

Service & Comments/Suggestions	What has been done 2022/23	What is planned 2023/24
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Communications

Only receive communication once a year		Looking to increase the budget to be able to issue bi-annual newsletters to each household Officers are looking to develop a mailing list so newsletters can be issued via MailChimp
Visuals needed rather than all online	The Council has 4 active social media channels, accessible website and several noticeboards. The Council also issues press releases ahead of events	Updated our communications strategy to include proposed use of noticeboards and digital signage in the Town Hall window Consideration to bring back Councillor surgeries, coffee mornings

Street Furniture

Not enough benches in the town	The Project Officer has conducted an Infrastructure Survey, which listed every piece of infrastructure in the town. This enables Officers to identify areas where there is a lack of provision and when there is a request for an additional bench, the location can be checked quickly	Development of infrastructure improvement and replacement plan
Bus shelters are tatty and filthy	This was identified as an issue by the Project Officer during the infrastructure survey	The bus shelters are on a scheduled cleaning regime by the Council's Works team.
Empty dog bins more frequently	Dog bins are frequently assessed and if reported to be overflowing the scheduling of emptying or the number of bins will be increased.	
Street furniture should be cleaned regularly	The Infrastructure survey identified that much of the street furniture needed a rub down and revarnish	A cleaning regime will be developed with the Council's new Works/GM Team

Entry points into Witney are disgusting

The Council has agreed to enhance these with planting/planters and new Witney crest vinyls

Community Events

Need more community events	The Town Council tries to ensure that community events are inclusive and run various events through the year In the most recent newsletter the Council asked groups to approach the Council if they would like to hold any community events	There 2 Jo Cox Winter events planned for Jan & Feb, and for the Coronation
More fun days in public spaces	There was a Childrens Play Day in June along with other events for the Platinum Jubilee	In addition to the Play Day, further events are planned for the Coronation
Mental health	The Council has provided grant funding to local youth groups to help with mental health	Officers hope to highlight Mental Health week 9-15 may and World Mental Health Day on 10 October by way of events. Jo Cox days will help combat loneliness
More for the elderly	West Oxfordshire Community Transport Grant Subsidised use of the Corn Exchange for Line Dancing and Tea Dance	West Oxfordshire Community Transport Grant Two 'Jo Cox Winter Events' One in January and one in February. Coronation bunting making project Further consideration will be given
Events to improve community cohesion and spirit		Working in Partnership with Witney Music Festival and other organisers of events at the Leys Coronation bunting project

Disabled not mentioned	<p>The Town Council considers disability in all projects undertaken.</p> <p>A new access at Tower Hill Cemetery has been opened</p> <p>The path at Witney Lake has been re-gravelled and levelled to improve accessibility</p>	<p>Further DDI suggestions at Tower Hill Cemetery</p> <p>The Council has a new Play Area Strategy which will ensure an inclusive piece of play equipment is installed in all future play area upgrades</p>
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Civic Events

Remembrance wasn't multi-faith	<p>Remembrance is for all faiths and if any in particular group would like to discuss how to become more involved the Venue and Events Officer is always happy to find out more and discuss what could be done to become more inclusive.</p>	<p>Will invite known representatives from other Witney denominations in consultation with the Mayor's Chaplain</p>
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Play Areas

Inadequate Play Equipment	<p>The Project Officer has conducted a review of all the play areas in the Town and a timeline</p>	<p>appropriate budgets have been set from 2023 to renew and refurbish all of the areas in the town, starting with Eton Close Report to Parks & Recreation on this in January 2023</p>
Leys Splash Park should be rubber not concrete. Its A mudbath in the winter	<p>The surfacing for the whole of the leys play area is an issue and something we are trying to rectify. Our work is restricted by the seasons and the long operation time of the splash pad. The surfacing of the actual splash pad is not an issue it's the grass and earth surrounding it that we are trying to find a better solution for.</p>	
No play equipment for disabled	<p>The Council has resolved to put at least one piece of accessible equipment in each of the play areas in the town. These may include non-visual disabilities such as autism, ADHD, sensory processing disorders etc.</p>	

Not enough equipment for under 5's	<p>In refurbishing the play areas, the Council will be able to ensure that equipment for all ages is included. Park Road Play area which reopened in 2021 was deliberately designed with pre-schoolers/under 7's in mind, whilst still being engaging for older children who may visit with younger siblings. Thought was put into providing a quality play experience and included equipment to stimulate imaginative play, seated spinners to help children learn about cause and effect of positioning their body and a trim trail to promote balance and co-ordination. Careful thought will be put into the other parks in a similar way. By refurbishing /renewing a whole play area at once, it will be possible to create a complete play experience.</p>
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Witney Lake & Country Park

Path at the lake is impassible and not maintained	<p>There has been a on-going program of path maintaince over the last 12 months and we have re-profiled a number of areas that have not been upto standard. We have also cut back overhanging vegetation to provide better and safer access for all and allow clearer sight-lines for all users</p>	<p>More of the same work and an ongoing plan to create more light along the paths to allow a wider diversity of flora</p>
Plant more trees, wildflowers and wet lands	<p>Trees: these will be planted in appropriate areas and only locally sourced pollinators will be used Wildflowers: the two meadows in the country park are now being maintained and this will lead to an increase in wildflowers some supplementary seeding may be needed in specific areas. Wetlands we have increased the "edge area" of the lake to increase biodiversity, cut and collided the shapes to promote regrowth</p>	<p>We are looking to create 200m of wildlife friendly hedgerow as well as supplement the existing copses as needed</p>

Lake & Country Park overgrown	As well as the lake main pathway, we have also begun a program of meadow maintenance to increase their overall biodiversity	This is a 3-5 year plan and an ongoing cost to provide the best habitat for the flora and fauna We also plan to replace old gates and re-furbish "tired" ones
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Public Halls (Corn Exchange & Burwell Hall)

Please get the theatre back in the Corn Exchange	The Town Council is actively working on this and on completion of the retractable seating installation later in the year.	The Venue Officer will be working hard to put on a series of theatrical events throughout the following 12 months.
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Actively promote the corn exchange for entertainment		The Venue and Events Officer is working on a series of different events for the next 12 months to maximise the potential of the refurbished Corn Exchange, please keep an eye on the Website and all social media channels to keep updated on all upcoming shows, music and other entertainment
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Community Cafes to combat loneliness	Café 1863, in the Corn Exchange, is now open 6 days a week and offers a warm welcome, book exchange and daily papers. It's the ideal destination in the centre of town to head to and keep in touch with other people.	Further themed coffee mornings are being planned for the new year
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Grounds Maintenance

Grass cutting could be improved	The Town Council has taken its grounds maintenance service in-house. The 3 lengths of cut the council aim to achieve are 35MM (reserved for the summer season and prestige areas) 50mm and 75mm. Due to the warm autumn season, it has been hard to keep up with growth but the council continue to invest in machines to increase mowing frequency and process ground quicker.	Continued improvement
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Cemeteries

		Dependent on application
Need a better crossing into Windrush Cemetery	The Town Council is working with the developer of the Strategic Witney East Development area to ensure a new, safer entrance to the Cemetery is achieved The cemetery has been mapped, including burial plots and potential roads for the future	
More benches needed for elderly at Tower Hill	Tower hill cemetery has a problem with anti-social behaviour, which has been reported to the police. More benches would increase the amount of groups congregating and time spent in the cemetery. Instead, the benches are focused on the areas of the cemetery still open for burials that are more exposed.	

Youth Services

More needed for teens	The Town Council distributed £40,000 to Witney groups and organisations to continue or enhance services for children aged 0-18	A budget has been established for youth awards
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Climate Emergency

Solar Panels on your roofs	The Town Council is exploring energy initiative improvements at all its buildings	Energy Augdits are planned for the new year
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Active Lifestyles

More youth football pitches, skate parks & play areas

The Council has an agreed budget in order to start the work to refurbish the Leys Skate Park

The Town Council has been working with others to facilitate more sports pitches and bring the standard of the current ones to an acceptable level

Better walking and cycling routes

Working with Oxfordshire County Council on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Witney

Engaging developers on the inclusion of small and large developments through the planning consultation process.

The Town Council continues to work with other authorities to help deliver more football pitches

The Skate Park at The Leys will go out to tender

There is a replacement plan in place for Play Areas

Continued work with Stakeholders on plans.