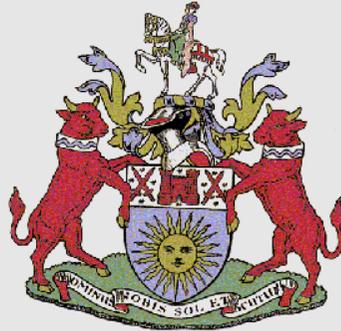


Banbury Town Council



Budget and Action Plan

2017/2018

This leaflet provides residents of the town with information about services provided by the town council and how much they will cost in 2017/2018. More detailed information about the services can be found on the council's website

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Website – www.banbury.gov.uk

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

Banbury Town Council is doing all it can to support local businesses.

Banbury is below the national average for empty shops, and Cherwell District Council has introduced a small business grant to help start-up entrepreneurs who take on vacant premises. The town council is involved with the Chamber of Commerce in the Banbury BID (Business Improvement District) and the town council, as a rateable business, will have a vote and pay a levy to this if the vote is successful..

The town hall helps and hosts job clubs and this has led to a record low level of unemployment in the town (half a percent).

There is no increase in the town's share of the council tax bill for the coming year and it will be the seventh year running that the figure has stayed the same. Our levy for 2017/2018 will remain at £122.12.

We will continue our programme of updating and improving our facilities. This year Easington Recreation Ground will be updated. We will spend £50,000 renewing the footpaths in People's Park and we will contribute to the landscaping of St Mary's Churchyard. £10,000 has been set aside to provide bus shelters for Duke's Meadow – and we will continue our grants scheme for Banbury's charities, community groups and good causes with £30,000 on offer this year. We also have money set aside for the purchase of additional burial land. Hardwick Cemetery will be full in less than 10 years and a new site has been identified. Policy decisions we have taken in the past are paying off and, all in all, this council has proved yet again that it can be trusted with taxpayers' money. *Kieron Mallon*

Events in Banbury 2017

9 May	Inauguration of Town Mayor
11 June	Banbury and District Show
1 July	Armed Forces Day Tattoo
20 August	Banbury Food Fair
20 August	Banbury Flower and Produce Show
1 September	Quiz Night at the Town Hall
2 September	Street Organ Festival & Old Town Summer Party
17 September	Battle of Britain Parade and Service
12 November	Remembrance Day
25 November	Charities' Christmas Bazaar
26 November	Christmas Lights Festival
2 December	A Celebration of Christmas

Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas Banbury Town Council manages and maintains the town's parks and open spaces. This includes 62 play and teenager areas, two skate ramp sites, 111 open spaces and 12 neighbourhood parks, including People's Park and Spiceball Country Park. The council continues to ask townspeople what they want and the results of annual residents' surveys are passed to the town council's grounds maintenance contractors. The surveys give residents a bigger say on the future of their parks.

Chairman of Banbury Town Council's general services committee Cllr Colin Clarke, said: "Asking people what they want means we can provide the things that residents think are important."

“The makeover of the River Cherwell in Spiceball Park has opened up the riverside area, improved natural habitats for fish, birds and river plants, and created a relaxing space where people can enjoy being close to nature.

“Volunteers have helped with the tidying up of a footpath in north Banbury. The pathway is part of the former ironstone railway which was built by German prisoners of war between 1914-1918.

“The cutting contains one of the most important rock formations in the country.

“Some of the rocks are 183 million years old. They contain rare fossils of long-extinct sea creatures and the site is listed by the Nature Conservancy Council as an area of special scientific interest.”

Civic Traditions and the Mayoralty Banbury Town Council continues to uphold the civic ceremonial traditions of the town. The town 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.

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 Sunflower Workshops, Hanging Basket Workshops, and Planting Day in the Park are popular with primary school pupils.

Allotments The council manages the Grange Road and Sinclair Avenue allotment sites and provides another four sites which are managed by allotment associations. Anyone wanting an allotment should contact Banbury Town Council.

Cemeteries The council takes pride in its cemeteries and works to maintain the Southam Road and Hardwick Hill sites in first class condition. Banbury Town Council is looking for a new cemetery site. The current Hardwick cemetery will be full in less than ten years, and the council is acting now to secure new land. The ashes section at Southam Road has been extended.

Bus Shelters The council provides bus shelters in the town – with the majority maintained by Clear Channel Advertising at no cost to the town. A new shelter was installed in 2016 on Oxford Road, and more shelters are scheduled for 2017 on Hanwell Fields.

Dog Litter and Waste Bins The council will carry on reviewing its dog litter and waste bins which will continue to be emptied twice weekly.

Banbury Town Hall The Grade 2 listed Banbury Town Hall is an extremely attractive venue for a variety of occasions. Recent refurbishments have provided a new medium-sized room on the ground floor, and a smaller room upstairs. Both are suitable for marriage ceremonies. The main hall is a superb place for celebrations including wedding receptions. The town hall is a magnificent building that is fully licensed for weddings and civil marriages – and for music, dancing and the sale and consumption of alcohol. In addition to weddings the town hall is available for private parties, business conferences, society dinners, and commercial sales. The exterior of the town hall is to be cleaned as part of a continuing maintenance programme that preserves one of Banbury’s most important buildings.

Grant Aid The council assists a wide variety of local organisations with grants that enable them to function for the benefit of all sections of the Banbury community. Full details of the 2017/18 grant recipients are on our website together with details of the small grants scheme.

Budget 2017 – 2018

The council has set a budget for 2017/2018 with a total net expenditure of £1,737,416 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:

<u>Budget</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Litter and Dog Litter	£127,600	£128,627
Cemeteries	£150,517	£141,935
Allotments	£3,202	£3,042
Parks and Open Spaces	£651,718	£781,498
Play equipment & repairs	£51,500	£52,000
Football Pitches	£49,041	£48,911
Bus Shelters	£14,196	£18,610
Civic Traditions & Town Events	£96,281	£87,894
Central Administration	£390,059	£407,795
Open Air Pool	£63,240	£65,975
Grants	£40,000	£30,000
Town Hall	£56,195	£56,393
Public Clocks	£3,122	£3,128
Banbury Cross	£4,253	£4,975
Christmas Lights	£25,500	£23,500
Capital Fund	£162,000	£431,504
Total Expenditure:	£1,888,424	£2,285,787
Total Income:	(£221,955)	(£548,371)
Total Net Expenditure:	£1,666,469	£1,737,416

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.

Contact us on 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.