

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

Banbury Town Council has doubled the amount it gives to charities and good causes. The council will offer £60,000 in grants to town based groups in 2016/2017.

There will be no increase this year in the town's share of the council tax bill. It will be the sixth year running that the figure has not gone up.

The council's levy for 2016/2017 will remain at £122.12 – the same as 2010 – and without the need to cut or reduce services.

The council's finances have been helped by the number of new houses that are contributing to the tax bill, but good planning in previous years has also kept the figure down. This council has proved yet again that it can be trusted with taxpayers' money.

While councils across the country are increasing their bills, we are not burdening our residents with extra costs.

All services will be maintained to a high standard and some services will be improved. This is a result of good housekeeping and careful planning in previous years. Policy decisions taken in the past are now paying off.

With charities becoming called on to help in more and more aspects of public life, our increased grants offer will benefit a greater number of people in need of assistance.

The town council has taken over the responsibility of cutting grass verges from Oxfordshire County Council – a cost that will be shared by Cherwell District Council and OCC.

*Kieron Mallon*

## **Events in Banbury 2016**

<b>7 May</b>	<b>Old Town Spring Party</b>
<b>10 May</b>	<b>Inauguration of Town Mayor</b>
<b>3 June</b>	<b>Volunteers Reception</b>
<b>12 June</b>	<b>Banbury and District Show</b>
<b>25 June</b>	<b>Armed Forces Day Tattoo</b>
<b>3 July</b>	<b>Bark in the Park</b>
<b>21 August</b>	<b>Banbury Food Fair</b>
<b>21 August</b>	<b>Banbury Flower and Produce Show)</b>
<b>2 September</b>	<b>Quiz Night at the Town Hall</b>
<b>3 September</b>	<b>Street Organ Festival &amp; Old Town Summer Party</b>
<b>18 September</b>	<b>Battle of Britain Parade and Service</b>
<b>2 October</b>	<b>Banbury Canal Day</b>
<b>13 November</b>	<b>Remembrance Day</b>

<b>26 November</b>	<b>Charities' Christmas Bazaar</b>
<b>27 November</b>	<b>Christmas Lights Festival</b>
<b>28 Nov-2 Dec</b>	<b>Mayor's Toy Appeal</b>
<b>3 December</b>	<b>A Celebration of Christmas</b>

## **Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas**

Banbury Town Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of 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 results of a 2015 town-wide survey on Banbury's green areas were passed to the town council's grounds maintenance contractors – The Landscape Group. A 2016 survey has been carried out and the results are being analysed. This gives residents a bigger say on the future of their parks.

The River Cherwell in Banbury's Spiceball Park has had a wildlife makeover in a project that has opened up the riverside area, improved natural habitats for fish, birds and river plants, and created a relaxing space for people to enjoy being close to nature.

Spiceball Park, owned by Banbury Town Council, is a well-used amenity, but the river had become almost hidden from visitors.

The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, which is overseeing the project, initially secured a grant of £31,000 from the Environment Agency for the work and has now obtained a further grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Wild Banbury project.

## **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.

Various charity fundraising activities are undertaken for the benefit of the community and the mayor supports as many local organisations as possible.

## **In Bloom**

Banbury will again benefit from fantastic floral displays in the streets and in its parks and open spaces.

Annual events including Sunflower Workshops, Hanging Basket Workshops, and Planting Day in the Park – all for pupils at the town's primary schools – will continue in 2016.

## **Allotments**

The council manages the Grange Road and Sinclair Avenue allotment sites and provides four others which are managed by allotment associations.

The initiative to create half plots has considerably reduced waiting lists and the council is always working to improve all its allotment sites.

## **Cemeteries**

The council takes pride in its cemeteries and works to maintain the Southam Road and Hardwick Hill sites in first class condition. Maintenance will continue to be carried out and the council will be looking to expand its provision.

## **Bus Shelters**

The council provides 58 bus shelters in the town – with 42 of them maintained by Clear Channel at no cost to the council. A recent addition is in Sussex Drive after requests from local councillors.

## **Dog Litter and Waste Bins**

The council will continue to review its dog litter and waste bins provision which will continue to be emptied twice weekly.

## **Banbury Town Hall**

The Grade 2 listed Banbury Town Hall is an extremely attractive venue to hire for weddings, conferences, parties and other celebrations. The council holds a marriage licence and offers full wedding packages in partnership with New Folium Catering.

Recent refurbishments have provided an additional medium-sized room on the ground floor, and an updated but smaller room upstairs. The main hall is a superb place for celebrations and is being enhanced this year with the addition of a grand new entrance from Bridge Street. Either of the smaller rooms are ideal for marriage ceremonies with the main hall ideal for receptions. The town hall is open during weekday hours during which prospective hirers can look around.

## **Grant Aid**

The town 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 2016 grant recipients are on our website together with details of the Small Grants Scheme.

## Budget 2016 – 2017

The council has set a budget for 2016/2017 with a total net expenditure of £1,666,469 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:

<b>Budget</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>
Litter Control	£26,061	£127,600
Cemeteries	£172,642	£150,517
Dog Litter	£22,696	£0
Allotments	£5,452	£3,202
Parks and Open Spaces	£716,126	£651,718
Play equipment & repairs	£50,000	£51,500
Football Pitches	£27,742	£49,041
Bus Shelters	£14,150	£14,196
Civic Traditions, Town Events	£87,663	£96,281
Central Administration	£389,098	£390,059
Open Air Pool	£62,000	£63,240
Grants	£30,000	£40,000
Town Hall	£49,329	£56,195
Public Clocks	£2,091	£3,122
Banbury Cross	£3,224	£4,253
Christmas Lights	£25,500	£25,500
Capital Fund	£90,000	£162,000
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>£1,773,774</b>	<b>£1,888,424</b>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>(£198,485)</b>	<b>(£221,955)</b>
<b>Total Net Expenditure:</b>	<b>£1,575,289</b>	<b>£1,666,469</b>

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.

## Communications

The council publishes a wide range of information on its website [www.banbury.gov.uk](http://www.banbury.gov.uk), including agendas and minutes of meetings, further information on the services provided, annual events and news items.

**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.**

## Banbury Town Council Information

<b>Town Clerk:</b>	<b>Mark Recchia MA FCIS FILCM</b>
<b>Offices</b>	<b>The Town Hall Bridge Street BANBURY OX16 5QB</b>
<b>Opening Hours</b>	<b>Monday-Thursday: 09:00 – 16.45 Friday: 09:00 – 16.00</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>01295 250340</b>
<b>Fax</b>	<b>01295 250820</b>
<b>E-mail</b>	<b><a href="mailto:info@banbury.gov.uk">info@banbury.gov.uk</a></b>
<b>Web</b>	<b><a href="http://www.banbury.gov.uk">www.banbury.gov.uk</a></b>

***Banbury Town Council organises the annual events which include the Banbury and District Show, Canal Day, Food Fair, Produce and Flower Show, Christmas Lights Switch-On, Bark in the Park – plus Armed Forces Day, Battle of Britain Day and Remembrance Sunday.***

# Banbury Town Council



## Budget and Action Plan

**2016/2017**

**This leaflet provides residents of the town with information about the services provided by the town council and how much they will cost in 2016/2017. More detailed information about these services can be found on our website:**

**[www.banbury.gov.uk](http://www.banbury.gov.uk)**