



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2016

Dear Resident,

I am writing to invite you to attend this year's Annual Town Meeting, which takes place at the Corn Exchange, Witney on Wednesday 9th March at 7.30.

Witney Town Council has a statutory responsibility to inform residents of the work undertaken by the Town Council and its achievements during the past twelve months via an Annual Town Meeting.

I would like to encourage as many residents as possible to attend. The Annual Town Meeting is an important milestone in my year of office. It gives electors an opportunity to discuss matters affecting the town and is also an opportunity to ask questions and express your views about the year ahead. We get your input and that's a marker for us to judge how we are doing and where we can improve. The meeting will include a presentation and review of the past year, along with individual reports from each of the Committee Chairs. There will be an opportunity to hear your questions and we will be providing refreshments to entice you out for the evening.

If members of the public wish to submit an item for the agenda, please advise the Town Clerk (in writing) at the Town Hall, Market Square, Witney OX28 6AG or by email to: townclerk@witney-tc.gov.uk by 17th February 2016.

Yours faithfully
Jim King, Mayor of Witney

How Witney
Town Council
spends its share
of your Council
Tax Contribution
explained inside

Join us at the Annual
Town Meeting on Wed
9th March, 7.30pm at
the Corn Exchange

We want to hear from you! Have your say and send it to us with a freepost response.
Scan the QR code and let us know your views online



Please take this opportunity and help Witney Town Council formulate a Corporate Plan for 2016-2021



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL ALL ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX

Most Parish Councils' primary source of income comes from the Precept, part of the Council Tax. We hope to explain the contribution you make to the Town Council through your Council Tax and how it is spent.

WHAT IS A PRECEPT?

The Town Council receives a small proportion of the local Council Tax. It does not receive any direct funding from central government. The funding collected pays for the running of the Council and the services it provides.

HOW IS IT CALCULATED?

The Town Council makes an estimate of income and expenditure for the next financial year, including some for future planned projects and/or unexpected events. It is then calculated as an amount per Council Tax Band D Property and added to the Council Tax Bill of all the dwellings within the Parish area.

HOW IS IT RAISED?

West Oxfordshire District Council collect your council tax on behalf of the District Council, County Council, Police, Fire and the precepts for any Parish/Town Councils in their district. It is important to note that Witney Town Council's precept is just a small percentage of your overall Council Tax Bill.

HOW MUCH IS IT?

This year, there is a small increase in the precept charge to Witney residents. The precept has been capped at an increase of just 3.26%. From April 2016 the cost per average household (Band D Property) has increased from £126.40 to £130.52 per annum. This is a rise of £4.10 per property for the year, which equates to a weekly increase of only 7.9p per household.

WHY HAS IT GONE UP?

New rules set by Central Government in 2013 regarding the way Council Tax is collected and distributed, means Town and Parish Councils lost significant sums of money, as support grants continue to be cut. Despite the Town Council's best efforts to absorb the deficit, inevitably an increase in the precept was required to avoid a cut in services.

HOW IS IT SPENT?

Your precept is spent on maintaining the provision of all the facilities and services the Town Council offers, as shown below.

The Leys (Sports Pitches & Splashpark) - **£7.28**
WW Sports Ground - **£8.72**
Burwell QE2 Recreation Ground - **£6.47**
King George V Recreation Ground - **88p**
Witney Lake & Country Park - **£1.55**
Allotments - **10p**



Bank Charges - **10p**
Corporate Management - **£3.22**
Democratic Representation & Management - **£9.99**
Capital and Ear Marked Reserves - **£16.67**

Tower Hill Cemetery - **£9.44**
Windrush Cemetery - **£9.65**
CI Churchyards - **£1.74**



Community Activities/Newsletter - **31p**
Community Infrastructure (Inc. grass cutting & open spaces) - **£30.99**
Civic Activities (Inc. Remembrance Sunday and events) - **£3.88**
Christmas Lights - **£3.59**
Grants & Donations (Incl S137) - **£6.47**

Burwell Hall - **£7.41**
Madley Park Community Centre - **35p**
Town Hall Maintenance - **£1.68**



Total

£130.52
PER BAND D HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN SURVEY 2016

Fill out, fold and stick this questionnaire (or pop it in an envelope) and free-post it back to us, scan the QR code to have your say online, or visit www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TVZKWCXY

Section 1 – Town Council Services

The Town Council provides the following in the town – please rate the performance in each of the under-mentioned services

1 = Excellent 2 = Good 3 = Satisfactory 4 = Poor

	1	2	3	4
Recreation Grounds/Play Areas/Open Spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Witney Lake and Country Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Leys Splash and Adventure Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Floral Displays (including hanging baskets)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street Furniture (bins/benches/bus shelters)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cemeteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Corn Exchange	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Burwell Hall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Christmas Lighting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civic Events (i.e. Remembrance)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Events (i.e. Play days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Council services overall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please give your opinions on the following questions:

Would you be prepared to pay more for improved services across the town?

.....
.....

Based on the Town Council services listed, what are the three main issues you see as important to Witney within the next five years?

1.
.....
2.
.....
3.
.....

Comments

.....

Please return to the Town Hall using the freepost address overleaf by 30th April 2016

LET US HAVE YOUR OPINIONS, THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO US

Section 2 – This section is optional but it helps us know we are contacting all the residents of the town

If you are responding for a household, please tick all the relevant boxes that apply.

Sex

Male Female

☐ ☐

Age

U- 17 18-20 21-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Religion

Nationality

Occupation

Education Employed Not employed Retired

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes No

☐ ☐

I would like to become part of the 'Voice of Witney' group and take part in further surveys/ consultations/competitions, receive newsletters and the opportunities to volunteer or join a representative group for your town.

Please contact me

☐ By telephone on

☐ Via Twitter @

☐ On Facebook @

☐ Via email on



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU AND THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR YOU TO GET IN TOUCH



@witneytowncounc



Witney Town Council



info@witney-tc.gov.uk



01993 704379



or why not come and say 'hello' in person

Fold in first

FREEPOST RSYS-YBEX-JLCT
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN HALL
MARKET SQUARE
WITNEY
OX28 6AG

Fold in second

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL
I AM HAVING MY SAY TO
YES,

A little bit of sellotape here to secure