

Banbury Town Council



Budget and Action Plan

2022/2023

This leaflet provides residents of the town with information about the services provided by the town council and how much they will cost in 2021/2022. 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 concentrates on making the town a great place in which to live, work, and visit.

There are many things that contribute to reaching that target – and this council sees its job as bringing all the different parts together.

We have an enviable record of prudent spending and low taxation while providing excellent services.

This year, however, after 11 years without a tax rise, increased costs, uncertainty in local government in Oxfordshire, and preparing for life after covid, have forced a rise in the town's portion of the total council tax bill for 2022/23.

It will be an increase of two per cent (that's an extra £2.44 a year)

It means that the current £122.12 a year for Band D properties will go up to £124.56 a year – the equivalent of a 20p a month rise. And that is per household – not per person.

The money pays for cemeteries, sports pitches and pavilions, parks and open spaces, children's play areas, the town's free annual events, allotments, bus shelters, dog waste bins and litter bins. Financially, this council is in good health and this committee's expenditure is within forecast.

We are concentrating on climate change issues and working on a number of specific open space and biodiversity projects. A tree planting project at Spiceball Park will add habitat, food and cover for wildlife. Crab apple and hazel trees have been planted on slopes and banks to reduce soil erosion and manage surface water. Planting smaller native trees which are hardy, tolerate high drainage and low nutrient levels will help to ensure success. Planting can also take place around the trees, using bulbs such as snowdrops and bluebells and plugs of cowslips and primroses.

A new 100-yard hedge was planted this Spring in a joint project with BBOWT and Banbury Trees. 450 native mixed hedgerow plants with a lean towards fruit and flowers will help attract birds and insects while strengthening this wildlife corridor through Banbury. It is bio-diversity at its best.

The new café and toilets in People's Park is a 'green' project. The toilet building is constructed of sustainable timber and complements the town council's commitment to be climate change active. The café will be completed later this year and will 'recycle' an existing building. **KM**

Parks, Open Spaces, Play Areas, Cemeteries

Banbury Town Council maintains around 11,000 trees, five and a half miles of hedgerows, plus 1000 acres of grassland.

Our principal parks include Spiceball Country Park and People's Park. There are twelve neighbourhood parks, 52 play and teenage areas, and 90 open spaces.

We have five sportsgrounds – at Horton View, Easington Rec, Moorfields, Hanwell Fields and Chandos Close. They provide six full-sized football pitches, two mini pitches, and one cricket square.

We have six allotment sites. Four are managed by allotment associations and two are run directly by the town council. We have two cemeteries – at Southam Road and Hardwick Hill. In addition, we look after St Mary's Churchyard.

The new community building and toilet block in People's Park is now complete and open to the public. Landscape planting around the building is finished thanks to the in-house green team. Work has also started on the refreshment facility in the park and on the design and refurbishment of the walled garden to make that an added attraction and restore some history to the park.

To commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee this year, rows of daffodil bulbs were planted each side of the central path underneath the avenue of cherry trees.

Our two cemeteries are maintained in immaculate condition and are true places of rest. Land purchased last year to extend Hardwick Hill Cemetery is being laid out with climate change and bio-diversity in mind until we need it for burials.

The drainage scheme to prevent water run-off from Princess Diana Park into Mold Crescent was completed in September and our Landscape Officer worked with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust volunteers to sow wild flower seed on the site.

Following the retirement of Jeannie O'Brien at Christmas, the aviary maintenance role has been taken over by Pete Holly who is now doing the job outside of his duties as a park ranger.

Tackling climate change is a partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council – and CDC has taken the lead in tree planting. 30,000 trees have been planted in and around Banbury since the commitment to tackle climate change was made. They were planted mostly on land acquired by CDC after flood defence work – land that is now known as Banbury Country Park behind the Gateway retail centre.

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.

Bus Shelters

The council provides more than 60 bus shelters – with the majority maintained by Clear Channel Advertising.

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

Banbury Town Hall

Banbury Town Hall is a valuable asset and is a popular venue available for hire 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.

Banbury Town Hall is a fine Gothic-style building and one of the best specimens of 19th century Gothic to be found in the country. It was designed by Edward Bruton and opened in October 1854 with the clock tower added in 1860. During its early life, the building was also the police station with cells remaining to this day.

The Town Hall has undergone a restoration process as part of Banbury Town Council's long-running preservation programme for the Grade II Listed building.

The work has made Banbury Town Hall an attractive place to hire – with a combination of rooms, including the grand main hall.

Information

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

Free Events

Look out for a series of annual events organised by Banbury Town Council. Food fairs, music festival, Christmas lights switch-on, Armed Forces Day, Battle of Britain Day and more are all free to enter.

Budget

The council has set a budget for 2022/2023 with a total net expenditure of £2,017,652 including earmarked funds for capital projects. This represents council tax for a Band D property at £124.56. Key points of the budget are set out below

Budget	2021-22	2022-23
Litter Control	£138,480	£138,480
Cemeteries	£218,985	£248,683
Allotments	£4,744	£7,644
Parks and Open Spaces	£698,204	£746,016
Play equipment & repairs	£28,000	£135,500
Football Pitches	£90,728	£141,381
Bus Shelters	£9,900	£9,860
Civic Traditions & Town Events	£204,923	£189,506
Central Administration	£398,119	£349,838
Open Air Pool	£71,500	£72,930
Grants	£30,000	£15,000
Town Hall	£67,138	£57,895
Public Clocks	£2,628	£2,686
Banbury Cross	£4,400	£8,000
Christmas Lights	£50,000	£53,000
Capital Fund	£240,000	£94,500
Total Expenditure:	£2,257,749	£2,270,919
Total Income:	(£323,798)	(£253,267)
Total Net Expenditure:	£1,933,951	£2,017,652

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.

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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.

Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer	Mark Hassall
Offices	The Town Hall Bridge Street BANBURY OX16 5QB
Opening Hours	Monday-Thursday: 09:00 – 16.45 Friday: 09:00 – 16.00
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