

WITNEY TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL



Witney Town Council

V2 2019

What does a Youth Council do?

The aim is to involve Witney's young people in local government, giving them a voice within the town and the opportunity to help shape their community with other young people in mind.

What are the benefits of being involved?

- Improve self esteem and confidence
- Great opportunities for personal development
- Expand your skills and knowledge bank
- It's a great addition to your CV

Add Value to Your Community

- Promote a positive image of the town and young people and improve relationships between older and younger people in the community
- Be part of the democratic process and get involved in the decisions that affect young people in the town
- Learn about your community and develop an understanding of political processes, citizenship and representation

Members are able to connect and collaborate with other young people to help address the issues that affect the youth of Witney



Be a part of the democratic process

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What can you do?

Within your budget you can decide what is important. This might involve putting on a small event or taking part in something else that is happening.

There are restrictions on what you can spend money on, just as there are for the Town Council. You are spending tax payer's money, so you have to ensure that what you provide with that is value for money and of benefit to the wider community.

As you have limited funds you will also need to budget carefully to make sure you stay within your limit.

Getting things for free is a good way to stretch your budget, so brush up on your negotiating skills!

How does it work?

Witney's Youth Council consists of 14 members (residents of Witney) drawn from schools and youth organisations to give a good cross section of the town a chance to be involved. The members range between 12 and 18 years old.

You will have your own annual budget of £500 a year to support events and projects you have resolved to work on.

Youth Council meets 6 times a year at meetings that are timetabled to fall 2 weeks before each Full Council meetings. In this way your minutes and resolutions can be approved in a timely manner so that you can get started on the things that matter to you with little delay.



How involved is the Youth Council?

- Youth councillors hold regular meetings and get involved in campaigns or projects and meet with local councillors and other key decision makers
- Members can help inform and influence decisions regarding youth projects
- The minutes of the Youth Council meetings report back to full council
- You will have your own small budget so that you can fulfil some of your ideas



Make your own plans

What do we want in return?

You do not need experience to become a member of the youth council. You just need to be between the ages of 13 and 18 and live in the town. It is however, vital that you have:

- drive and enthusiasm
- commitment
- a desire to make a difference
- the ability to listen to other young people
- willingness to communicate with others
- Ideas about what can be done

In return we would like a commitment from you. Youth Council meets a minimum of six times a year and you are expected to attend at least two of these meetings. We hope that you will find the experience so interesting that you will easily manage this commitment.

We'd appreciate reliability and good time keeping so we can hold meetings as planned and all get home at a reasonable time.

It's important to retain members so that meetings can take place and there is continuity in the process of decision making and management of events and projects that the Youth Council undertakes so we will do everything we can to make being a Youth Councillor rewarding.



What to expect

Once you are established there are many ways in which you might get involved other than just holding meetings and planning events or projects that you would like to take forward.

The Town Council holds a number of Civic and community events throughout the year which have plenty of scope for the involvement of our Youth Councillors.

These include things such as Free Family Play Days where you could run an activity for teenagers, and more solemn occasions such as the Remembrance Day Parade where you might want to nominate a wreath layer for the Youth Council.

You could present a special award for the Schools in Bloom entries or perhaps nominate a deserving member of the public for a Citizen of the Year Award or get involved with flag raising days. There are so many ways for you to be part of the Civic life in the town.

You could also have a dedicated page on the Town Council's website to let everyone know what you are doing.



