

About Town

Welcome to the latest edition of **Cirencester**
Town Council's official newsletter



cirencester
· town council ·



Information – and so much more!

DID you know that the Town Council's Local Information Centre at Bingham House offers a range of services and products, as well as doubling as reception for the Council?

CARDS, CALENDAR & BOOKS

The distinctive work of local artists is showcased all year round on

This fine hare collage – 'Jackanory' – by local artist Tracey Elphick is featured on the cover of a greeting card on sale at the Local Information Centre.



greetings cards, and is this year's theme for the very popular calendar produced by Cirencester Twinning Association, which makes an ideal Christmas present.

Essential reading for anyone interested in the history of the locality is Sue Jones's topical *Votes for Women: Cheltenham and the Cotswolds*, examining the decisive role played by local activists in achieving female suffrage.

MAPS & BUS TIMETABLES

Need a map? The Centre has various maps of the town centre to meet a range of purposes, and also stocks Ordnance Survey maps for the surrounding areas.

Also, provided by the Centre is an array of bus timetables covering routes which pass through the town. The information is comprehensive and up-to-date, and staff are happy to advise on the ins-and-outs of public transport, which can be a bit of a minefield.

So why not drop in next time you are in town.

— Cirencester —
Local Information Centre

Local Information Centre is open Monday to Friday 9am to 4.30pm

A message from the Mayor of Cirencester

Councillor Nigel Robbins



THE increasing seniority of the Cotswold population is often presented as a burden. However, I forget who, said: "Now that I have retired I can get down to the real work – things that matter".

This is nowhere more true than in Cirencester, where the burden of organising the numerous charities and volunteer groups is so often shouldered by retirees. When we are young the pressures of paid employment and commuting away from home can separate us from our local community.

But charitable activities, I have noticed – the Churn Project, Relay for Life, Eating Disorders Group and Abbey 900, to name but a few – help to stitch communities back together. People forge new friendships in pursuit of a single new common purpose.

The Market Place is achieving what it promised and we have recently received a national award for the imaginative design in a Conservation Area. Moving traffic has been greatly reduced, speeds likewise. People are reclaiming the space from vehicles. Markets have revived from the point

of death, helped by our excellent Town Council staff. The County will consult on proposals to review access through Cricklade Street. If that goes ahead we shall be looking for funds to improve this road.

The Chesterton South development has got the green light. The sheer scale of it is intimidating, as we kept pointing out to the planning authority. The District Council must now do its bit to provide adequate parking (it isn't at present), to facilitate new projects such as the Brewery cinema and to support the magnificent new Barn Theatre so that they can sustain a rapidly expanding population. It must also take care to protect the green spaces that give Cirencester its distinctive character from further development.

It is a delight to be working with Andrew Tubb and his highly effective team. There can be few parish councils in the country that make a bigger impact than Cirencester's.

**Councillor Nigel Robbins,
Mayor of Cirencester**



Dates for your Diary

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Tuesdays at 7pm

- * 9 October 2018
- * 13 November 2018
- * 22 January 2019
- * 12 March 2019
- * 21 May 2019 (Annual Meeting)

Annual Town Meeting

- * 16 May 2019
(Venue to be confirmed)

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thursdays at 10am

- * 11 October 2018
- * 8 November 2018
- * 13 December 2018
- * 17 January 2019
- * 28 February 2019
- * 21 March 2019
- * 25 April 2019

All meetings are held at Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street, and are open to the public.

MARKET PLACE EVENTS

ANNUAL MOP FAIRS

Monday 8 & 15 October • Noon to 10pm

AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday 20-21 October
• 9am to 5pm

WE REMEMBER 2018

(First World War Commemoration)
Sunday 11 November • From 10.50am

CIRENCESTER ADVENT FESTIVAL AND LIGHT SWITCH ON

Saturday 1 December • 11am to 7pm

CHILDREN'S CAROL CONCERT

Sunday 2 December • Parish Church 3pm

CHRISTMAS GIFT MARKET

Monday 10 December • 10am to 4pm
Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 December
• 10am to 5pm
Friday 14 December • 9am to 3pm
Saturday & Sunday 15-16 December
• 10am to 5pm

ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET

First Saturday of the month • 9am to 5pm

CIRENCESTER CHARTER MARKET

Mondays • 10am to 4pm
Fridays • 9am to 3pm

CIRENCESTER FARMERS' MARKET

Second and fourth Saturdays of the month
• 9am to 2.30pm

For a full listing of local events, go to www.cirencester.gov.uk/whats-on or pick up a leaflet at the Local Information Centre.

St. Michael's Park wins big award for excellence



'One of the very best in Britain'

ST. MICHAEL'S PARK in Cirencester has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the very best in Britain. This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space has achieved the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

St. Michael's Park is located in the centre of Cirencester and offers a range of facilities including tennis, crazy golf, croquet, boules, play areas, barbecues, toilets and a café.

Cllr Lichnowski, Lead Member for Estate Services at Cirencester Town Council, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Award for the first time. We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining St. Michael's Park to such a high standard."

"The whole team have worked really hard to make St. Michael's Park such a popular place."

The Green Flag Awards Scheme is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, in partnership with

Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Any green space that is accessible to the public is eligible to enter for a Green Flag Award.

Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag Award status.

A Green Flag Community Award recognises quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Green Heritage Site accreditation is judged on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation.



A model of urban design

RECOGNITION of the success of the town centre regeneration initiative has come in the form of a prestigious commendation by Civic Voice Design Awards, which selected Cirencester Market Place for its Conservation Area award.

The nomination came from Cirencester Civic Society and the award was accepted by Martin Portus of Portus and Whitton Landscape Architects of Cirencester at a ceremony in London on July 12th.

The project, however, was a joint effort involving Simon Large of Magna, Martin Jones of IDS engineers and the Council's members and officers.

The judges found that the town centre has been much enhanced, the new public realm is well used and the historic core of the town is now a vibrant and exciting space, rescued from the traffic congestion that was slowly killing off market activity.

"We applaud Cirencester Town Council for taking the lead in tackling a difficult problem head on and reclaiming the historic centre of the town for people not cars. The Market Place scheme demonstrates the power of urban design in helping to enliven our historic high streets and sets an example for Conservation Areas across the country."

Civic Voice Design Awards 2018

The scheme forms the 'civic heart' of Cirencester and has been carefully designed to weave the space into the existing fabric and history of the town.

Andrew Tubb, Chief Executive Officer of the Town Council, said: "Now that the Town Council has delivered a scheme which has been talked about for decades it is vital that we build on this success and continue to make Cirencester a vibrant and welcoming place."

Cirencester's award-winning regenerated Market Place



Cirencester's new-look Market Place really comes into its own

This summer has seen a host of great events

THE Market Place has been a hive of activity over the spring and summer period, featuring a whole range of fantastic markets and events.

The monthly Arts & Crafts market has proved very popular with the local community and the twice monthly Farmers' Market now boasts over 30 stalls showcasing the best local produce from the region.

The Monday and Friday Charter Market continues to thrive and a recent article in the nationally distributed *Market Trade News* shone the spotlight on Cirencester and its now thriving market.

The Fleece Fayre made its return for the second year running on May Bank Holiday Monday and was a great success. The community enjoyed an action packed day in the Market Place and Abbey Grounds, including a popular photography competition. You can view the entries on pages eight and nine.

New for this year, the Market Place played host to Cirencester's first Classic Car Show which took place in June, with another scheduled on 23rd September, featuring over thirty stunning classic vehicles. Also in June, Cirencester's taste buds were tantalised with a Food Festival, which was so successful it is to return next year as a two day festival. Dates will be announced in early 2019.

Another popular innovation has been the Saturday Twilight Markets, with their winning mixture of bars, street food and live music, perfect for a summer's evening.



The view from the tower: local photographer Kay Ransom took this unusual shot of the popular Food festival in June.



Crowds flock to the Fleece Fayre

This year's event was captured in these fine photographs taken by members of the public as part of a competition



▼ Over 18 Winner: Sarah Laney



▼ Over 18 Runner-Up: Letitia Newbegin



▼ Under 18 Winner: Cameron Laney



▼ Under 18 Runner-Up: Hattie Hind



FLEECE FAYRE PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Annual Report 2017/18

The next few pages include extracts from the Council's Annual Report for 2017/18, 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 (LIC) at Bingham House, 1 Dyer Street.

PLANNING

Earlier this year, we said that it is a requirement of the Local Plan that a Master Plan to guide the future development of the town centre, its retail offer and supporting infrastructure, should be produced to update the Supplementary Planning Document 2008 which has guided town centre development to date. Since then events have moved on, the Local Plan has been approved and the Town Council is collaborating with Cotswold District Council to produce a Master Plan. The Master Plan will draw on and incorporate the Town Council's Design Code, Concept Statement and other planning policy documents. Importantly, the Master Plan will be incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan, to which the Town Council has recently committed, that will cover the strategic planning for the whole of Cirencester to the end of the Local Plan period in 2031. The Neighbourhood Plan will also take account of Cirencester's neighbouring parishes and our relationship with them recognising economic development does not stop at the parish boundary.

Councillor Stuart Tarr (Chairman of the Planning Committee)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Community Services team continues to support local community groups and organisations through its Community Projects Fund, including the Chesterton Community Project, Phoenix Gardeners and Cirencester Twinning Association. The team has been working to improve community safety through improvements to CCTV monitoring and performance in the town and providing a Vehicle Activated Sign to monitor speeding hotspots through funding from Police & Crime Commissioner's Office.

Following the completion of the regeneration scheme in the Market Place in 2016, the team has sought to increase and improve the markets and events provision for the town, including the annual Fleece Fayre and Advent Festival. The street markets have greatly increased and are now a sought after venue by market traders - the Christmas 2018 Markets have attracted over 150 applications to trade for approximately 50 places! See our markets and events leaflet available on our website or at the LIC for further information.

The youth provision in the town continues to be reviewed and enhanced, in consultation with young people. The 'Ozone' hub, located at Kingshill, offering snacks, drinks, advice and support, has increased its opening hours and works closely with young people to increase their skills for example, organising and running the annual scooter jam. After school play sessions continue to be held in the Chesterton area and a number of free all day play sessions have been held in a number of the Town Council's green spaces during the school holidays.

Councillor Mark Harris (Chairman of the Community Services Group)

ESTATE SERVICES

The Estate Services team carry out the management, maintenance and improvement of the Town Council's land and property. This includes all of our green spaces – the parks, play areas, playing fields, woodland and conservation sites, estate verges and the River Churn, along with land managed on behalf of others including the Amphitheatre and Querns Wood. The team is also responsible for the community noticeboards, helping out with flooding issues, gritting in the Town Centre, logistical support at events, assisting the Phoenix Gardeners with watering of flower containers and many other duties.

Parks and green space are for people. Anyone and everyone can access and enjoy them, and in Cirencester we are so fortunate to have such a range of quality green space within the town. The team believes in partnerships with local people, community and conservation groups and local business. It is a means of achieving more but also most importantly it means that people are emotionally invested in, and care about, their green place. This is evidenced through its projects with seven local education providers, businesses and over thirty local groups and organisations as active partners in our work.

Regular volunteering opportunities are available on Wednesdays in the Abbey Grounds and Fridays in St. Michael's Park. Participants of all ages and abilities are welcome and can assist in practical tasks or get involved in the behind the scenes work developing plans and promoting activities. The other key way people volunteer with us is through the Friends groups. Visit our website or pop into the LIC for further information.

Councillor Andrew Lichnowski (Chairman of the Estate Services Group)

FINANCE

The Council puts much of its vision into effect through financial support for a range of initiatives and organisations. In 2017/18 these included the Open Air Swimming Pool, Cotswold Counselling, Citizens Advice Bureau, Great Western Air Ambulance and the Living Memory Historical Association.

The Council is continuing to pay off the loan taken out for the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme and in 2017/18 budgeted to repay £79,500. The repayments reduce by about £600 each year.

Looking ahead, the increase in the Council's share of Council tax for 2018/9 was agreed at 2.5% for a property in band D. For properties in this band, this is an increase of about 25p 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 and initiatives, small and large, where they are considered cost-effective and of real benefit to the people of the town.

In the 2018/9 budget, the Council has absorbed the loss of half of its remaining Council Tax Support grant from the Cotswold District Council (£13,800), and has planned for the loss of the remaining grant in 2019/20, while funding three new initiatives:

- ◆ Match funding for the Light Rail Project Feasibility Study through the Cirencester Community Development Trust;
- ◆ A Horticulture Bursary to commemorate the life of former Councillor and Mayor, Joe Watson;
- ◆ One-off costs for the new monitoring system for the town's CCTV, through Gloucestershire Constabulary GTEC service. The new system will have significantly lower running costs.

Councillor Patrick Coleman (Chairman of the Finance and Audit Group)

CIRENCESTER TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2017-18

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

31/03/17		31/03/18
£		£
852,679*	Balances brought forward	212,651
832,018	Annual Precept	865,235
1,075,554	Receipts	287,424
2,760,251	Total	1,365,310
(554,206)	Operational Costs	(561,262)
(49,363)	Loan / Interest Capital Repayments	(75,194)
(1,944,031)	Other Costs	(486,254)
212,651	Balances and Reserves	242,600
164,551	Total Cash and Short-Term Investments	186,138
170,000	Long-Term Investments	170,000

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018

31/03/17		31/03/18
£		£
3,215,041	Fixed Assets	3,153,052
	Current Assets	
191,851	Debtors and Prepayments	129,712
170,000	Investments	170,000
164,551	Cash at bank and in hand	186,138
526,402		485,850
	Current Liabilities	
(68,815)	Current Portion of Long Term Borrowings	(85,902)
(107,289)	Creditors and Income in Advance	(47,073)
350,298	Net Current Assets	352,875
3,565,339	Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	3,505,927
	Long Term Liabilities	
(1,306,899)	Long-Term Loan	(1,254,098)
(312,264)	Deferred Grants	(347,371)
1,946,176	Total Assets Less Liabilities	1,904,458
	Represented by:	
1,563,525	Capital Financing Reserve	1,491,858
275,919	Earmarked Reserves	274,171
106,732	General Reserve	138,429
1,946,176		1,904,458

* Includes £100k on deposit with GCC in respect of the Market Place Scheme.

How well do you know Cirencester?

Cirencester Town Council looks after and maintains a wide range of open spaces which can be enjoyed and explored all year round but how many can you identify from the pictures below.

Submit your answers to the Local Information Centre and at the same time nominate an area of open space that you would like to see improved; we'll then contribute £250 towards the one which receives the most nominations.



PICTURE A



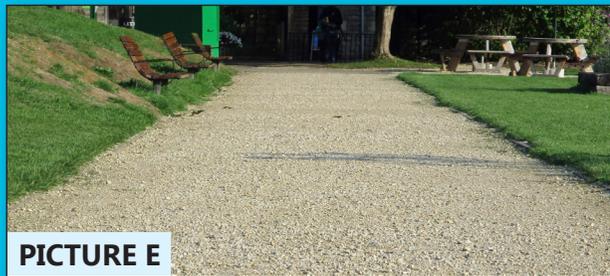
PICTURE B



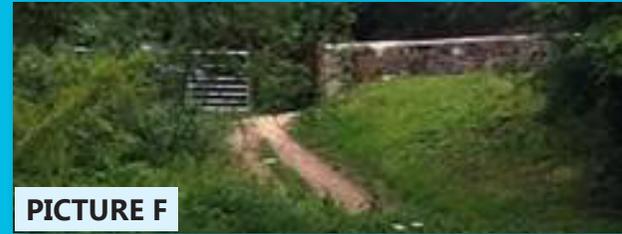
PICTURE C



PICTURE D



PICTURE E



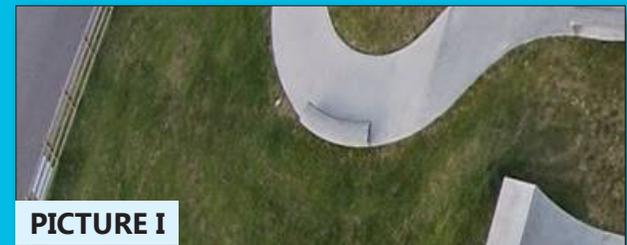
PICTURE F



PICTURE G



PICTURE H



PICTURE I



PICTURE J

CONTACT US

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ADMINISTRATION

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Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Johan Newman

Estate Services Manager

Martin Conyers

Community Services Manager

Becky Coles

Project & Management Support Officer

Brona Langton

Finance & Administrative Officer

Libby Hughes

Local Information Officer

Judy Mills

Acting Markets & Events Officer

Sarah Bartlett

Facilities

John Walker

Local Information & Admin Assistant

Andrew Bathe

Youth Initiative Officer

Clare Hawke

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USEFUL NUMBERS

Police: 101(Non emergency)

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

Cotswold District Council:

01285 623000

Out of hours emergency:

0151 343 2942

Gloucestershire County Council:

01452 425000

Out of hours emergency:

Social care: 01452 614194

Highways: 08000 514514

Children's Helpdesk: 01452 426565

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