



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020



IN THIS EDITION OF YOUR NEWSLETTER

We focus on Youth Services and how Witney Town Council is planning to support these. You can share your knowledge of these and score us for our other services via our survey on the inside back page. We also take a detailed look at how we spend our share of your Council Tax payment.

Image by The Hamster Factor

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITS £30K FOR YOUTH SERVICES

A £30,000 fund is one of the ways in which Witney Town Council is aiming to support children and young people in the town. The money will go towards supporting sustainable youth work and services. Early in 2019 the Town Council held meetings with key professionals from youth service providers and followed up with direct consultation with the town's youth through a young people's survey. This enabled them to identify problems and issues in the town, available provision and resources, current and future need and any gaps.

While existing provision in the town is of high quality, there are significant gaps and barriers to access that need to be addressed.

Based on the information gathered, the Town Council resolved to set a budget to support Witney-based projects and collaborations working with local children and young

people, to strengthen the town's youth sector provision.

Witney Town Council will also be working alongside agencies at Oxfordshire County and West Oxfordshire District Councils, reviewing and adding to existing directories to create an accessible and definitive 'asset map' of services within the town.

The twin offering from the Town Council consists of the services directory and a fund that could be used to support existing services, create new projects or remove barriers to accessing existing services, for example, by funding discretionary rates.

The consistent message is that the promotion of positive experiences and opportunities for 0-21-year olds demonstrates that the town's young people are valued and that investing in them will have beneficial outcomes.

You can take part in the survey by returning the back page of the newsletter or access it online on our website or via this link: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3BJHS98



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 & WHY HAS IT GONE UP?

The Precept charged by Witney Town Council will rise in April by just over a pound a month for the average home (Band D property) increased from £140.36 to £154.40 per annum. This will enable the Council to address concerns raised by residents, and invest in sports facilities, public halls, youth services and the community bus, as well as committing to address the climate emergency declared in June 2019.

This will provide a sound basis for future planning, and in particular:

- A fund for youth services across the town, to plug the gap left by the closure of Base 33 and the lack of youth clubs
- Seed funding for environmental projects to move towards our ambition of net zero carbon Witney by 2028
- Adequate provision of good quality sports pitches including cricket and football for our growing town
- Enough funds to take the next steps in renewing The Corn Exchange, improving Burwell Hall, and refurbishing the Town Hall

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) £19.26
West Witney Sports Ground £3.88
Burwell QEII Recreation Ground £3.20
King George V Recreation Ground £1.52
Witney Lake & Country Park £4.63



Tower Hill Cemetery £14.16
Windrush Cemetery £6.81
Closed Churchyards £1.80



Bank Interest/Charges -£0.76p
Corporate Management £9.39
Democratic Representation & Management £10.89
Capital and Earmarked Reserves £8.20



Burwell Hall £7.55
Corn Exchange £13.09
Income from Leased
Community halls- £1.40



Community Activities/Newsletter £13.32
Community Infrastructure £31.57
(inc grass cutting & open spaces)
Civic Activities £3.31
(inc Remembrance Sunday & events)
Christmas Lights £3.98

Total:
£154.40
per Band D household per year

ANNUAL RESIDENTS' SATISFACTION SURVEY 2020

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. This year we have a special focus on Youth Services Provision.

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/3BJHS98

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 (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

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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+

Section 2 – Projects

Do you feel there is adequate provision of services in the town for children and young people across the following age groups and in the three categories below? Please tick yes or no or N/A if you have no experience of an age group.

EDUCATION/EXTRA CURRICULAR	Yes	No	N/A
0-2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Primary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Secondary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

LEISURE AND RECREATION	Yes	No	N/A
0-2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Primary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Secondary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

CRISIS AND SUPPORT	Yes	No	N/A
0-2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pre-School	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Primary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Secondary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16+	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Can you identify one thing that Youth Services would most benefit from?

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Thank you for taking our survey.
Please return to the Town Hall using the
freepost address overleaf by
30th April 2020



Image by Sally Dunkley

NEW YEAR, BUSY HALLS

It's been a busy couple of months in the Corn Exchange and Burwell Hall and 2020 looks set to get even busier! At Burwell we have a brilliant range of classes for all ages, including music, toddler gym, martial arts and dance groups, that regularly use this excellent space.

The Corn Exchange is looking forward to hosting some fantastic events this year including an acapella sea shanty night, an Easter disco and even a Kraftwerk, synth-pop

tribute band visiting in the autumn!

We continue to host our usual range of events including tabletop sales, wedding fayres and regular art, literature and Church groups. Do come in and have a chat if you are passing and we can tell you more about what's coming up.

This year we welcome our first Wedding ceremonies to the Corn Exchange and it's shaping up to be a go to wedding destination in the heart of Witney.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S ON...

 @publichalls_witney  /publichalls_witney

For booking enquiries please contact us on **01993 702309** or email at **publichalls@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