



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

www.witney-tc.gov.uk



Witney Town Council
Tel: 01993 704379
Town Hall, Market Square,
Witney, Oxon OX28 6AG



Witney Town Council
Spring Newsletter 2025



INVESTING IN A BETTER WITNEY

The Spring Issue has information on Council Finances, Services and our Annual Satisfaction Survey



In this issue:

COUNCIL PRECEPT

How we spend our share of the council tax

RESIDENTS' SURVEY

Help shape Witney with your feedback

In last year's survey, residents expressed a wish for us to do more for our young people. In response, we invested in initiatives such as The Station Detached Youth Service, who have run Football and half-term Youth Café sessions. We have run our own events such as a free VR Arcade event and we have reinstated the Witney Town Youth Council to engage young people in the democratic process. A better Witney is one that includes all ages!



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

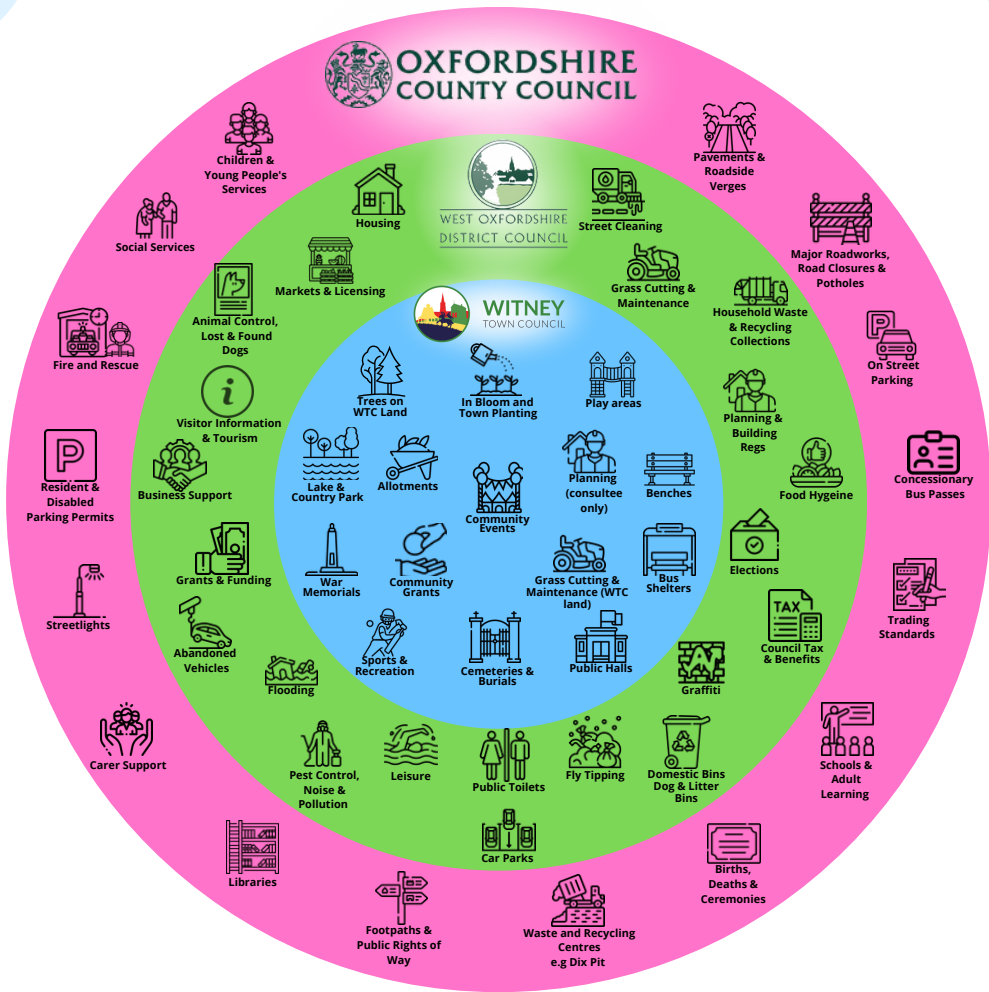
The meeting is an important part of local democracy and is open to all registered electors in the town

**Wednesday 19th
March 2025 at 7.30pm
The Corn Exchange,
Witney**

If you need this newsletter in any other form, please contact communities@witney-tc.gov.uk

Who Does What?

Our diagram illustrates the different services provided by local councils, Town, District and County serving Witney



[FixMyStreet.com](https://www.fixmystreet.com) is a website where you can report a problem in your local area. It is the best place to report problems with pavements, roads, street furniture, or lighting. The website will direct the problem to the organisation responsible.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Contact form on OCC website
01865 792422

General Enquiries Number
8.30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday and
8.30am - 4pm Friday

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

customer.services@westoxon.gov.uk
01993 861000

Available from 9am to 2pm
Monday to Friday

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

01993 704379

Available from 9am to 5pm
Monday to Thursday, 9am to
4.30pm Friday

For further information or phone numbers on specific enquiries, please refer to each council's website

How the Town Council raises and spends money



The precept is the main source of income town and parish councils receive and this is just 7% of the total Council tax bill paid by residents. The precept is used to deliver, maintain and enhance the services below along with the day to day running of Witney Town Council.

For more information on the precept, visit www.witney-tc.gov.uk

Democracy and Governance

- Bank Interest/Charges -£3.29
- Corporate Management £19.27
- Democratic Representation & Management £15.60
- Net Use of Reserves -£1.86

Sports and Recreation

- Windrush Place and Raleigh Crescent £8.74*
- The Leys (sports pitches & splash park) £14.72
- Burwell QEII Recreation Ground £4.40
- West Witney Sports Ground £6.59
- King George V Recreation Ground £2.62
- Witney Lake and Country Park £11.62
- *For planned Pitches 25/26

Public Halls

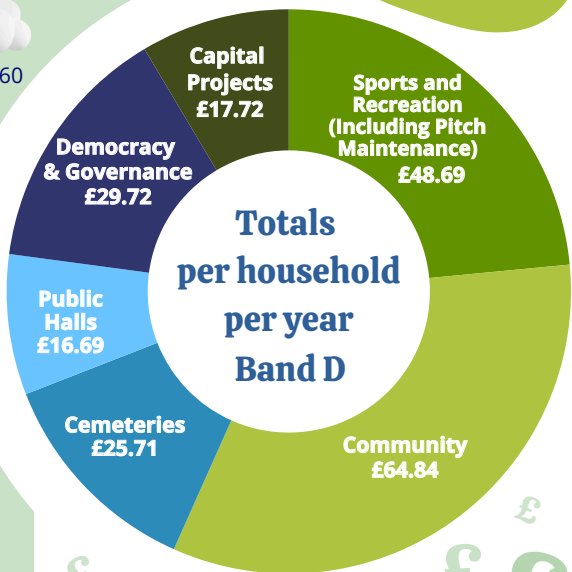
- Burwell Hall £5.94
- Corn Exchange £11.54
- Income from Leased Community Halls -£0.79

Capital Projects

- Capital Projects £259.24
- Grants and loans received -£159.98
- Project Reserves -£81.54

Community

- Children & Youth Provision £4.46
- Community Bus Services £2.08
- Other Community Activities including Grants, Events, and Newsletters £16.50
- Allotments, Grass Cutting, Open Spaces, Street Furniture £27.28
- Play Areas/Equipment £4.96
- Civic Activities inc. Remembrance Sunday & events £5.27
- Christmas Lights £4.29



How much does it all cost?

Cemeteries

- Tower Hill Cemetery £13.00
- Windrush Cemetery £11.56
- Closed Churchyards £1.15

Average Band D home contributes £203.37 per annum | £16.95 per month

Image: Witney Town Councillors taking part in the Witney Carnival Parade



Can you help your Community?

Do you care about the community you live in?
Do you have ideas to create meaningful, lasting change?
Are there specific issues you're passionate about fixing?



If this sounds like you, why not consider becoming a councillor?
Witney Town Council has 17 outstanding councillors representing local residents, supported in their role by officers and staff.

Councillors engage with the community to voice important issues that matter to them.

Although the role is unpaid and requires time and dedication, it is highly rewarding and offers the opportunity to make a real impact on people's lives and our town. It requires making bold decisions and a commitment to delivering outstanding services to our residents.

Find out more about becoming a councillor at the elections in 2027 come along to a council meeting, speak to one of our Councillors or find out more on this link:

www.witney-tc.gov.uk/the-council/why-become-a-town-councillor/

Witney Town Council has a full calendar of projects and events along with the day-to-day services it provides to its residents every year. Here are a few examples:

- **Street artwork at the Skate Park**
- **Volunteer 'Thank you' Picnics**
- **Citizens of the Year**
- **HM The King's Coronation**
- **Schools In Bloom**
- **Detached Youth Work**
- **Virtual Reality Arcade Day**
- **Community Bus Service**
- **Advent Fayre**
- **Christmas Lights**



Viewpoint - Our Committee Clerk, **Derek Mackenzie**, explores the difference you can make in your community by stepping into the role of a Councillor.

Pioneers and Trailblazers

We firmly believe that Witney Town Council is an exciting and progressive organisation and has trailblazed some of its initiatives. It has created concepts that have been emulated by other councils. In 2020, Witney launched the first Tiny Forest, and today, there are more than 200 such forests across the country!

We launched "Councillors @ the Café," which allows residents to meet in person and discuss issues directly with decision-makers. We hope to introduce "Councillors on the Bus" to further enhance this important approach to community engagement. We regularly receive enquiries from other councils looking for advice and ideas on implementing similar initiatives.

The Council aims to gain acknowledgment for its successful efforts. We have submitted an application for the Green Flag Award to highlight our innovative environmental initiatives that drive ongoing improvements at Witney Lake and Country Park, as well as throughout the Council's green spaces.

We are actively pursuing accreditations that support our structured framework for ongoing improvement and development through the National Association of Local Councils Award Scheme.

Witney Town Youth Council

The Witney Youth Council is already on their third official meeting, with many creative ideas in the works!

You can keep up with their work on Instagram:



@youthwitney

COUNCILLORS AT THE CAFÉ

First Saturday of Every Month
10am to 12 noon

Join the people that represent you on the Witney Town Council and have a chat in the Corn Exchange.

- no purchase or booking required!



Have a burning question?

Would you like your ideas heard?



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL



Coming soon to the Corn Exchange:



**Corn Exchange Daytime Cinema
Presents – YESTERDAY**

18th March 2025: 13:00



**Shadowing Hank – Tribute to Hank
Marvin by Justin Daish**

5th April 2025: 19:30



You are invited to join us to
celebrate

**THE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY OF**

VE Day

8TH MAY 2025

A lantern lighting and shared
moment of celebration



**AFTERNOON TEA
WITH THE**



Tickets
and times
to be
announced

**OPEN MIC
NIGHT ON
MARKET
SQUARE**



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Witney Town Council

Annual Residents' Satisfaction Survey 2025



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

Closing date: 1st of May 2025

Please rate the following services 1 to 4

If you would prefer a digital version of this survey, follow this link:
www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTCsurvey25



4 - Excellent | 3 - Good | 2 - Satisfactory | 1 - Poor 4 3 2 1 Don't Know/Don't Use

	Recreation Grounds/Play Areas/Open Spaces	<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 Park and Adventure Play	<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)	<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, D-Day)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Community Events (eg. Play Days)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Communications	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please use this space to add more about your experience or feedback regarding any of our services, good or bad.

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+

If you are under 18, what would you like to see more of in Witney?

A little bit of tape here to secure



Please help Witney Chamber of Commerce by completing a brief survey...

Your chance to answer a few simple questions about how you feel about the town centre, and about how you think Witney appeals to visitors.

Your feedback will be invaluable to all our local businesses, as they strive to provide the facilities that you need.

Please scan the QR code, and take part. And thank you.



Fold with tape and return

This can be sent freepost: just pop it into any post box.

Fold in half



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