

September 2016

Official Cirencester Town Council Newsletter

# About Town



cirencester  
· town council ·



[www.cirencester.gov.uk](http://www.cirencester.gov.uk)



## Welcome...

to Cirencester Town Council's latest edition of **About Town**.

Further information about services and projects is also available on our website [www.cirencester.gov.uk](http://www.cirencester.gov.uk) and we welcome any comments you may have, or if you have anything you would like us to include in future editions, please let us know.



Welcome to the latest newsletter from Cirencester Town Council; this edition focuses on the Annual Report for 2015/16. As we look back over another year we see the Town Council's continued commitment in working positively with others, as we seek to meet the needs of the community.

Our place, as the 1st tier of local government, is so important; democracy is very complex with central government, county and district influences on our town – but what really matters is how we make a difference for the people and place of Cirencester.

Within the Town Council, Councillors work together across the political divide and we have a culture of Councillors and Officers working together to ensure we have the right skills, knowledge, resources and capacity in order to meet local needs at any given time and situation.

It is also important that we continue to listen and take note of genuine concerns about public services and to work collaboratively with our partners in local government and the voluntary sector to ensure that the wider needs of society are met within our town. Where we are not able to directly change things for the better, we will be an advocate for that change.

And as we look forward we will continue to do the day-to-day things that we do so well, as well as seeking to do more for and on behalf of the community; and as we shape what we do for the future your input will be invaluable so please do let us know how we can meet local needs, whatever they may be and where the gaps are in current provision.

May I also take this opportunity to say a personal thank you to the Councillors who serve Cirencester, all the staff at the Town Council and our team of dedicated volunteers who give of their time to serve this amazing town.

**Andrew Tubb**  
Chief Executive Officer



## The next few pages include extracts from the Council's Annual Report for 2015/16, including accounts information.

The reports briefly outline some of the work undertaken by the Town Council on your behalf over the past 12 months. We hope you will find this of interest. The full version can be found on our website or by contacting our Local Information Centre at Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street.

### Mayor's Report



"After the election a year ago, we welcomed back 10 councillors and we welcomed five new councillors. It's a testament to the quality of those new councillors that they are all active

committee members and two of them chair a committee – I would like to thank all my fellow councillors for their hard work and commitment to our town.

At the beginning of this municipal year we decided that rather than taking on any significant new projects, we would focus on doing well what we already have on our work plan.

The market place regeneration is a significant and high profile project, I am delighted that we have started and we are on target to finish on time in November.

Last year, the previous Mayor reported that the consultation process we created for the Market Place regeneration had been hailed by the National Association of Local Councils as a template for best practice.

In the past year we have developed a procurement and marketing policy to save when we purchase and maximize the opportunities for income. This has achieved recognition in the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply magazine.

Last week we initiated a sports development partnership – a commitment we made twelve months ago – and have been told that this is the first initiative of its kind in Gloucestershire.

So, Cirencester Town Council is an innovative and leading council and I thank all the management and staff for their hard work in achieving this.

In January, along with the Civic Society, we placed a plaque in memory of drummer Cozy Powell – we were delighted by the turnout and the amount of world renowned musicians who came to join our celebration in Cirencester, and I must say thank you to Rossella Amadori - a resident of Padua in Italy, for provoking us in to action.

We continue to support five ward based community groups, Cirencester's Charter and Farmers' Markets, the Cirencester Community Development Trust, Ozone Youth Club, the Phoenix Festival and the Christmas Advent Festival.

The Town Council is committed to ensuring local residents keep our town clean and tidy by clearing up dog mess and rubbish after them – it is simply not acceptable to make a mess of our town.

Over the next twenty years there will be significant changes in and around Cirencester, and the wider country. To some these changes are a danger, to others an opportunity – either way and whatever the magnitude of those changes, we will work to ensure Cirencester continues to grow in a positive and thriving way.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people in our community who make a positive impact on the town and residents by volunteering their time and effort."

**Councillor M Harris**  
Mayor of Cirencester



## Finance and Audit

The Finance and Audit Committee (composed of all members of the Council) and the Finance and Audit Group (5 members) are together responsible for the financial administration of the Council.

In a small step for simplification, these two bodies will be merged into one 7-member Group for the coming year.

The responsibilities include:

- preparation of estimates of revenue and expenditure;
- recommending the Council's precept to the full Council;
- preparing and reviewing the 5 year Medium Term Financial Plan;
- internal and external audit;
- financial and asset risk management;
- advising the Council on development, sale or purchase of land valued at over £5,000;
- recommending the Council in respect of grant applications;
- annual reviews of Financial Regulations and Systems of Internal Control;
- annual reviews of policies on Member Expenses and Marketing and Procurement.

This year, the Council has agreed the Group's recommendation to widen access to the Community Projects Fund from the traditional five ward groups (Beeches, Park, Chesterton, Watermoor and the Stratton Association) to also include any other groups approved by the Community Services Group. There are now two grant application deadlines each year: end of March and end of August.



After a lot of consideration and discussion, the increase in the Council's share of Council tax for 2016/7 was agreed at 7.8%, the largest since 2009/10. For a property in band D, this is an increase of £8.44 per year, or 70p per month. Against a very uncertain background of continuing austerity and cuts in many public services, this will enable the Council to continue its practice of supporting projects, small and large, where they are considered cost-effective and of real benefit to the people of the town.

It may be of note that there are three other Parish or Town Councils in the Cotswold District with a higher precept.

This was my first year as lead member for Finance, after former Councillor Margaret Rickman's years of dedicated and exemplary service in this role. I would like to thank all the staff and Councillors for their support and commitment in delivering the Council's services with efficiency and in a positive spirit. All our work and expenditure is guided by the Council's Purpose Statement, with its three lists: Aims and Aspirations, Services provided, maintained or supported by the Council, and Partners the Council works with.

**Councillor P Coleman**  
Lead Member for Finance and Audit

## Income and Expenditure Account For the Year ended 31 March 2016

31/03/15		31/03/16
£		£
666,309	Balances brought forward	316,280
710,533	Annual Precept	747,048
221,296	Receipts	1,033,308
447,200	Operational Costs	505,031
834,658	Other Costs	838,926
<b>316,280</b>	Total Balances and Reserves	<b>752,679</b>
<b>347,088</b>	Total Cash and Short Term Investments	<b>757,495</b>
<b>100,000</b>	Long Term Investments	<b>170,000</b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016

	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,982,624</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
- Debtors and Prepayments	42,823
- Investments	170,000
- Cash at bank	757,495
	<b>970,318</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
- Current Portion of Loan	(35,670)
- Creditors and income in advance	(20,362)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>914,286</b>
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,896,910</b>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
- Long-term Loan	(564,330)
- Deferred Grants	(232,856)
<b>Total Assets Less Liabilities</b>	<b>2,099,724</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>	
- Capital Financing Reserve	1,607,697
- Earmarked Reserves	235,302
- General Reserve	256,725
	<b>2,099,724</b>

# Town Centre Regeneration Project

If you come in to Cirencester regularly you will no doubt be aware of the works going on in and around the Market Place; and whilst we appreciate the disruption, we know that the wait of over 50 years since first talking about these changes, will be worth it.

The scheme builds on the town's success of 'Independent Shops', 'Individual Food' and an 'Incredible History'.

Works are currently on schedule and on budget, albeit we are now entering a crucial phase of the overall delivery. Please check out our website for the latest phasing information.

Milbrooke, our contractor, are a great team, who have been proactive and supportive in adapting swiftly to various challenges and ensuring that the scheme is delivered on schedule and within the budget.

If you have any queries about the works please do not hesitate to pop in to the portacabin in the Market Place to see Ruth Hunt of Milbrooke who is there Mondays to Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm. Ruth can also be contacted via [rhunt@milbrooke.co.uk](mailto:rhunt@milbrooke.co.uk)



## Strategic Site Outline Planning Application

### Cirencester's Future

Being involved in helping to shape the future of your town is so important; making sure that we have the right amount of housing to meet local needs as well as ensuring that we have the appropriate infrastructure and facilities not just for the current generation but for future generations too.

#### Planning ahead in this way is vital.

But when we start talking about a development of a couple of thousand houses the concerns about the impact and whether or not it will happen overnight are understandable.

#### This is why there has been extensive public consultation:

- Land at Chesterton Workshop 25 March 2014
- Land at Chesterton Community Planning Weekend 9 & 10 May 2014
- Report Back Session 14 May 2014
- Land at Chesterton Community Forum 18 June 2014
- Land at Chesterton Community Forum 15 August 2014
- Land at Chesterton Community Forum 22 October 2014
- Land at Chesterton Community Forum 26 November 2014
- Land at Chesterton Community Public Exhibition 13 & 14 July 2015
- Land at Chesterton Masterplan Framework Consultation 5 to 26 October 2015

The Town Council acknowledged that there were still genuine concerns about the proposed development and subsequently met with representatives of Save Our Cirencester (SOC) in November 2015.

It was after this meeting that the Town Council agreed to commission a range of independent reports from the planning consultancy Pegasus; these reports were based on SOC concerns and on behalf of SOC their evidence and comments were passed on to the Council's consultant.

#### The independent reports included:

- Assessment of housing distribution
- Analysis of migration
- Consistency with the Town Council's planning concept statement
- Existing and proposed infrastructure.

The Town Council is not rushing in to a formal response relating to the outline planning application for the strategic site at Chesterton South; a joint corporate and planning group has been established to consider all the evidence and concerns in more detail.

Whilst, as promised, this joint group will consider every concern, it initially highlighted 5 key areas of primary focus:

- High pressure gas mains safety issues
- Sewerage infrastructure
- Effects on parking across the town and parking within the development itself
- Green infrastructure
- Highway network capacity.

The comments and concerns of the public and local community groups/organisations are being collated in to a single document and will form part of a future report to Council when considering its formal response to the outline planning application.

The joint group has met on at least four occasions and has engaged with the applicant and local planning authority and is pleased to report the following updates:

- The location of the high pressure gas mains has now been confirmed and a revised layout drawn up; there has been no significant impact on the overall usage/layout/density of the scheme;
- Prior to the outline application being determined by Cotswold District Council (CDC), the Town Council will be seeking, from the applicant, an agreement in principle to ensure added value and funding contributions beyond the infrastructure and facilities requirements of the scheme itself;
- Heights across the proposed development are to be reduced to a maximum of 14.5 metres (residential) and 16/14 metres (commercial);
- The development would comprise 90 acres of green space with 6 areas of equipped play, 16 areas of open play space and 5 landscaped play areas. One of the main avenues is approximately 30 metres in width, with building to building widths varying between 23 metres and 50 metres.
- 75% of the proposed dwellings are 1, 2 and 3 bed properties.

The outline planning application is likely to be determined by Cotswold District Council, the planning authority, later this year/early 2017.





## Cirencester Markets

Cirencester Markets have launched the Workers of Cirencester loyalty scheme, and our traders have come up with individual special offers that complement their businesses which will provide versatility when shopping at the market so you can choose what you need, when you need it, whilst making some good savings. To find out more go to [www.cirencester.gov.uk/markets](http://www.cirencester.gov.uk/markets).

Cirencester Markets are busy working with Cirencester College's Innovation & Enterprise team and plans are underway for next year's Youth Market planned for 22 March 2017 and possibly a small Youth Market planned for this Christmas, so watch this space! The market has recently hosted Enterprise Challenge students from Deer Park School who made a beautiful array of soaps and bath bombs and raised over £250 for charity! Cirencester Markets embrace and supports young enterprise and youth initiatives, so please contact us if a market stall might be a good platform to promote what you are doing.

Cirencester Markets take place every Friday (Charter Market) from 9am to 3pm and every second and fourth Saturday of the month (Farmers' Market) from 8.30 am to 1.30 pm.

For more information about the markets visit [www.cirencester.gov.uk/markets](http://www.cirencester.gov.uk/markets).

We are also on Instagram [@cirencestermarkets](https://www.instagram.com/cirencestermarkets); Facebook [@Cirencester Markets](https://www.facebook.com/CirencesterMarkets); Twitter [@CirenMarkets](https://twitter.com/CirenMarkets)

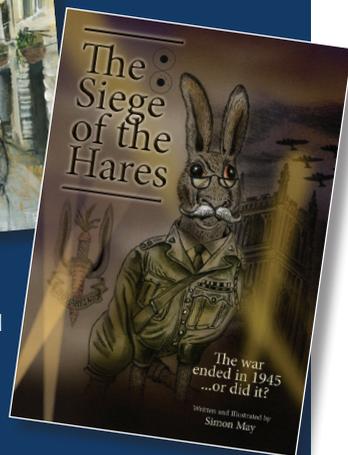
## Cirencester Local Information Centre

Our Local Information Centre in Bingham House is now welcoming over 1200 visitors a month in the summer period. Run with the help of volunteers, the LIC has information on Cirencester, such as places to visit, maps, events, Town Council projects and services, community information, Cirencester Community Development Trust, Bingham Library Trust Ltd, volunteering and local charities. We are on hand to answer any enquiries you may have and signpost you to the right information.

And, did you know we now sell local honey from Siddington Mill, Winstones ice-cream, greetings cards designed by local artist, Tracey Elphick and 'The Siege of the Hares' book written by local author, Simon May.



Black Jack St. illustrated by Tracey Elphick



'The Siege of the Hares' book, written and illustrated by local author Simon May

The LIC is open Monday to Friday 9 am to 4.30 pm at Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, Cirencester, GL7 2PP.  
Tel: **01285 655646**  
Email: [welcome@cirencester.gov.uk](mailto:welcome@cirencester.gov.uk)

## Community Groups

### Your local community needs you!

Community Groups continue to play an important role, not just in identifying issues of concern and seeking improvements in the town, but also socially by organising events and developing a strong community spirit. They are a valuable asset and maintain the link between local residents and the Town Council and other authorities.

The meetings are friendly and informal and all are welcome! They are made up of people who share a commitment to support and work together for the benefit of the local area. It's a great way to meet your local councillors and discuss local news and issues with other residents who may well feel the same as you.

Community Groups and Friends Groups are independent and their constitution varies by ward, but Cirencester Town Council is a key

partner and provides practical and financial support.

Some of the great work that community groups have undertaken, with the Town Council's support, include litter-picking, tackling dog fouling, monitoring speeding levels, organising Family Fun Days and events for Love Parks Week (July) and even contributing to consultations on new housing developments!

Why not come along, add your voice and offer your time and talents?

For more information about the community groups and how to get involved please visit [www.cirencester.gov.uk/yourcommunity/community-groups](http://www.cirencester.gov.uk/yourcommunity/community-groups) or email: [info@cirencester.gov.uk](mailto:info@cirencester.gov.uk)



Community/Friends Group	Wards / Areas	Meeting Dates	Venue
<b>AQIVA</b>	Friends of Amphitheatre, Querns Wood & IV Acre field	4th Thursday of each month	Chesterton Primary School 7pm
<b>Beeches Community Group</b>	Beeches, New Mills wards & Corinium Via	2nd Thursday of alternate months (January, March, May, July, September)	Ingleside House 7pm
<b>Chesterton Community Project</b>	Chesterton ward	1st Wednesday of the month	Chesterton Primary School 7pm
<b>Friends of City Bank</b>	City Bank	1st Wednesday of the month	Bees Knees Pub 6pm
<b>Park Community Group</b>	Park & Abbey wards	3rd Wednesday of each month	Somewhere Else 6:45pm
<b>Stratton Association</b>	Stratton ward	info via newsletter	info via newsletter
<b>Watermoor Community Group</b>	Watermoor & St Michael's wards	4th Monday of each month (except August & December)	Cirencester Fire Station 7pm

# Cirencester Youth



**We have been reviewing and developing our work with children and young people and there are some exciting plans!**

Acting on feedback from children and young people and other youth organisations such as our partner agencies Young Gloucestershire and Prospects, we will be changing the way we support the young people of the town.

Ozone is dedicated to developing young people and has supported them into further education and employment, including university, college and job applications. Ozone continues to support local activities for young people, for example the Phoenix Festival, the first ever Scooter Jam and the established Scratch & Skate event.

Ozone's part in The Big Music Project with the Phoenix Festival enabled us to take our Youth Town Council members through a Personal Achievement qualification. Unfortunately, we have not had an operational youth council in the past year, which is something we plan to address by offering young people the chance to become part of a steering group to improve and develop young people's services in Cirencester.

The sessions at the Impact Centre have stopped

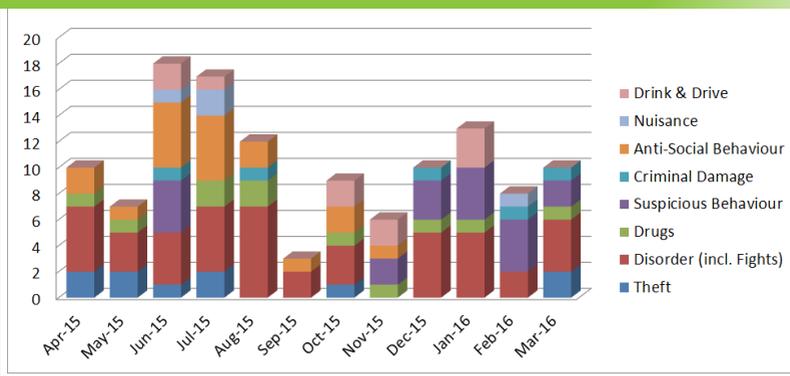
and we will be opening the Ozone Youth Café & drop-in centre at Kingshill Skate Park soon. This is the first step towards an exciting and innovative venture which we hope will develop and enable us to open similar sites in other places across the town. The café will provide support and volunteering opportunities to young people whilst working towards accredited training such as food hygiene, first aid, health & safety. We are also looking for adults to volunteer and/or mentor young volunteers at the café.

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in volunteering at the Ozone Café or who would be interested in joining the steering group, please get in contact with us at [becky@cirencester.gov.uk](mailto:becky@cirencester.gov.uk). We would also welcome feedback on the development of the Youth Café and have a short survey, which can be completed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CirenYouthsurvey>

Regular updates, opportunities and information can be found on our Facebook page, like the page to keep up to date: <https://www.facebook.com/Cirencester.Ozone>

**CCTV** - The Town Council is responsible for the CCTV system covering the town centre and it continues to be an excellent tool in safeguarding the community from crime and anti-social behaviour in the town.

There are currently 17 cameras around the town with longer term plans to have more. The cameras are placed in strategic positions and record footage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There have been a number of incidents where the police have been alerted and dispatched quickly and a number of arrests have been made, attributable to the presence and monitoring of CCTV.



**Number of incidents captured on Town Centre CCTV 2015/16**

# Estates Management

This year the Estate Services team have continued to work to improve our green spaces for the benefit of local people. This work is greatly enhanced by our wonderful partners in a variety of projects across the town.

We have renewed our contract with English Heritage to manage the Amphitheatre and earlier this year worked with them to install information boards on site and improve the signage to get there - many visitors were previously getting lost! We also ran a course in dry stone walling in partnership with English Heritage, the Churn Project and the Cotswold Development Board. This project provided skills training to local people at the Churn Project, local volunteers, and our staff. It also meant that the dry stone wall at the rear of the site was repaired. We think they all did a fantastic job!

At St Michael's Park we have been concentrating on upgrading our facilities. The park is in really good order and we have replanted the beds and borders, not to mention giving the hedges a really good trim. New play equipment was installed to replace the much loved but worn out elephant slide and the new double slide is proving to be a hit. We now provide a range of refreshments from the cabin and hope to expand on this facility next year. Tennis continues to go from strength to strength with the online booking system and the fob access to the courts.

In partnership with CCDT Ltd and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust we have now completed the Hare Festival Way, which is proving very popular with residents and visitors to the town alike. If you haven't done the trail it's a treat not to be missed.

We successfully applied to our Councillors at Gloucestershire County Council for funding under their Active Gloucestershire programme and have installed outdoor gyms at Four Acres Field, Chesterton, City Bank and Kingshill. Outdoor table tennis is also available at St Michael's Park, the Abbey Grounds and Chesterton. All this equipment is free to use so everyone can have a go and enjoy an active lifestyle.

Managing the open spaces is a major and really worthwhile part of the Town Council's work. We welcome volunteers and you can get involved in many ways, working alongside our teams or through the Friends and Community Groups. Contact us for further details on this or any other aspect of our work.



## Dates for your diary

- Council Meetings (7 pm)**  
Bingham House, 1 Dyer St.  
13 September  
11 October  
8 November
- Charter Market (9 am to 3 pm)**  
Friday of every week
- Planning Committee Meetings (10 am)**  
Bingham House, 1 Dyer St.  
15 September  
13 October  
10 November  
15 December
- Advent Festival & Christmas Lights Switch on**  
(programme to be released in early November)  
26 November
- Christmas Market (10 am to 5 pm)**  
3 and 4 December
- Farmers' Markets (8.30 am to 1.30 pm)**  
10 and 24 September  
8 and 22 October  
12 and 26 November  
10 and 24 December

# Contact us ...

## Abbey Ward

N: Mark Harris (Mayor)  
T: 07889 746060  
E: mark.harris@cirencester.gov.uk

N: Jonathan Wells  
T: 07470 047408  
E: jonathan.wells@cirencester.gov.uk

## Beeches Ward

N: Nigel Robbins (Deputy Mayor)  
T: 01285 641933  
E: nigel.robbs@gloucestershire.gov.uk

N: Stuart Tarr  
T: 01285 670706  
E: stuart.tarr@cirencester.gov.uk

## Chesterton Ward

N: Roland Hughes  
T: 07849 805142  
E: roland.hughes@cirencester.gov.uk

N: Deryck Nash  
T: 07939 276287  
E: deryck.nash@gmail.com

## Four Acres Ward

N: Oliver Cooper  
T: 01285 821326  
E: oliver.cooper@cirencester.gov.uk

N: Lee Searles  
T: 01285 652304  
E: lee\_searles@sky.com

## New Mills Ward

N: Tatyán Cheung  
E: tatyán.cheung@cirencester.gov.uk

## St. Michael's Ward

N: Joe Harris  
T: 07540 734500  
E: joe.harris@cirencester.gov.uk

N: David Henson  
T: 07790 313249  
E: david.henson@cirencester.gov.uk

## Stratton Ward

N: Patrick Coleman  
T: 01285 644557  
E: patrick.coleman@cirencester.gov.uk

N: Andrew Lichnowski  
T: 01285 651381  
E: andy.lichnowski@cirencester.gov.uk

## Watermoor Ward

N: Jenny Hincks  
T: 01285 654984  
E: jenny.hincks@cirencester.gov.uk

N: Shane Poole  
T: 01285 658705  
E: shane\_poole@hotmail.com

## Administration

Chief Executive Officer  
- Andrew Tubb  
Office Services Manager  
- Johan Newman  
Estate Services Manager  
- Martin Conyers  
Community Services Manager  
- Becky Coles  
Project & Management Support Officer  
- Brona Langton  
Markets & Events Officer  
- Suzie Lew  
Administration Officer  
- Libby Hughes  
Local Information & Admin Officer  
- Judy Mills  
Youth Initiatives Officer  
- Clare Bartlett  
Facilities & Events Support Officer  
- Nick Brook

# Cirencester Town Council

(FREEPOST: RTAL-UUZG-TEBY)

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W: www.cirencester.gov.uk



## Useful numbers:

Police: 101(Non emergency)  
Floodline: 0345 988 1188  
Cotswold District Council: 01285 623000  
Out of hours emergency: 0151 343 2942  
Glos. County Council: 01452 425000  
Out of hours emergency: 01452 614194  
Social care: 01452 614514  
Highways: 08000 514514  
Children's Helpdesk: 01452 426565

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