

# WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016



### WITNEY TOWN BUS SERVICE INFORMATION

## Saving Witney's Town Centre Bus Service



#### Ending of the Current Service

The current Stagecoach Town Centre Services 213/214/215 will be ending on 20 July due to County Council subsidy withdrawal.

#### Go Ride Service

Go Ride Bus CIC will be running a town centre service from 21st July. Further details inside the back cover of this newsletter.

#### What's happening?

Witney Town Council is working hard to secure a long-term town centre bus service to serve all residents of the town by working with current bus providers, businesses and community and voluntary organisations.

#### Key actions already taken

- Formation of the Public Transportation Working Party
- A pledge by Witney Town Council of £10,000 towards a service in the town
- Support towards The Villager Bus service
- Support towards the Go Ride Bus service
- Support of a West Oxfordshire Community Benefit Bus Group
- Surveys and a needs assessment of Witney Bus Users
- Advice from current and other bus providers
- Meetings with local companies and organisations regarding funding of a new long-term service

If you would like to be involved in the Witney Bus User Group please contact the Facebook page for Witney Bus Users or contact [info@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@witney-tc.gov.uk) and we will pass your contact details on to the relevant councillors



## Your Top 5 Concerns

We asked you to list the top 3 issues that concern you, thinking ahead over the next five years. We then filtered these lists to produce the Top 5 of each of those issues. A staggering 61.04% of you listed Roads and Infrastructure as one of your top 3 and this included Potholes and Traffic problems in and around the town.

### PRIORITY 1

- Roads and Infrastructure 26.03%
- Open Spaces and Sports 11.51%
- Litter and Cleanliness 7.40%
- Halls 6.30%
- Play Areas 5.75%

### PRIORITY 2

- Roads and Infrastructure 21.15%
- Open Spaces and Sports 9.97%
- Litter and Cleanliness 7.85%
- Play Areas 5.44%
- Communication 5.14%

### PRIORITY 3

- Roads and Infrastructure 13.86%
- Street Furniture 10.49%
- Entertainment 10.11%
- Open Spaces and Sports 6.37%
- Future Planning 5.62%

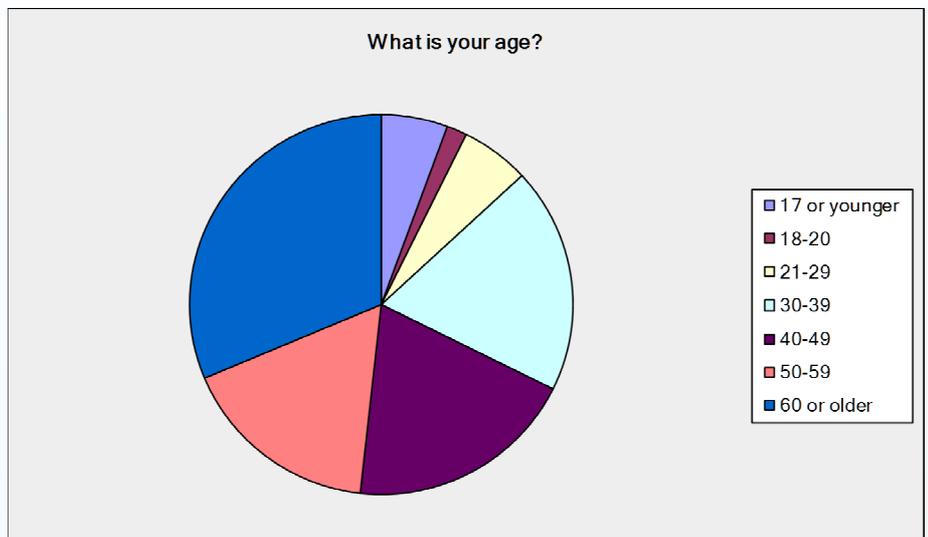
Although Highways and Street maintenance/infrastructure is not one of the services Witney Town Council delivers, your councillors share your concerns about the current state of local roads and pavements and will continue to seek resolution on your behalf. This applies to any of the issues you raise about services provided at District and County Council level.

# Our Survey, Your Say

## Who Took Part and What Did you Tell Us?



In total, there were 531 responses to the Survey, 67.2% of which were submitted online. Respondent age ranges reflected a good cross section and included senior citizens, students and members of youth organisations. Your overall main concerns are listed on the left but the three specific Witney Town Council Services you were least satisfied with were **Communication, Street Furniture and Christmas Lights**. The three you were most satisfied with were **The Leys Splash & Adventure Park, Civic Events and Witney Lake & Country Park**.



A response to the survey results by Cllr Chris Woodward, Chair of The Communications Steering Group.

***“The Town Council is delighted with the level of response and the thought and consideration behind your replies which demonstrates a genuine love and passion for Witney. The Town Council strives for excellence in all that it does and realises there is always opportunity for improvement. We will use your feedback to inform and plan works and services both short term and as part of the five year corporate plan. We are addressing the Witney Town Council Services that gave you the most concern and will pass on anything beyond our remit to the correct authority on your behalf. We always welcome correspondence from our residents.”***

Full survey responses are available on our website:  
<http://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/witney-town-council-corporate-survey-2016-results/>

# How is the Town Council Responding?

**Communication**—The Town Council recognises the importance of effective two—way communication and over the past 2 years has committed to meeting the expectations of the community it serves by reviewing and making improvements to the way it communicates.

These include :

1. Using a variety of methods including traditional paper based media press releases, quarterly newsletter, posters, leaflets, council minutes and information leaflets; online media - social media accounts, Facebook, Twitter and website; direct resident contact – Annual Town Meeting, Community coffee mornings. Councillor and staff interaction and consultation on specific issues using surveys and The Voice of Witney group to widen its audience reach and speed up response times.
2. Witney Town Council's newly created app sits alongside these and is a useful addition, providing a mobile platform for the exchange of information on the move.
3. The newsletter is issued quarterly and accessible online with hard copies also available from a number of outlets, including the Town Hall and our Public Halls. The spring issue, which contains information about budgets, the precept and Town Council spending, is also delivered to all households within the town boundary of Witney, reaching our residents who do not have access to information online.
4. The Town Council has worked hard to achieve a positive and constructive relationship with local media and now strives to maintain this by issuing regular news updates and responding in a timely manner to requests for information, comments and interviews whenever possible.
5. The website has been redesigned in house and is now a mobile friendly version with streamlined structure, clearer navigation and more information.
6. Building on positive experiences of interaction with Councillors and staff to reinforce the image of the Town Council as accessible, responsive and accountable.

**Street Furniture** - The Council maintains street furniture such as benches, bus shelters, refuse and dog waste bins etc. It has set aside more in the budget this year and will begin a rolling programme of improvements.

**Christmas Lights** - The town's Christmas Lights display is funded from money raised through Council Tax. A very small amount of income is received in sponsorship from local businesses towards the Christmas Tree. Last year the budget was reduced in order to make savings, however, from feedback on the display the Council recognises that residents look forward to a good display. For this reason they have significantly increased the budget this year, with a one off additional investment of £8k required to bring the infrastructure to a standard that allows for additional lights throughout the town. The tender has been issued and a new supplier appointed.



**Witney Town Council**

**Town Hall**

**Witney**

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[www.witney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.witney-tc.gov.uk)



# Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday.

## Our Community Events



1 Finley Halcrow, Young Citizen of the Year 2015 lights the Cogges Beacon in April

2 Water pistol painting at The Right Royal Rumpus in May

3 Face Painting at the Right Royal Rumpus

4 Loads of craft activities at Burwell Hall's Rumpus

5 Mayor Jim King and former Citizen of the Year nominee, Nigel Philips, light the Burwell Recreation Ground Beacon in April

6 Soft Play Right Royal Rumpus fun

7 A birthday cake fit for a Queen!

8 Money Raising for Cogges Meadow Park Community group at the Cogges Beacon Lighting



# heritage open days



Heritage Open Days is England's biggest heritage festival involving 40,000 volunteers across the country. It is a once-a-year chance to discover gems on our own doorstep free-of charge.

In Witney a range of buildings will be open to the public on one or more days between 8-11 September including Witney Town Hall,

Witney Blanket Hall, Cogges Manor Farm, The Bishops's Palace and St Mary's Church. There will also be a range of tours, events and activities across the town.

For further information on Heritage Open Days please visit <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

## Witney Town Hall - Skeletons In Your Closet?

Look up your local ancestors and discover their misdeeds in the Oxfordshire Constabulary Summons Register dated 1857 onwards! What were they charged with? What was their sentence? Some very familiar local names from Witney and the surrounding village are here.

We will also have a selection of old copies of the Witney Gazette dating back as far as the 1950's, along with other historical records and documents. Come and view them in the \*Council Chamber which dates from circa 1780. Information on the History of the Town Hall will also be displayed. \*Please note, the council chamber is a historic building and not DDA compliant. There is no lift access for wheelchairs and buggies

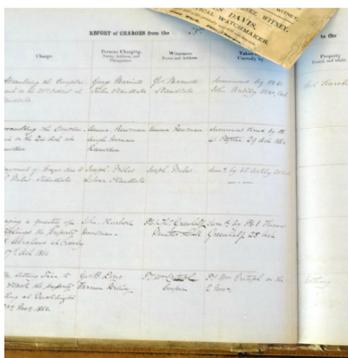
### OLD COPIES OF THE WITNEY GAZETTE

READ ALL ABOUT IT FROM DECADES AGO!



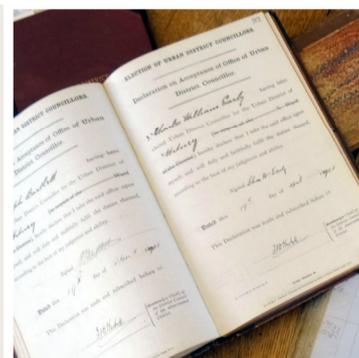
### URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL REGISTER OF INTERESTS

SOME FAMOUS LOCAL NAMES



### OXFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY SUMMONS REGISTER

DID YOU HAVE NAUGHTY ANCESTORS?



## Council & Committee Meetings 2016/17

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	6pm	Tues	10 May 31 May 21 June*	12 July 2 August*	23 August 13 September 4 October*	25 October 15 November 6 December*	20 December+ 10 January 31 January*	21 February 14 March*	4 April 25 April*
AMENITIES	6pm	Mon	23 May	11 July	12 September	14 November	9 January	6 March	
COMMUNITY SERVICES	6PM		6 June+	18 July	19 September	21 November	16 January	13 March	
POLICY & RESOURCES (& Personnel sub-committee)	6pm		13 June	25 July	26 September	28 November	23 January	20 March	
COUNCIL	7pm	Wed	22 June	3 August	5 October	7 December 14 December**	1 February	29 March	

**Annual Council Meeting** – Wednesday 10 May 2017

**Annual Town Meeting** – Wednesday 15 March 2017

**NOTE:** CHRISTMAS BREAK – Meetings will not be called between 14 December 2016 and 10 January 2017 unless deemed necessary

\* Indicates main Planning Committee Meeting, remainder for plans

+ Sequence changed due to Public Holidays etc.

\*\* Meeting on 14 December 2016 for budget purposes only

**Witney Traffic Advisory Committee** at 2.30pm – 7 June 2016, 20 September 2016, 10 January 2017, 21 March 2017

### Voice of Witney



We'd like to stay in touch with you. Be part of our 'Voice of Witney' group. You will be offered the chance to take part in further surveys/consultations/competitions, receive newsletters and be contacted when there are other occasions where we may wish to enlist the help of volunteers or a representative group. Just let us know the best way to contact you by:

- ◇ calling in at the Town Hall
- ◇ sending a private message on our Twitter @witneytowncouncil
- ◇ telephoning us on 01993 704379
- ◇ sending a private message on our Facebook account -Witney Town Council
- ◇ dropping an email to [info@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@witney-tc.gov.uk)

# GO RIDE CIC

## WITNEY TOWN CENTRE SERVICE 214/215

Go Ride CIC will be offering a short-term Witney Town Centre Service from 21st July. This will be a Monday—Friday Service from this date and Witney Town Council are working with them to make the best use of this important service

The route used is similar to the existing Stagecoach Service and the bus will hold a maximum of 15 people with a designated place for a buggy/wheelchair.

214 Witney Town Service - Madley Park		GO RIDE CIC						from 21.07.2016
Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)								
<i>Service Number</i>		214	214	214	214	214	214	
<i>Notes</i>								
WITNEY, Market Square		09:20	10:20	11:20	13:20	14:20	15:20	
Manor Road		09:27	10:27	11:27	13:27	14:27	15:27	
Wadards Meadow		09:30	10:30	11:30	13:30	14:30	15:30	
MADLEY PARK, Co-op Store		09:34	10:34	11:34	13:34	14:34	15:34	
Wood Green, School		09:37	10:37	11:37	13:37	14:37	15:37	
Farmers Close		09:41	10:41	11:41	13:41	14:41	15:41	
Quarry Road		09:45	10:45	11:45	13:45	14:45	15:45	
WITNEY, Market Square		09:52	10:52	11:52	13:52	14:52	15:52	

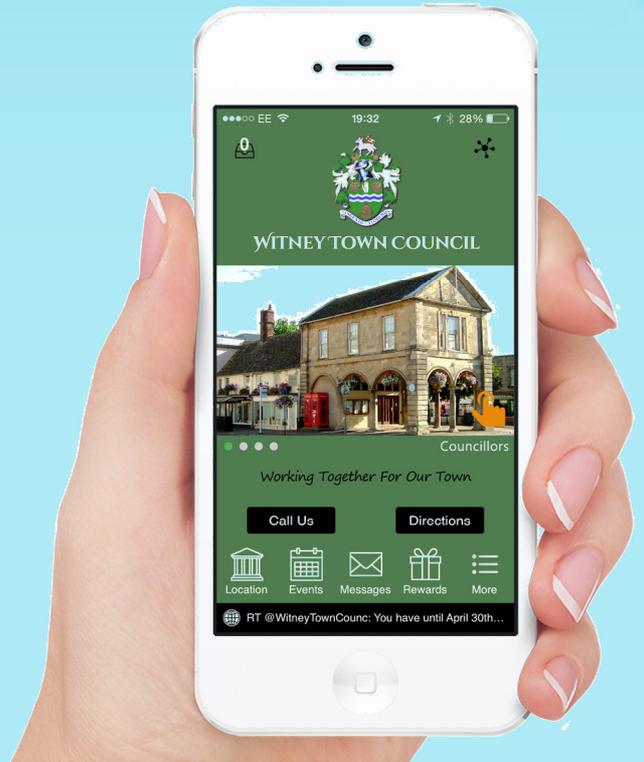
215 Witney Town Service - Smith's Estate		GO RIDE CIC						from 21.07.2016
Mondays to Fridays (except Public Holidays)								
<i>Service Number</i>		215	215	215	215	215	215	
<i>Notes</i>								
WITNEY, Market Square	...	09:55	10:55	11:55	13:55	14:55	15:55	
Witney, Bus Garage	...	09:56	10:56	11:56	13:56	14:56	15:56	
SMITH'S ESTATE, Apley Way		09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	14:00	16:00	
Lancut Road		09:03	10:03	11:03	12:03	14:03	16:03	
Springfield Oval		09:07	10:07	11:07	12:07	14:07	16:07	
WITNEY, Market Square		09:13	10:13	11:13	12:13	14:13	16:13	



**Don't miss what's going on in Witney!**

## What have you been missing?

- Free Play Days
- Free Fitness Fiesta Taster Classes
- Free 90th Birthday Beacon Lighting Events
- Free Family Fun Days
- Free Advent and Christmas Events
- Fairs and Funfairs
- Free Music Festivals
- Sales
- Beer Festivals
- Food Festivals
- The Carnival
- Free Coffee Mornings for Seniors



## Download the Witney Town Council App

and we will notify you of upcoming events, with reminders on the day. With lots of other features to keep you up to date, including special offers from Event Organisers

Stay informed about Witney's great events!



OR SEARCH FOR  
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

IN YOUR APP STORE

