

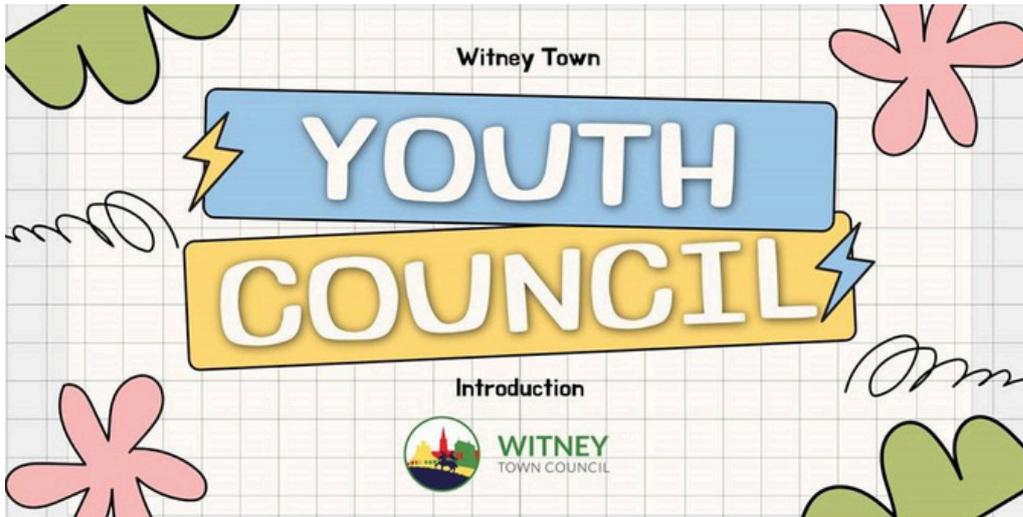
Witney Town Council

Autumn Newsletter

50th Anniversary Edition

October 2024

This edition has some pages about Witney's young people and explores how Witney Town Council is empowering them to engage in decision-making and make choices about issues that matter to them.



The newly reformed Youth Council is made up of a diverse mix of individuals aged 13-17, though we welcome those aged from 11-18 years.

They will meet at least four times a year and have their own social media presence plus a start-up budget of £500 to initiate their fundraising activities.

On their wish list of issues to address are:

- Seek out safe venues where young people can meet and socialise.
- Organise fund raising and other events.
- Share perspectives and offer opinions and feedback.
- Develop leadership and other skills.
-

They are all very enthusiastic and brimming with ideas. We may very well be witnessing the future Town Councillors in the making.

In this issue

Witney Youth Council
Street Art at the Leys
Arcade and VR Day
Heritage Open Day
New Meadow Habitats
Witney's In Bloom Award
Witney Lake & Country
Park News
Winter Fuel Allowance
Defibrillators
Autumn Activities
50th Anniversary Events
What's On At Corn Ex
Advent Fayre
Daytime Film Club
Community Speedwatch
Who does what?
Council Information





What an incredible time we had at the Street Art event at the Leys in October!

We were treated to captivating artwork from a talented group of artists brought together by MES graffiti crew. A sunny day added even more impact to the colourful artwork taking shape throughout the day.

Visitors of all ages gathered to witness the creativity and without question, everyone was amazed by the exceptional talent.

Thank you to all our amazing artists and to @mes_graffiti_crew for bringing everyone together and totally transforming the Leys Skatepark so enthusiastically! The space has a whole new feel.



[Watch the Video](#)



WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

WFAO&T



From Formula One racing to retro multiplayer cabinet games, VR rollercoaster and Walk the Plank, basketball and air hockey, Witney Town Council held an incredible arcade day for the younger residents of Witney.



It was a free event as part of Witney Town Council's 50th Anniversary, celebrating the history of Witney Town Council with a range of events for all residents of Witney.

It was well received, giving dozens of young people a fun packed evening to try tech that they may never have seen in person before!

We were able to collect valuable feedback from both young people and their guardians for future improvements and ideas for other events.

Many thanks to the Witney Town Hall Charity for giving us the funds to make this possible



Heritage Open Day

Our heritage open day this year was very popular with many Witney residents popping in to look up friends and relatives in the archives. It was great to see their faces light up when they finally found them!



We had Witney Gazettes from as far back as the 1940s, as well as a Constabulary book from the 1850s! It featured some timely professions such as Pauper, Gentlemen, and Workhouse Labourer.

A slideshow of historical photos also played we had a range of burial books laid out from the 1850s to the 1970s. We look forward to hosting the event again next year.



Restoring Habitats on Snipe Meadow

Witney Town Council is working with Natural England and Freshwater Habitats Trust to restore wildlife habitats and improve biodiversity in Snipe Meadow, as part of the Oxfordshire–Buckinghamshire Freshwater Network project. To do this, we were given a rare opportunity to use specialist machinery.

A 400 hp tractor and Rotary Ditch Digger (the only one of its kind in the UK) carved a series of trenches and furrows that vary from 0.5 metres in depth to a centimetre or so below surface level.

The specialist equipment made short work of the task, sculpting the surface and achieving the complex layout in just a few hours, something that would have taken a traditional earth mover a couple of days.

The digger ejects the spoil out to one side adding to the speed of the digging process.



This aerial photo illustrates the path dug by the Rotary Digger (taken on 16th September 2024). Over time, this area will naturally populate with new dragonflies, spiders, plants, and other freshwater flora and fauna.



[Read more about the Freshwater Network Project here](#)



Britain in Bloom Silver Gilt Award for Witney Lake and Country Park

Witney Town Council is delighted to announce that Witney Lake and Country Park was presented with a Silver Gilt Award at the Thames and Chilterns regional In Bloom Awards earlier this week!

This is the second year of entering the Witney Lake and Country Park and this year we demonstrated some significant progress in the management and improvement of the site since last year when we achieved silver.

With the newly installed signage, community activities, and biodiversity management, the Lake and Country Park earned the following marks out of 10:

Community - 7
Maintenance - 8
Environment - 8

One of the most useful parts of the competition is the constructive feedback we receive from the judges. This guides us towards future developments and what areas to prioritise, as well as recognising all the hard work by staff and volunteers!

We appreciate everyone who made it possible for us to achieve the award and encourage you to look out for further Witney Lake and Country Park improvements.

Britain in Bloom is a National competition in which applicants are encouraged to make positive changes to their local environment which include horticultural, environmental, and community action.

[READ THE JUDGES COMMENTS](#)





Witney Lake and Country Park News

Algal Bloom

The algal bloom at the Witney Lake and Country Park is slowly reducing, however with continuous flooding, it is difficult to know whether this will continue. Please take care as usual and avoid contact with the water.

Flooding

Flooding has been at an all year high, with areas of the lake side being inaccessible and water levels often above wellie height.

We are carrying out water testing to assess any potential damage to the lake from polluted river water

Snipe and Mill Meadows Management

Snipe Meadow has undergone wet meadow creation to encourage further biodiversity and strengthen existing habitats for current and new wildlife.

Meadow grass cutting has also provided the Witney Lake with hay bales, which are planned for submersion in the lake to mitigate the algal bloom and assist bank protection in flooded areas.

Am I eligible for Winter Fuel Allowance?

If you were born before 23 September 1958 you could get either £200 or £300 to help you pay your heating bills for winter 2024 to 2025. This is known as a 'Winter Fuel Payment'.

You may be eligible if you or your partner get certain benefits.

You will not get the extra Pensioner Cost of Living Payment given in 2022 and 2023. It stopped in winter 2023.

Aside from being born before 23 September 1958, you must also live in England or Wales and get one of the following:

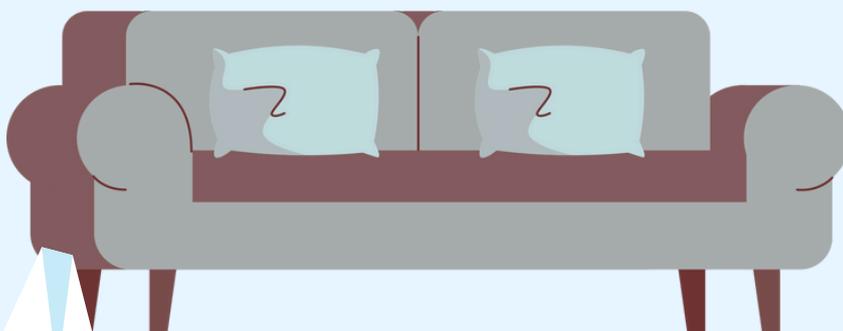
Pension Credit
Universal Credit
income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
Income Support
Child Tax Credit
Working Tax Credit

You'll also need to have been getting a benefit during the qualifying week of 16 to 22 September 2024.

Read more about the allowance and whether you are eligible here: www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment

You could also get help from:

- a Cold Weather Payment
- a Warm Home Discount
- a Household Support Fund

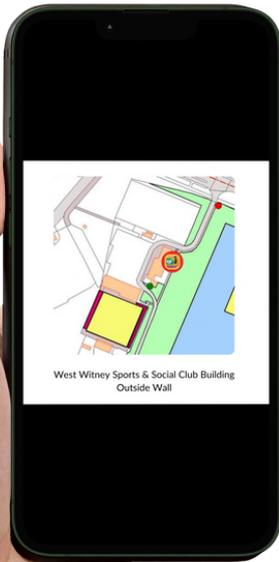


Defibrillators

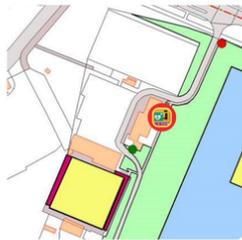
Here is a list and maps showing the locations of defibrillators that Witney Town Council maintains. There are many more to be found across the town but these are the ones that the Council has installed, or been gifted or taken on responsibility for and check regularly.

It is worth noting that all WTC maintained defibs are installed on external walls of buildings or other outside places. They are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Our defibrillators are all registered on 'The Circuit' which first responders use when looking for a unit. <https://www.thecircuit.uk/>



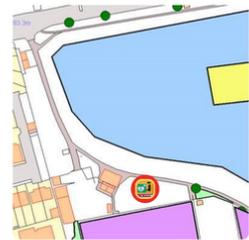
West Witney Sports & Social Club Building
Outside Wall



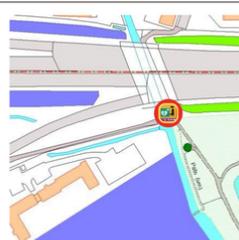
West Witney Sports & Social Club Building
Outside Wall



Burwell Hall - Outside Wall



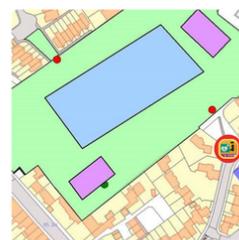
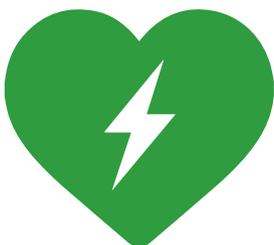
The Leys - Coffee Shed Unit



Witney Lake & Country Park
Avenue Two Entrance



Witney Town Hall - Market Square
Left Hand Phone Box



Newland - Kingsfield Crescent
Lamp Post on Footpath

- 1 West Witney Sports & Social Club Building - Outside Wall
- 2 Burwell Hall - Outside Wall
- 3 The Leys - Coffee Shed Unit
- 4 Witney Lake & Country Park - Avenue Two Entrance
- 5 Witney Town Hall - Market Square - Left Hand Phone Box
- 6 Newland - Kingsfield Crescent - Lamp Post on Footpath



Autumn Activities



Collage with Leaves!

Gather a variety of leaves from different trees, focusing on those that showcase the rich reds, oranges, yellows, and browns. Once you have your collection, flatten the leaves between the pages of a heavy book for a few days to preserve their shape. Afterward, arrange the leaves in an appealing design, use glue or double-sided tape to secure the leaves in place,. Allow your collage to dry completely before displaying.



Make a Pumpkin-Based Recipe

fill the kitchen with warm scents of spice and sweetness, and create a cozy atmosphere that celebrates the season's harvest by trying the tasty recipes below:



Pumpkin Pie



Pumpkin Soup



Pumpkin Cake



Make Your Own Candles

Candles are a great way to make your home more comfortable especially during the darker days. To make your own DIY candles at home, start by gathering wax, a wick, and a container. Melt the wax in a double boiler, then add your favourite fragrance oils if desired. Secure the wick in the centre of the container, pour in the melted wax, and let it cool completely. Trim the wick, and enjoy your homemade candle!

50th Anniversary events

Coming
Soon!

Senior's Film Matinee

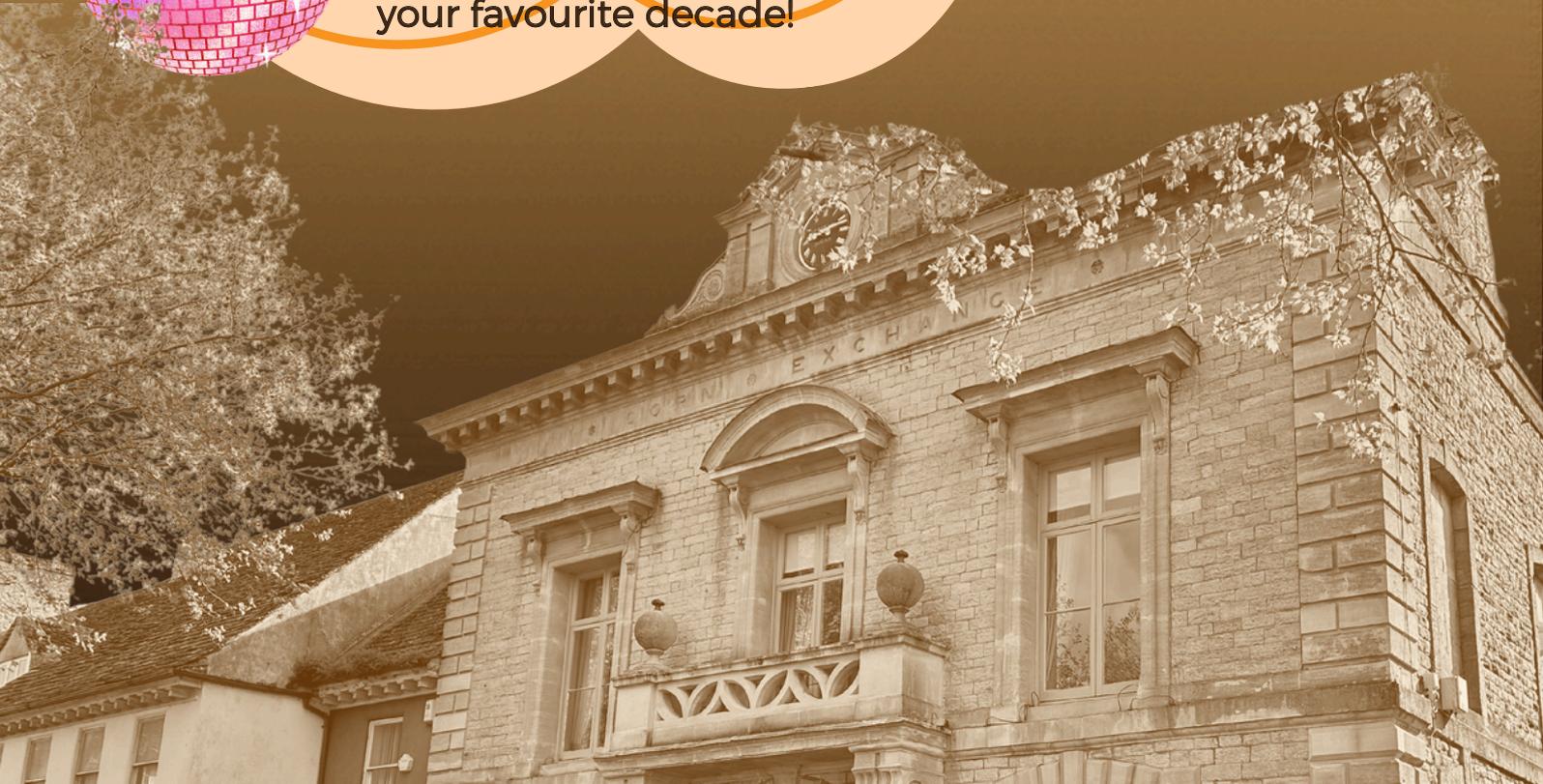
Time and date TBC
A matinee film and
refreshments for our older
residents in the well-
equipped Corn Exchange
Cinema.



Decades themed disco

22nd Feb 2025

Dance the night away to
music from each of the
decades WTC has been in
existence. It's an excuse to
dress up in the fashion of
your favourite decade!





CORN EXCHANGE
WITNEY

WHAT'S ON?

Regular Events

Daytime Cinema
Every other Tuesday
1PM

Tea Dance
Every Wednesday
1PM

1863 Open Mic
1st Thursday 7PM

UPCOMING PROGRAM

WITNEY JAZZ
Sat 19th Oct

ABOUT SCHIMDT
Cinema
Tues 12th Nov

XMAS FILM
Cinema
Tues 10th Dec

LA LA LAND
Cinema
Tues 29th Oct 1pm

WITNEY TOWN BAND
Sun 17th Nov

BEE GEE'S DISCO
Sat 14th Dec

INSIDIOUS
Cinema
Thurs 31st Oct 8pm

LADY IN THE VAN
Cinema
Tues 26th Nov

PANTOMIME
Buttercross Theatre
19th - 24th & 28th-31st

WITNEY JAZZ
Fri 1st Nov

XMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON
Live Music in 1863
Fri 29th Nov

SCAN FOR MORE!

THE DENOTONES
60's Band
Sat 2nd Nov

ADVENT FAYRE
Children's Xmas Event
Sun 1st Dec

1863 OPEN MIC
Thurs 7th Nov

1863 OPEN MIC
Thurs 5th Dec

SIX "TEEN EDITON"
Buttercross Theatre
8th-9th Nov

WITNEY JAZZ
Fri 6th Dec



For full listing, tickets and more info visit:
www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk

1ST
DECEMBER

ADVENT FAIRE



AT THE CORN EXCHANGE, WITNEY

FREE ENTRY - BOOKING REQUIRED



Mulled Wine &
Hot Chocolate!



Christmas
Crafts!

German Bratwurst!

★ Facepainting!

★ Meet Father
Christmas!



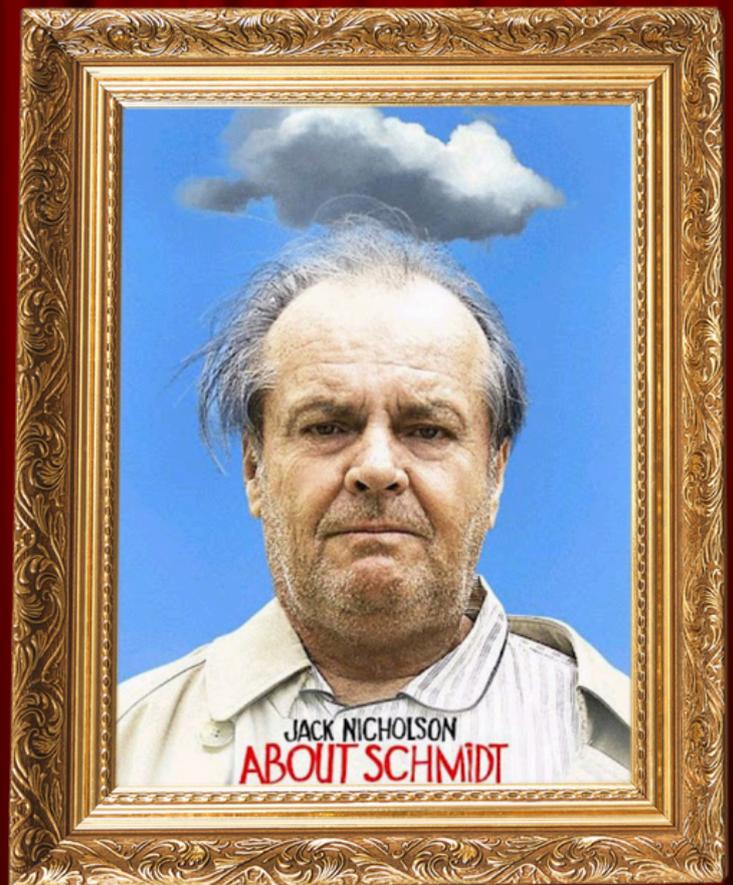
CORN EXCHANGE WITNEY PRESENTS

DAYTIME CINEMA

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
1PM SCREENINGS

TUESDAY 29TH OCT

TUESDAY 12TH NOV



TICKETS JUST £4!

AVAILABLE ONLINE OR ON THE DOOR!

VISIT WWW.CORNEXCHANGEWITNEY.ORG.UK OR SCAN QR



CORN EXCHANGE WITNEY PRESENTS

DAYTIME CINEMA

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
1PM SCREENINGS

TUESDAY 26TH NOV

TUESDAY 10TH DEC



TICKETS JUST £4!

AVAILABLE ONLINE OR ON THE DOOR!

VISIT WWW.CORNEXCHANGEWITNEY.ORG.UK OR SCAN QR



Community Speedwatch



Witney had another successful and positive Community Speedwatch session recently. Volunteers monitored the speed of almost three hundred vehicles. As before, the majority of drivers were travelling at safe and responsible speeds.

Local residents were pleased to see the Speedwatch team and keen to thank them for helping to make the community safer, by encouraging motorists to be aware of their speed.

More sessions are planned and if this is something you would like to get involved with, please contact the Witney Traffic Advisory Committee, via the town council, on 01993 704379. You can find out more about Community Speedwatch on their website: [Community Speedwatch](#)

Rural



Crime Partnership

KEEPING RURAL COMMUNITIES SAFE



Tell us about your experiences of rural crime and how you think it could be tackled.

Help us shape future rural crime initiatives.



Follow the QR code or go to
<https://yourvoice.westoxon.gov.uk/>
to take part in our rural crime survey.

CLOSES: 10th December 2024



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2020** and **31 August 2021**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2025**.

Apply online at

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

For help and information:

Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

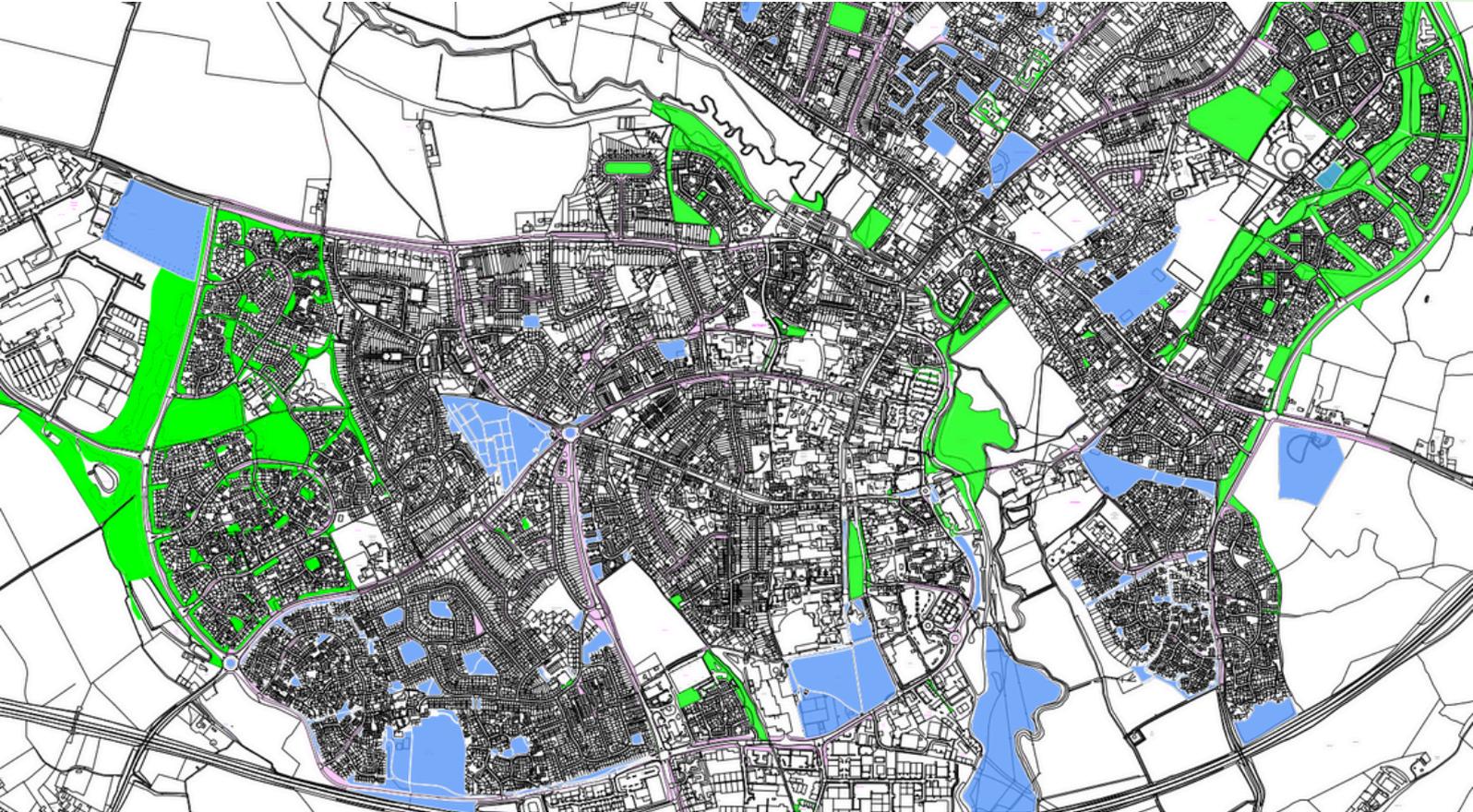
Tel: **0345 241 2487**



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Council Land Responsibility Map

Below shows the different land owned by local councils,
Town, District and County serving Witney



Key:



Above you will find a snapshot of the Council Land Responsibility Map. This is a document where you can find which Council owns what land, and who to contact if you have an issue.

The document is large and must be zoomed into for smaller areas of land. You can find the document on our webpage here: <https://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Existing-land-responsibilities-Witney.pdf>

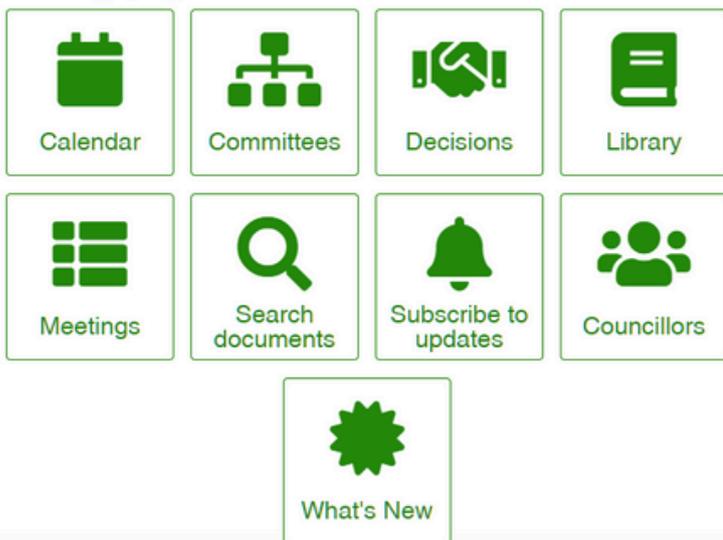
INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWN COUNCIL



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

You are here: Meetings, agenda, minutes

Meetings, agendas and minutes



Calendar
Committees
Decisions
Election results
Library
Meetings
Search documents
Subscribe to updates
Councillors
What's New
Logon

It's easy to keep up to date with our meetings and the agendas, minutes and reports that pertain to them. You'll find information on our councillors, important documents and information, and you can also subscribe to updates here.

CLICK THE IMAGE

If you are one of our partner organisations, or receive grant funding from Witney Town Council and would like to submit an article about your organisation, please contact communications@witney-tc.gov.uk.

Our Spring edition is always tight on space as it is a paper version and contains information about how the Town Council spends money as well as a Residents' Satisfaction Survey, but we can offer space in other issues. The Newsletter is currently issued quarterly.



SIGN UP TO THE NEWSLETTER

You can sign up to receive digital issues of our newsletter. Drop an email to communications@witney-tc.gov.uk with the subject line - Newsletter sign up.

NEXT TIME

Our next issue is due in Winter. Let us know what you would like to see more of.