



CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT
2023-24

EASY READ FORMAT



INTRODUCTION FROM TOWN MAYOR COUNCILLOR SANDRA COLEMAN

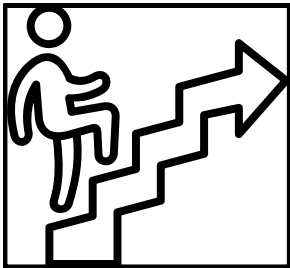
Our Town Council and What We Do

We, the Town Council, are here to help our community. We provide many services and places for everyone to enjoy. These include the Town Hall, playgrounds, sports fields, cemetery, and open spaces. We work together with the West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to make our town even better.



Improving Our Work

Since 2019, we've been making our work better. We've become more professional in how we do things. We've also made a plan to make sure we can keep helping the community for a long time.



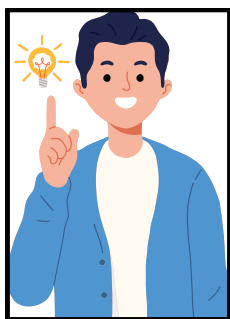
Getting Everyone Involved

We want everyone to be part of what we do. That's why we have meetings and events where people can share their thoughts. We also have councillor surgeries where you can come and talk to us. And we ask for your opinions in surveys.



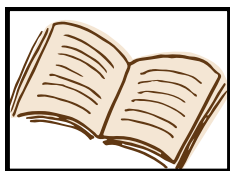
Making Changes Based on Your Ideas

We listen to what you have to say. Many of the things we've done are because of what you've told us. For example, because you wanted it, we're looking into making a place for wheeled sports. We're also fixing up Pool Meadow. Our goal is to make our town better and to get everyone involved.



This report

Please take some time to read this document. It's important because it shows what we're doing to help our town.



COMMITTEE WORK

Community Committee

Last year, Community Committee worked hard to make our neighbourhood better.



They put in new play equipment at Cotswold Crescent Play Area. Now, kids and families have a fun place to go.



They also started the Keep Chippy Beautiful group. This group helps with different problems in town. They had a big clean-up in the autumn and have more events planned for next spring.



The Committee also started fixing up the Town Hall. They want to keep our town's history alive and make it better for everyone.

Finance and Resources Committee

This committee helps support our community.



They gave £28,000 to different projects in town. This money helps things grow and get better.



They also got an award for doing a good job from the National Association of Local Councils.



This shows that our Town Council is doing things right.

Strategic Planning Committee



This committee helps plan for our town's future. They put in bike repair stations in town to help people ride bikes.



They also look at how to make our town grow well and think about things like road safety.



They started groups to make biking better and to make our town even better. They want our town to be healthy and strong.

THE TOWN HALL

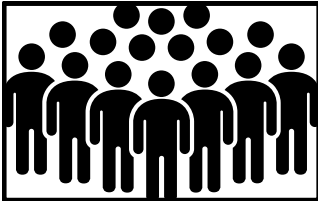
Introduction

This part of the report gives an idea of what happened at the Town Hall in 2023 and some of 2024. It talks about bookings, events, the building, and money.



Highlights

The Town Hall had bookings from over 115 different people and groups.



There were more than 50 different events held at the Town Hall.



We now have Barclays and TSB Banking hubs at the Town Hall.



THE TOWN HALL



We started 3 new fitness sessions for people over 50.

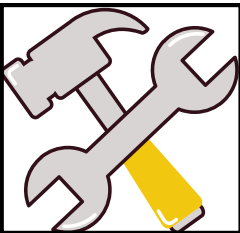


We partnered with Chipping Norton Theatre for music and dance events.

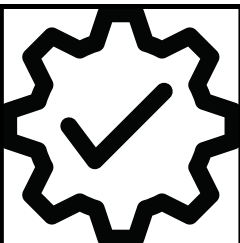


The Town Hall made around £60,000 from bookings and the bar.

Maintenance Progress



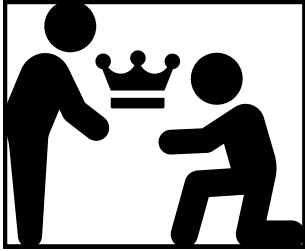
We finished the first phase of building works. This included fixing the walls of the ladies' toilets and decorating the Lower Town Hall.



We started keeping track of maintenance and made plans to fix things regularly.

EVENTS

Picnic in the Park



Last year, Chipping Norton had a special event called the King's Coronation 2023 Picnic in the Park. It was to celebrate King Charles III becoming king.



More than 400 people came to enjoy it. There was a temporary skate park from Rollback World and performances at the gazebo. Everyone had a great time cheering and clapping.

Chipping Norton Pride



Chipping Norton had its first Pride event last year, and it was a big success. Over a thousand people came, and everyone had a good time.

EVENTS

Christmas Lights Switch-On & Big Chippy Singalong



Last year, we had a Christmas Lights Switch-On event in Chipping Norton. It was great because we had new lights.

Lots of people came for the Switch-On and Big Chippy Singalong. We all celebrated the start of the holiday season together.

SPORT AND PLAY

Cotswold Crescent Play Area



In July 2023, new equipment was added to the Cotswold Crescent play area, just before the summer holidays. People have liked using it, and we're happy to hear their positive feedback.

SKATEPARK PROJECT

Community Support



In May 2023, students from Chipping Norton Secondary School asked the Council to support a skatepark idea. The Community Committee liked the idea and agreed to support it.

Progress and Plans

We're working on finding a location and money for the skatepark. Over 500 people signed a petition supporting it. In June, we had a temporary skatepark at New Street Rec during the King's Coronation event. People liked it, so we're considering putting the skatepark at New Street Recreation Area.



Working Together

We talked with Chipping Norton Regulated Pastures Trustees about the skatepark. Next, we'll ask the community what they think and work with local skateboarders to plan the design. Then, we'll choose someone to build it. We want the skatepark to fit in with the area, so we'll add plants around it. We hope to have the skatepark ready by summer 2025.



OPEN SPACES

Pool Meadow

Pool Meadow is a special and old place filled with natural beauty and calmness. It's next to the stream along Worcester Road, near where there used to be a Norman Castle. In June 2022, the Council asked Beaumont Rivers Ltd to study Pool Meadow, and they finished the study.



Study Focus

The study looked at how to make Pool Meadow better for plants and animals, make it easier for people to visit, and reduce flooding in nearby areas. In 2024, the Council will start working on the study's suggestions.



Millennium Garden

There's a new curved bench in the Millennium Garden now. It's for families and groups to sit together and enjoy the green space in our town.



OPEN SPACES

Worcester Road Cemetery

Climate Action

To help fight climate change, the Council decided to keep a wild area in Worcester Road Cemetery.



Some volunteers spent time planting yellow rattle seeds.



This helps bees and insects, and it makes the cemetery look nice.



Yellow rattle helps wildflowers grow by stopping grass from taking over.

WHERE DOES CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL GET ITS MONEY FROM?



Council Tax Precept

Most of the money for Chipping Norton Town Council comes from something called the Precept. This is a part of the Council Tax that each household pays to the District Council. It's based on an average household (Band D property).



Other Sources of Money Chipping Norton

Town Council doesn't get money directly from the government or from business taxes. Some of its money comes from the services it offers, like the Town Hall and cemetery, and from savings it has. For 2023-24, the Precept was £344,684. This means that each Band D Household paid £120.84 per year.



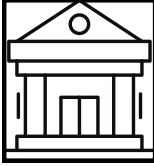
Changes in Charges Starting from April 1st, 2024

Each household will be asked to pay £130.51 per year. This is a bit more than last year, and it will help the Council with rising costs.

Costs



Running the Town Council costs money. Staffing is the biggest expense. Without staff, the Council couldn't do its job.



Breakdown of 2024-25 Budget:

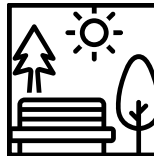
- Town Hall: £49,700



- Community and Grants: £28,000



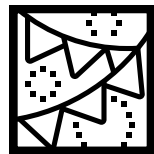
- Corporate Management, Admin, and Resources: £230,800



- Recreation Areas: £22,500



- Cemetery and Closed Churchyard: £14,700



- Events: £11,000

Total Cost for 2024-25

Each Band D Household will pay £130.51 per year.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY: HOW CHIPPING NORTON TOWN COUNCIL HELPS

Chipping Norton Town Council is committed to supporting local communities through the giving of grants.

This year, the Town Council allocated £28,000 for community projects, which accounts for 8% of the annual budget.

Long-Term Support for Key Organisations Additionally, the Town Council has decided to provide support to three key organisations for a period of three years. This ensures these organisations are stable for longer:

Core Funding (3 Years)

- Chipping Norton Theatre: £3,000 per year
- Chipping Norton Lido: £5,000 per year
- Chipping Norton Museum & History Society: £3,500 per year

GRANTS

In 2023 and 2024 these grants were approved:

- 1:1 Mentoring: £1,600
- CN Cricket Club: £1,600
- CN Music Festival: £1,200
- CN Scouts: £1,600
- Citizen's Advice West Ox: £1,600
- Cleanslate: £800
- CN Green Gym: £400
- CN Lawrence Home Nursing Team: £1,592
- Oxfordshire Play Association: £400
- Remix Youth Club: £1,200
- CN Royal British Legion: £400

- Thrive North Oxfordshire: £2,000
- Volunteer Link Up: £1,600
- CN Community Church: £1,000
- CN Town Festival: £1,000
- CN Trefoil Guild: £200
- CN School PTA: £1,000
- CN Community Suppers: £800
- Cotswold Art Through Schools: £1,000
- CN Green Gym: £750
- OP Woodcraft, Mental Health Furniture Restoration sessions: £1,560
- Remix Youth Club: £500
- St Mary's Church, Life Skills: £1,000

FLYING THE FLAG FOR CHIPPING NORTON



We put up a new flagpole at The Millennium Garden. Now, we can fly different flags for the Town Council and local groups.

Here are the flags we flew or will fly from April 2023 to March 2024:



- The Earth Day & Ecology Flag, 22nd April 2023



- St George's Cross, 23rd April 2023



- The King's Coronation Emblem, 6th May 2023



- The Refugee Nation Flag, 20th June 2023



- The Armed Forces Day flag, 24th June 2023



- The Pride Progress flag, 1st July 2023



- The NHS flag, 5th July 2023



- The RAF Ensign, 21st August 2023

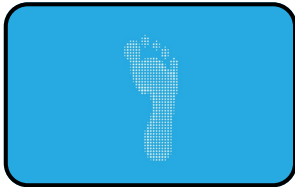
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- The United Nations flag, 24th October 2023



- The Royal British Legion flag, 28th October 2023



- The Human Rights flag, 10th December 2023



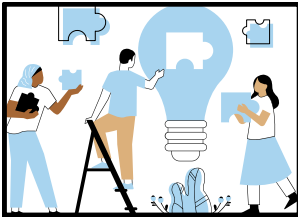
- The Suffrage Flag, 8th March 2024



- The Commonwealth flag, 11th March 2024

THINGS THAT MATTER TO CHIPPING NORTON

Traffic and Highways



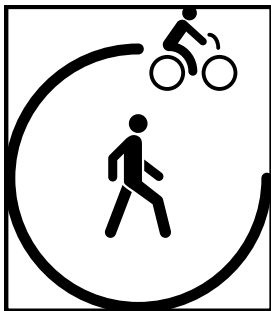
Chipping Norton Town Council works closely with other local councils to tackle traffic and parking issues in the area.



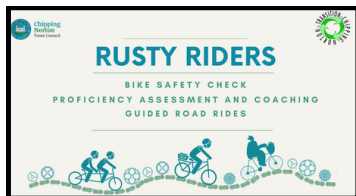
They deal with problems like heavy trucks, limited parking spaces and not enough safe places for pedestrians to cross the road.



A group called the Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee, made up of council members and others involved, actively works on finding solutions.



They do things like supporting plans for better walking and biking routes and visiting problem areas with highway officials to figure out what improvements are needed.



The council also supports things like a 20mph speed limit in certain areas, starting programs like Rusty Riders to promote safe biking, and buying devices to show drivers how fast they're going on Churchill Road.



All of this shows the council's dedication to making roads safer and managing traffic in Chipping Norton.



Housing and development

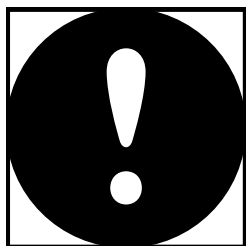
The area to the east of Chipping Norton has been chosen by the for a big housing project. There are plans to build around 1,200 new homes there.



In response to this, the town council made a statement called the East Chipping Norton Vision Statement in 2019.



Also, in 2022, they started a group called Build Chippy Better. Its job is to let people in the area share their thoughts on different parts of the project, like how it might affect nature, roads, and where people live.



A recent important update is that part of the area has been recognised as a Scheduled Monument by Historic England.



This means that the things archaeologists have found there, like stuff from when Romans lived in Britain (around 1st to 4th centuries AD), are really important and that these things need to be looked after for the future. This news is exciting for Chipping Norton, and people are looking forward to what happens next.

Fixing our Street Signs

Chipping Norton's old street signs, which people really like, have needed some care for a long time.

West Oxfordshire District Council doesn't make these iron signs anymore. So, if we want new ones, they would be the newer kind of name plates.

With the district council's approval, we've begun a plan to clean and repaint the signs.

Our maintenance worker has spent time and used their skills to fix up the first few signs. They'll keep working on replacing and fixing more signs in the coming months.



YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS



Sandra Coleman
Town Mayor



Steve Akers
Deputy Town Mayor



Rachel Andrews



Ben Bibby



Mike Cahill



Tom Festa



Ian Finney



Jo Graves



Alex Keyser



Athos Ritsperis



Dom Rickard



Michael Rowe



Mark Walker



Emily Weaver



Sharon Wheaton



Natasha Whitmill



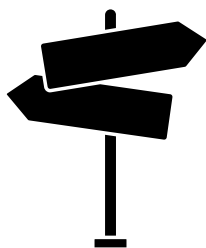
Our small team in the office is led by Luci Ashbourne, who is the Town Clerk and CEO of Chipping Norton Town Council.



You can find us at The Guildhall, Market Street, OX7 5NJ.



We're open to the public from 9am to 1pm on weekdays. If you have any questions, feel free to drop in, and we'll do our best to assist you.



We can also guide you to Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council if needed.



If it's more convenient, you can call us on 01608 642 341 between 9am and 1pm on weekdays.

You can also email staff members:



- Luci, Town Clerk:
townclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk



- Katherine, Deputy Clerk, Cemeteries and Allotments:
deputyclerk@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk



- Alison, Finance Officer:
finance@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk



- Tania, Town Hall and Events:
events@chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk