



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2019

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THE CORN EXCHANGE | WITNEY
WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH | 7:30pm

Held once a year, the Annual Town Meeting is facilitated by the Town Council on behalf of the electorate. This is not a Council meeting, but an opportunity for residents to raise and discuss matters affecting the town and to ask questions and express views about the year ahead.

The Mayor will describe her busy year in office and Town Council committee chairmen will present their reports to let you know what the Council has been working on for the last year, and its future plans.

The evening also includes a display from charities and organisations that have received financial grants from the Council; giving an insight into how the money has been spent and the benefit this has brought to the town.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The meeting is an important part of local democracy and is open to all registered electors in the town



Picture by Sally Dunkley

Residents are encouraged to take part in the public question session. If you have any questions you would like to raise it would be helpful, but not essential, if they could be submitted in advance of the meeting. Questions asked in advance can be researched in order that a more informed discussion can take place and a comprehensive answer may be provided at the meeting. Submit your questions by letter or email to the Town Clerk: **townclerk@witney-tc.gov.uk** For those who might be a bit shy about speaking at the formal meeting or who would like a more in depth chat, there follows an opportunity for residents to speak with the Town Councillors in small groups.

Tea and coffee will be available before the meeting and we will be launching our Annual Residents' Satisfaction Survey so come early and fill in your form while you enjoy some refreshments. Alternatively you can return the freepost survey in this leaflet or fill in the survey on line:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/377RKW7

DO YOU WANT MORE THAN A DISCUSSION?

Do you care about where you live? Are you passionate about your community? If so, you could make a great local councillor. Stand for election and make a local change. See the back page for more details



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL ALL ABOUT YOUR COUNCIL TAX

The primary source of income for most Parish Councils 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 collects 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 limited to an increase of just 2%. From April 2019 the cost per average household (Band D property) has increased from £137.61 to £140.36 per annum. This is a rise of £2.75 per property for the year, which equates to a weekly increase of only 5.2p per household.

WHY HAS IT GONE UP?

This year the Town Council plans to continue supporting the town centre bus service with an increased financial contribution. Earmarked funds are assigned to projects at the skate park and Phase II of the Corn Exchange refurbishment along with improving street furniture, floral and Christmas light displays.

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) £22.95
West Witney Sports Ground £3.13
Burwell QEII Recreation Ground £2.79
King George V Recreation Ground £2.06
Witney Lake & Country Park £1.27



Tower Hill Cemetery £11.75
Windrush Cemetery £9.01
Closed Churchyards £0.10p



Bank Interest/Charges -£0.78p
Corporate Management £5.86
Democratic Representation & Management £5.99
Capital & Ear-Marked Reserves £13.71



Burwell Hall £7.11
Corn Exchange £12.24
Langdale Hall -£0.66p
Madley Park Community Hall £0.31p



Community Activities/Newsletter £7.68
Community Infrastructure £28.50
(inc grass cutting & open spaces)
Civic Activities £3.54
(inc Remembrance Sunday & events)
Christmas Lights £3.81

Total:
£140.36
per Band D household per year

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL RESIDENTS' SATISFACTION SURVEY 2019

If you would rather take part online, or others in your household would also like to respond, you can find this survey at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/377RKW7

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	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 (e.g. Remembrance)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Events (e.g. 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"/>

If you rated any of the Town Council services as poor, please use this space to explain why

As the new municipal year approaches, Witney Town Council is inviting your views and comments on the services we provide. This is a marker for us to judge how we are doing and where we can improve.

Section 2 – Projects

Please give your opinions on the following questions:
Would you be prepared to pay more for improved services across the town?

Please help us prioritise the following projects
1= Most Important and 3 = Least Important

- Corn Exchange Phase II Redevelopment
- Lake & Country Park - Long-Term Recreation Plans
- Sports Facility Provision

1.

2.

3.

Can you identify one single thing that one of these projects would most benefit from?

Finally, as some of our services are age specific would you mind letting us know your age range ? Please circle the appropriate range

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

Thank you for taking part in our survey.

You can contact us at any time about
Town Council Services

Witney Town Council | Town Hall
Witney | OX28 6AG

01993 704379 | info@witney-tc.gov.uk
www.witney-tc.gov.uk

Please return to the Town Hall using the freepost address
overleaf by 30th April 2019

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local council has an overall responsibility for the wellbeing of your local community. Its work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Give communities a democratic voice

nalc
National Association
of Local Councils

BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make a real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve; making decisions, monitoring and getting involved at a local level.

GETTING ELECTED

To stand for election to a local council you must:

- Be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

If you are interested contact the council info@witney-tc.gov.uk

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