

NOTE:

The leaflet below was published before the outbreak of Coronavirus.

Since then, virus restrictions have come into effect and for the foreseeable future the leaflet no longer fully reflects what is happening regarding Banbury Town Council.

For example, events are being cancelled and the town hall is closed for bookings. Some building work is not going ahead and meetings have been called off.

All full update on all restrictions and changes can be found on this website using the dedicated Coronavirus information page and/or the news section.

Banbury Town Council



Budget and Action Plan

2020/2021

This leaflet provides residents of the town with information about the services provided by the town council and how much they will cost in 2020/2021. 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 tenth 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 its services and provide new amenities.

In response to residents' wishes we are building a café and toilets in People's Park – and both facilities will be completed later this year. Work on the toilets began in February.

We will continue our rolling programme of improvements to parks and play areas and this year work costing £130,000 will be carried out at Stanbridge, Hill View, and Ferriston play areas.

Another £50,000 will go on phase 2 of the improvements to footpaths in People's Park. Landscaping at the community garden in People's Park is estimated at £90,000 and CCTV at the proposed new toilets will cost £6,500. Creating sports facilities at Spital Farm playing fields will cost £150,000.

Banbury Town Council has committed to playing its part in tackling climate change.

At a meeting in January 2020 the council agreed to work with other councils, organisations, and residents to reduce pollution and improve the environment.

The council will host a series of meetings to determine what is already being done and what is planned for the future to tackle climate change and will consult with other councils, like-minded organisations and the public on the way forward. This council works with the Town Centre Partnership and the BID (Business Improvement District) project to regenerate the town centre. The council also works closely with Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council.

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. The town hall is fully licensed for weddings and civil marriages – and for music, dancing and the sale and consumption of alcohol.

Annual Events

This year will see three new events – a Motown music night, a Day of Transport and a VE Day tea dance. The 2020 dates for your diary are -

Sunday 19 April	Taste of Spring Food Festival
Friday 8 May	Film Friday VE Day Commemoration
Sunday 10 May	VE Day Tea Dance
Sunday 14 June	Banbury and District Show
Saturday 27 June	Armed Forces Day
Sunday 5 July	Town Mayor's Sunday
Friday 24 July	Banbury Music Festival
Sunday 16 August	Banbury Food and Drink Festival
Sunday 16 August	Banbury Flower and Produce Show
Thurs 27 August	Teddy Bears Picnic
Friday 4 Sept	Motown Magic
Sunday 20 Sept	Battle of Britain Parade and Service
Sunday 4 Oct	A Day of Transport
Sunday 8 Nov	Remembrance Day
Monday 23 Nov	Start of Christmas Toy Appeal Week
Sunday 29 Nov	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 People's Park and Spiceball Country Park. The council maintains St Mary's Churchyard. There are also five sportsgrounds – Horton View, Easington Rec, Moorfields, Hanwell Fields, and Merton Street. The council continues to be as 'green' as possible. It maintains around 10,000 trees, 220 acres of parkland, five miles of hedgerows and six allotment sites. With climate change in mind, the council is planting new trees and its new toilet block and multi-purpose building in People's Park is constructed of sustainable timber.

In a bid for even greater efficiency and value for money we are reviewing our grounds maintenance contract – and bringing some parts of the contract 'in house' by employing people directly to maintain our cemeteries and some parks. This will give us more control over the work done.

Work along the riverside in Spiceball Park is continuing. A joint venture with the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust has resulted in a makeover that has improved the riverside area in Spiceball Park for wildlife and visitors.

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 public 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 run 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 completed the purchase of extra land at Hardwick Hill to extend the existing cemetery and the new land will provide burial space for townspeople for the next 75 years. The park rangers and the cemetery team are now based at Southam Road Cemetery Depot.

Bus Shelters

The council provides more than 60 bus shelters – with the majority maintained by Clear Channel Advertising at no cost to the town. The council has taken over three new shelters – one at Waller Drive on Bloxham Road and two at Waitrose on both sides of the Southam Road. Maintenance costs of those will be covered by Oxfordshire County Council.

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

Budget

The council has set a budget for 2020/2021 with a total net expenditure of £1,864,613 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>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>
Litter Control	£129,638	£132,252
Cemeteries	£179,637	£183,838
Dog Litter	£0	£0
Allotments	£3,815	£4,224
Parks and Open Spaces	£758,934	£723,678
Play equipment & repairs	£54,072	£53,000
Football Pitches	£49,582	£70,100
Bus Shelters	£8,470	£9,744
Civic Traditions & Town Events	£100,893	£187,601
Central Administration	£376,957	£383,373
Open Air Pool	£69,900	£71,500
Grants	£30,000	£30,000
Town Hall	£57,814	£65,733
Public Clocks	£3,309	£2,854
Banbury Cross	£4,180	£4,400
Christmas Lights	£25,500	£25,500
Capital Fund	£429,849	£472,427
Total Expenditure:	£2,282,550	£2,420,224
Total Income:	(£437,228)	(£555,611)
Total Net Expenditure:	£1,845,322	£1,864,613

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.

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's grants scheme provides sums of up to £500 for charities, good causes and other town organisations. Grants can be applied for all year round by completing a simple application form that can be found on the council's website under 'services.' £30,000 a year is available.

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