

Banbury Town Council



Budget and Action Plan

2019/2020

This leaflet provides residents of the town with information about the services provided by the town council and how much they will cost in 2019/2020. 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 – for the ninth year running – has not increased its share of the council tax bill.

The town's charge remains at £122.12 a year for Band D properties. In addition, the council is continuing to improve the services it provides.

2019 will see People's Park celebrate its 100th anniversary and big improvements are planned there. £681,000 has been set aside to create a café and provide toilet facilities, on improving footpaths, and on landscaping works.

The council is also spending £125,000 on play area refurbishments at a number of sites including Howard Road and improvements are being made at St Louis Meadow.

The council has purchased extra land in Hardwick to extend the existing cemetery and the new land will provide burial space for townspeople for the next 75 years. In addition, burial charges for town residents aged under-16 have been removed.

To encourage sport, the cost of hiring cricket pitches for T20 matches has been halved.

These things can be done because we are now reaping the rewards of good policy decisions made in the past.

For the price of a cup of coffee every week (per household, not per person) Banbury Town Council provides cemeteries, parks, children's play areas, the town's free annual events, sports pitches, allotments, bus shelters, dog waste bins and we support crime prevention initiatives. That is excellent value for money." *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. 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 this has made the town hall a more attractive hiring proposition.

Events in Banbury 2019

28 April	Taste of Spring food festival
7 May	Inauguration of Town Mayor
31 May	Film Friday
9 June	Banbury and District Show
29 June	Armed Forces Day
14 July	People's Park Centenary Celebrations
26 July	Banbury Music Festival
18 August	Banbury Food and Drink Festival
18 August	Banbury Flower and Produce Show
15 September	Battle of Britain Parade and Service
6 October	Banbury Canal Day
10 November	Remembrance Day and Beacons of Light
23 November	Charities Christmas Bazaar
24 November	Christmas Lights Festival

Parks, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Cemeteries

Banbury Town Council is responsible for the maintenance and management of the town's parks, recreation grounds, cemeteries, open spaces and allotments. This includes over fifty play and teenage areas, ninety open spaces, twelve neighbourhood parks, including the historic People's Park and Spiceball Country Park. The council also maintains St Mary's Churchyard. There are also five sportsgrounds – Horton View, Easington Rec, Moorfields, Hardwick Fields and Merton Street.

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 parks give residents and visitors a 'feelgood' attitude.

"An ongoing project involving the council and the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust has greatly improved Spiceball Park and the Hanwell Fields Wetland Area. Volunteers have been involved in both projects and we are grateful for their efforts and contributions."

Civic Traditions and the Mayoralty

The town's civic and ceremonial traditions are an important link between Banbury's history and modern day life. The mayor is an important link between the council and the people and attends more than 200 engagements a year.

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 at Dover Avenue, Easington, Spital Farm and Woodgreen Avenue are managed by allotment associations.

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 purchased extra land in Hardwick to extend the existing cemetery and the new land will provide burial space for townspeople for the next 75 years. In addition, burial charges for town residents aged under-16 have been removed.

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 to reflect changes to bus services.

Dog Litter and Waste Bins

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

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.

Budget

The council has set a budget for 2019/2020 with a total net expenditure of £1,845,322 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	2018-19	2019-20
Litter Control	£128,647	£129,638
Cemeteries	£330,846	£179,637
Dog Litter	£0	£0
Allotments	£3,837	£3,815
Parks and Open Spaces	£764,216	£758,934
Play equipment/repairs	£177,200	£54,072
Football Pitches	£49,949	£49,582
Bus Shelters	£7,900	£8,470
Civic Tradition/Town Events	£94,340	£100,893
Central Administration	£385,567	£376,957
Open Air Pool	£67,295	£69,900
Grants	£35,000	£30,000
Town Hall	£56,067	£57,814
Public Clocks	£3,309	£3,309
Banbury Cross	£4,180	£4,180
Christmas Lights	£25,127	£25,500
Capital Fund	£325,504	£429,849
Total Expenditure:	£2,458,984	£2,282,550
Total Income:	(£675,556)	(£437,228)
Total Net Expenditure:	£1,783,428	£1,845,322

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 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.

Grant Aid

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

The council has improved its annual grants scheme to make more money available to more good causes.

The same level of funding, £30,000, is up for grabs each year but it will be shared between a greater number of charities, good causes and other town organisations with a maximum grant of £500.

Town Clerk:	Mark Recchia MA FCIS FSLCC
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