



Burford
Town Council



Annual Report

2024-2025



Runner Up Winner, Hugo Lovage Patisserie
Christmas Window Display Competition 2024

Town Mayor Councillor Peter Higgs



Over the past year it has been an honour to represent the town in my capacity as Mayor of Burford. I have had the pleasure in meeting many residents whilst carrying out my duties.

Through the many engagements I and my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Craven have attended, I have been able to visit various local community events, organisations and individuals, witnessing the excellent work and undertakings of volunteers and paid staff to ensure that Burford is a welcoming, safe and vibrant community. In addition to these activities, I have led the town on various civic occasions. From opening the Burford Festival at the Mayor's Community Reception to leading the town in the annual Remembrance commemorations. We were privileged this year to receive so many dignitaries from neighbouring towns and parishes to our Civic Service at Christmas time. It was an honour to host such a moving service of gratitude for all the residents of Burford who make the town such a special place and thanks goes to Rev. Tom Putt and St John the Baptist Church for co-hosting the event. An event that really brought the town together was the Christmas lights switch on, held at the end of November 2024. A warm, friendly atmosphere was had that day, highlighting the unique shopping experience to be had in Burford. How beautiful the town looked with its Christmas lights twinkling.

The Council have remained committed this year to providing services and administration for the towns needs. I would like to thank all my fellow Town Councillors and Town Council staff, for their continued dedication and hard work. The positive contribution and impact on the town and for all its residents can be seen across the town, not just this year but in many years to come.



The year in review

Burford Town Council this year remained committed to providing a safe and happy place for residents to live in.

We are grateful that crime and disorder in Burford are still relatively rare compared to many towns.

Speeding on The Hill and High St is monitored by cameras, and we are grateful for the help they give in tackling dangerous driving. Speeding is still a concern along Shilton Road, and residents requested that the 20mph limit in the main town areas be extended to include Shilton Road. Council were happy to support this and it is now in the hands of OCC.

Parking continues to cause problems in and around the town. Illegal parking is causing danger to pedestrians and vehicle users. We have requested help from both County Council and Thames Valley Police on this matter.

Parking on The Hill has improved since the yellow lines were re-painted, however vehicles are still using the pathway as a road and damaging the verges. The Council has installed anti ram bollards to help protect the verge which is seeing some better usage around The Hill.

The Council has initiated safer signage around the coach parking area and school. This will help to keep pedestrians and children safer around school opening times and general pedestrian use. It will also help to provide safer turning of coaches on Priory Lane to help prevent damage to residents properties and safer stream of traffic on Priory Lane moving on to the High Street.



The Council has received permission to install a new zebra crossing on The Hill to increase the number of pedestrian crossings on the High Street. We hope to install the zebra crossing in 2025.

The new playground on the recreation ground has this year attracted some antisocial behaviour including graffiti and vandalism, which cost the Council both time and money in repairs.

Antisocial behaviour including, drinking, littering, damage to the nearby dry-stone walls and loud music is also an ongoing issue at the shelter on the recreation ground.

The Council has implemented measures to stop this behaviour including an increase in police presence, surveillance cameras of the area and liaison with the local Cadets for youth involvement activities. A bin has been re-positioned there to help reduce litter and the shelter has been repainted.

Councillor Jo Rushton
Chair of Recreation Ground Committee



The year in review

This year the Council has been supporting the environment of Burford in response to the ecological emergency initiative.

The Council is hoping to go green in as many ways as possible. The Climate Change Committee has focussed on enhancing the surrounding environment. We focussed on planting new trees at the beginning of the year. In collaboration with Burford Environment Action Group, new fruit trees were planted at the Orchard.

The Committee also focussed on introducing new wildflower areas, including two areas of the recreation ground and a section of the cemetery. This will help increase biodiversity and attract more insects and pollinators.

The Council is working with West Oxfordshire District Council to install new EV charging points for the town. Although this is a slow process, we hope to see results in the Autumn of 2025.

Summer Highlight

- Tolsey steps clean up
- Submitted to WODC proposal and map of 4 potential locations for EVCPs
- Litter picking calendar
- Applied funding for environment projects

Winter Highlight

- Ran schools wildflower sign poster competition
- Developed policies for Climate Change
- Planned for Eco day
- Attended WODC Executive meeting focused on Burford.

Autumn Highlight

- Developed and initiated Climate change plan across all council activities
- Ragwort weed removal
- Cemetery Clean Up
- Asbestos survey on Pavilion

Spring Highlight

- Determined location of Wildflower areas
- Learnt tools and approach to Biodiversity survey of Scout fenced garden
- Presented Climate Change policy and projects at BEAGles
- Bridge cleaning working party.

The Council has also been campaigning for cleaner water along the river Windrush in collaboration with Windrush Against Sewage Pollution. The Council regularly petitions Thames Water whenever the river floods and sewage is released.

All office supplies are bought with green credentials and a recycling scheme has now been set up for the Council office. The Council is also retrofitting the Council building where possible. It is difficult with a listed building but some improvements can be achieved.

The Council is looking at installing recycling around the town and we hope to see some results in 2025.

Flooding continues to be an issue for parts of the town and the Council is working hard to alleviate some of the risks involved. The main area of concern is the public car park which floods several times a year. This stops the visitors from being able to use it. The car park is already at capacity and so it is important that we work on reducing flood times.

We are working with District Council to put in place new flood measures that will drain off excess water more quickly and effectively. We hope to see these improvements installed in 2025.

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jennie Craven
Chair of Climate Change Committee





Times the town's playgrounds
are checked in the year.

£176,721

In special projects for the town.

51

Planning applications
reviewed by Council.

Burford Town Council is ever mindful of how it protects and spends the income that it receives from tax payers to deliver services and facilities to the local community.

The Council continues to maintain the recreation ground, cemetery, churchyard, three historic buildings and town garden. It is responsible for grass cutting, town street maintenance and litter in certain areas of the town. The Council is also responsible for the two playgrounds in the town.

Our new playground project has been completed. Work on another three projects this year have started; the zebra crossing, coach park safety signage and the Pavilion.

Projects

Details

Outcome

High Street Improvement

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund gave us funds to improve the look of Burford High St.

- Replacement memorial benches.
- War Memorial refurbished
- More green space.

New Christmas Lights

Working with the Chamber of Trade, we raised money to purchase new Christmas lights for the High Street.

- Improved Christmas shopping for visitors and residents.
- Put Burford on the map as a Christmas shopping experience.

New Anti Ram Bollards, The Hill

Making The Hill a safer place to walk, we added bollards to stop illegal parking.

- Pedestrian access on The Hill improved.
- Protection of the green spaces on The Hill.

Finances

CURRENT ASSETS

Reserves

£218,200.00

INCOME

Precept £97,845.00

Other Income £84,298.00

CERTAIN EXPENSES

Staff Costs £49,277.00

Town Maintenance £53,014.00

Community Events £3234.00



Funding summary

£10,191.00

Donations

£97,845.00

Government Funding

£15,788

Grants



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