

Banbury Town Council



Budget and Action Plan

2018/2019

This leaflet provides residents of the town with information about the services provided by the town council and how much they will cost in 2018/2019. More detailed information about these services can be found on the council's website:

www.banbury.gov.uk

A message from Councillor Kieron Mallon, leader of Banbury Town Council.

Banbury Town Council is continuing to support the Business Improvement District project that will regenerate the town centre. This council has also supported CDC's move to purchase Castle Quay. The future of Banbury as a shopping destination, employment base and social centre is of the utmost importance – as is the well-being of its residents. This council has set a budget for 2018/2019 that will make the town a better place in which to live, work and play and a more attractive place to visit. But the town's portion of the council tax bill will stay at £122.12 (just over £10 a month) for Band D properties. It will be the eighth year running that the town's tax bill has not increased.

We will continue our programme of updating and improving our facilities. We will upgrade Bridge Street Park and the sensory garden on the Oxford Road. There will be a revamp to the Skate Area in Spiceball Park, and the approach to St Mary's Church will be given a facelift. The footpaths in People's Park will be resurfaced and a new football pitch is planned for the former cattle market site.

The outside of the town hall will be cleaned to make this magnificent Grade Two listed building a truly outstanding focal point to be proud of. Two new additions to the council's annual events programme – a music festival and a mini food fair – will attract more people to the town centre to boost businesses and be another contribution to the BID process. *Kieron Mallon*

Banbury Town Hall

Banbury Town Hall is a valuable asset and has become a popular hiring venue for personal and business occasions. The Grade 2 listed building is perfect for weddings, anniversaries, conferences, society dinners, exhibitions, public meetings, and commercial marketing and sales. Four rooms, of different sizes, can be hired individually or together. Discounts are available for multiple bookings and for town organisations and charities. The town hall is fully licensed for weddings and civil marriages – and for music, dancing and the sale and consumption of alcohol. Exterior cleaning of the town hall this year is part of a continuing maintenance programme that preserves this very important building.

Parks, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Cemeteries

Banbury Town Council manages and maintains the town's parks and open spaces which include 76 play and teenager areas, two skate ramps, 111 open spaces and 12 neighbourhood parks including People's Park and Spiceball Country Park. There are also four sportsgrounds – Horton View, Easington Rec, Moorfields and Hardwick Fields with a fifth to come via Merton Street and Alma Road. The council also owns and manages two cemeteries – Southam Road and Hardwick Hill.

Chairman of Banbury Town Council's general services committee Cllr Colin Clarke, said: "The town's green areas are very important as places for relaxation, sport and public events. The floral displays in the town's streets – the flower tubs and hanging baskets – give everyone a 'feelgood' attitude.

A joint project involving this council and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust has greatly improved Spiceball Park the Hanwell Fields Wetland Area. Volunteers have helped with the tidying up of an historic footpath in north Banbury. The pathway is part of the former ironstone railway which was built by German prisoners of war between 1914-1918. Some of the rocks in the cutting are 183 million years old and contain rare fossils of long-extinct sea creatures. The site is listed by Natural England as a site of special scientific interest.

The town's cemeteries are high on the council's priority list when it comes to care and maintenance and are always in excellent condition. The council is continuing its efforts to purchase of new burial land with Hardwick Hill cemetery filling up.

Dog Litter and Waste Bins

The council's dog litter and waste bins will continue to be emptied twice weekly.

Civic Traditions and the Mayoralty

The town's civic and ceremonial traditions are important. They are a link between Banbury's history and modern day life and play a special role in local affairs. The mayor is an important link between the council and the people of Banbury and attends more than 200 engagements a year. The mayor supports as many local organisations as possible.

Events in Banbury 2018

3 March	Mayor's Civic Dinner and Quiz
22 April	Taste of Spring food event
8 May	Inauguration of Town Mayor
10 June	Banbury and District Show
30 June	Armed Forces Day
8 July	Town Mayor's Sunday
27 July	Banbury Music Mix Festival
19 August	Banbury Food Fair and Banbury Flower and Produce Show
1 September	Street Organ Festival & Old Town Summer Party
16 September	Battle of Britain Parade and Service
7 October	Banbury Canal Day
11 November	Remembrance Day and Beacons of Light
24 November	Charities Christmas Bazaar
25 November	Christmas Lights Festival

In Bloom

Banbury continues to benefit from fantastic floral displays in the streets and in its parks and open spaces.

The displays make the town a delightful place in which to live, work and visit.

The council works with schools in the town and events such as Sunflower Workshops, Hanging Basket Workshops, and Planting Day in the Park are popular with primary school pupils.

Allotments

The council owns six allotment sites. It manages the Grange Road and Sinclair Avenue plots and the four other sites are managed by allotment associations. Anyone wanting an allotment should contact Banbury Town Council.

Cemeteries

The council asks grave owners and users of both cemeteries to heed the rules of the cemeteries so that maintenance can be carried out efficiently and properly. The council has taken ownership of the depot buildings near the Southam Road Cemetery car park. The buildings are the intended home of the town's park rangers.

Bus Shelters

The council provides more than 60 bus shelters – with the majority maintained by Clear Channel Advertising at no cost to the town. Some shelters may be moved after recent changes to bus services.

Grant Aid

This council assists local organisations with grants that enable them to function for the benefit of all sections of the Banbury community.

Budget

The council has set a budget for 2018/2019 with a total net expenditure of £1,783,428 including earmarked funds for capital projects. This represents no council tax increase, with a Band D property remaining at £122.12. Key points of the budget are set out below

Budget	2017-18	2018-19
Litter Control	£128,627	£128,647
Cemeteries	£411,935	£330,846
Dog Litter	£0	£0
Allotments	£3,042	£3,837
Parks and Open Spaces	£781,498	£764,216
Play equipment/repairs	£57,000	£177,200
Football Pitches	£48,911	£49,949
Bus Shelters	£18,610	£7,900
Civic Tradition/Town Events	£87,894	£94,340
Central Administration	£407,795	£385,567
Open Air Pool	£65,975	£67,295
Grants	£30,000	£35,000
Town Hall	£56,393	£56,067
Public Clocks	£3,128	£3,309
Banbury Cross	£4,975	£4,180
Christmas Lights	£23,500	£25,127
Capital Fund	£156,504	£325,504
Total Expenditure:	£2,285,787	£2,458,984
Total Income:	(£548,371)	(£675,556)
Total Net Expenditure:	£1,737,416	£1,783,428

The town council generates income from the hire of sports facilities, allotment and cemetery fees, town hall room hire, and interest from funds on deposit.

Meetings

The town council meets approximately every eight weeks at Banbury Town Hall and all meetings are open to the public. The annual calendar of meetings is posted on the town hall notice board and is also on the town council's website.

Information

Log on to www.banbury.gov.uk for agendas and minutes of meetings, details of services provided, events and news.

Call 01295 250340 for town hall hire, sports pitch hire, allotments, cemetery enquiries, parks and open spaces, Banbury in Bloom, town events, and to request town mayor's attendance.

Town Clerk:	Mark Recchia MA FCIS FSLCC
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Opening Hours	Monday-Thursday: 09:00 – 16.45 Friday: 09:00 – 16.00
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