer can contact Mike Stephens through any of the above methods.



The team at Tenterden Community Hub