



# WITNEY

## TOWN COUNCIL

### NEWSLETTER

## YOU SAID - WE DID

This newsletter is our opportunity to feed back to residents about how Witney Town Council responds to what you tell us in the annual survey.

Once analysed, data from our Annual Survey is published and is made available on our website and social media, as a document on request and as a link on Survey Monkey, usually around the end of May. It is also circulated to councillors as a committee report. Based on this, a series of actions are proposed by resolutions from the various committee meetings.

Some actions will be remedial and carried out as soon as possible. Others form part of longer term improvement plans and substantial projects. There may be occasions when we may not be able to address an issue raised, or deliver a solution and these are also explained in the You Said - We Did documents. Opposite is an example of actions taken and planned as a direct result of your survey feedback.

### STREET FURNITURE

**Comments:** Not enough benches in the town. Bus shelters are tatty and filthy.

**Action:** An audit of ALL Town Council street furniture has been carried out which enables officers to identify areas where there is a lack of provision. When requests are received locations can be checked quickly (there maybe times when we cannot install items if the land is not under our custodianship). The bus shelters are on a scheduled cleaning regime by the Council's Works team.

**Future Action:** Development of street furniture improvement and replacement plan.



**Your feedback is vital to keeping us informed and up to date with the needs and wants of our residents. You don't have to wait for the survey!**

We are happy to hear from you all year round, by email, phone, letter or in person.

We want to be able to let you know what is going on more regularly too. You can follow us on social media, pop along to any of the Council Meetings (including the Annual Town Meeting), or sign up to our new email mailing list.

Just drop us an email with the word NEWS in the subject line to [communications@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@witney-tc.gov.uk) and we will add you to the database.

### Spring 2023 Contents:

YOU SAID - WE DID

How we use your feedback

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WHAT'S ON AT THE CORN  
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Could you become a Councillor?

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

#### THE CORN EXCHANGE, WITNEY WED 15TH MARCH 7:30pm

The Annual Town Meeting is facilitated by the Town Council on behalf of the electorate. It's not a Council meeting, but an opportunity for residents to raise and discuss matters affecting the town. Reports are presented by the Mayor and Town Council committee chairs to let you know what the Council has been working on for the last year, and about the Council's future plans. The evening also includes a display by charities and organisations that have received financial grants from Witney Town Council.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The meeting is an important part of local democracy and is open to all registered electors in the town, who are encouraged to participate in the public question session. If you have any questions it would be helpful, but not essential, if they could be submitted in advance of the meeting. Questions asked in advance can be researched so 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](mailto:townclerk@witney-tc.gov.uk)  
Following the formal Q&A there is an opportunity for residents to speak with Town Councillors in small groups.

Tea, coffee & soft drinks will be available before the meeting.



# WHERE DOES THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET COME FROM?



The primary source of income for most Parish Councils comes from the Precept which is a share of the Council Tax that is collected from each household by the District Council. This is calculated on an average household (Band D property).

Witney Town Council does not receive any direct funding from central government or from business rates. The rest of its budget comes from income from some of the services it provides and from its reserves. The budget raised for this year is £1,861,708.

We explain below the contribution you make to the Town Council through your Council Tax and how it is spent.

For the year from 1 April 2023 the average taxpayer will be asked to pay £166.83 towards the services provided by Witney Town Council. This is the same as the previous year. The decision to keep the precept the same was agreed at an extraordinary meeting of the Full Council which took place on Wednesday 4th January 2023 with the Town Council acknowledging that many residents are struggling to make ends meet during the cost of living crisis. Witney Town Council is able to do this because of prudent financial management and savings which have been made this year by bringing the grounds maintenance work "in-house."

The Council itself, is facing significant cost pressures due to the level of inflation, so allowance for this has been made in its budget estimates.

Some facilities and services such as maintenance of public open spaces and play areas, and youth services generate no income for the Town Council as they are free for public use at the point of delivery.



## HOW IS IT SPENT?



The Leys (Sports Pitches & Splashpark) **£14.78**  
West Witney Sports Ground **£1.99**  
Burwell QEII Recreation Ground **£2.66**  
King George V Recreation Ground **£2.02**  
Witney Lake & Country Park **£8.35**



Bank Interest/Charges **-£2.96**  
Corporate Management **£15.05**  
Democratic Representation & Management **£14.19**  
Net Use of Reserves **-£5.69**



Burwell Hall **£8.95**  
Corn Exchange **£21.18**  
Income from Leased Community Halls - **£0.57**



Children & Youth Provision **£3.58**  
Bus Services **£1.88**  
Other community activities including Grants, Community Events and Newsletters **£13.66**  
Allotments, Grass Cutting, Open Spaces Street Furniture **£27.59**  
Play areas **£4.04**  
Civic Activities (including Remembrance Sunday & Civic Events) **£4.64**  
Christmas Lights **£3.94**



Tower Hill Cemetery **£10.49**  
Windrush Cemetery **£15.90**  
Closed Churchyards **£1.16**

**TOTAL: £166.83** per Band D household per year



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.

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/WTCsurvey23](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WTCsurvey23) or scan the QR code.



Please rate the following services 1 to 4.  
4= Excellent 3= Good 2= Satisfactory 1= Poor

	1	2	3	4	Don't know/ Don't use
Recreation Grounds/Play Areas/Open Spaces. See Note 1	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Leys Splash and Adventure Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street Furniture (bins/benches/ bus shelters). See Note 2	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Corn Exchange	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Christmas Lights	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civic Events (e.g. Remembrance). See Note 3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Events (e.g. Play days). See Note 4	<input type="radio"/>	<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"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Note 1**

These are the play areas maintained and serviced by Witney Town Council, any not listed here are currently under the custodianship of West Oxfordshire District Council or other agencies.

- Burwell (QEII Field in Trust)
- Eton Close (Location of the Tiny Forest)
- Fieldmere Close
- King George V (Newland) (Field in Trust)
- Leys (Centenary Field in Trust)
- Moorland Road
- Oxlease
- Park Road
- Quarry Road
- Woodgreen

**Note 2**

The Town Council cannot install bins, benches or other street furniture on land it does not have under its custodianship. We have policies that guide how and when these items are installed on land that we DO look after.

These can be found under policies on the Strategic Documents tab on our website.

**Note 3**

Civic events can be public events open to all such as Remembrance Day or the Civic Reception, for our Citizens of the Year. The Mayor represents the town at these events and also organises events of their own such as charity fundraisers.

**Note 4**

Community Events include those for families with children such as Play Days and our Advent Fayre and events more likely to appeal to adults and older people, such as our Winter Warmer Days, Heritage Open Days, Royal and National commemorative and celebration events. We aim to make our community events inclusive and accessible to everyone. We also support, facilitate and grant fund third party and large events with universal appeal, such as fairs, festivals and the Christmas lights, working with our partners to deliver successful events for all ages to enjoy.

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

Please enter your full postcode—this helps us to ensure that we are reaching all the residential areas within Witney with this newsletter:

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+



**WHAT'S ON? 2023**

<b>1863 OPEN MIC</b> First Thurs Every Month	<b>LAUGH OUT LOUD</b> Comedy Night 8th April
<b>WITNEY JAZZ</b> First Fri Every Month	<b>ANDREW BOURN</b> Sinatra & Swing 28th April
<b>ABBA MAGIC</b> Abba Tribute 11th Feb	<b>WEST END MAGIC</b> Magic/Theatre 12th May
<b>OPEN DAY</b> Variety 25th Feb	<b>THE MURMURATION OF STARLINGS</b> 24th - 27th May
<b>THRILL COLLINS</b> Pop/Garage Band 25th Feb	<b>IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL</b> Musical 4th June
<b>ATOM HEART FLOYD</b> Pink Floyd Tribute 25th March	<b>MACBETH + ROMEO &amp; JULIET</b> 440 Theatre Production 2nd August
<b>OUR HOUSE</b> Amateur Dramatic Show 30th March - 1st April	<b>PLUS MORE SHOWS TO BE ANNOUNCED!</b> Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates!
<b>TABLETOP MARKET</b> 8th April 9am-5pm	

 For tickets and more information visit:  
[www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk](http://www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk)

**MAKE A CHANGE, BECOME A COUNCILLOR**

Elections 4th May 2023

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor.

Here, you will find everything you need to know. We explain what local councils and councillors do, how you can become a councillor, details of the role and what to expect.

[www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-elections](http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-elections)

**CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES**



**WITNEY NEEDS YOU!**

MAKE A CHANGE  
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

*Fold in first*

**FREEPOST RSYS-YBEX-JLCT**  
**Witney Town Council**  
**Town Hall**  
**Market Square**  
**WITNEY**  
**OX28 6AG**

*Fold in second*

**I AM HAVING MY SAY TO**  
**YES,**

*A little bit of sellotape here to secure*