



Minutes of the meeting of the Witney Youth Council held At 4.00 pm in the Gallery Room, The Corn Exchange, Witney on Thursday 8th January 2026.

Youth Councillors Present:

Seven Youth Councillors

Witney Town Council Mentors Present:

Cllr G Meadows

Cllr S Simpson

Witney Town Council Officers Present:

A Hathaway – Admin Assistant for Communications and Engagement

A Clapton – Deputy Town Clerk

The Councillors in attendance were Youth Council mentors and were there to guide and answer questions. Officers advised Members this was their opportunity to provide a voice for young people in Witney and the Town Council would try and bring about their ideas and suggestions.

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Youth Councillors were advised that if they knew anyone or had any involvement in any of the items being discussed at the meeting, they should say it at this point.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Updates on the House of Commons Visit

The Youth Council Admin Assistant provided a verbal update that we were still waiting on MP Charlie Maynard's response for a specific date that works for him.

4. Cultural Foods in Witney Event (A Taste of Witney (?))

Youth Councillors assigned event roles to plan this event for the Spring. A recap was read of what was agreed in the last meeting:

- Each participating restaurant will have its own individual table.
- The event will preferably be held outdoors at the Corn Exchange, with the main hall booked as a backup in case of bad weather.
- Entry will be completely free to ensure accessibility, especially for young people.
- A dedicated table will be available for voluntary donations and fundraising for the water refilling station at The Leys, which will be monitored.

- There will be no seating to encourage movement and prevent overcrowding.
- The event will be open to all local food businesses to maximise reach and include a wide range of cultures.
- If a restaurant cancels at short notice, pre-bought cakes will be sold to fill any empty tables.
- Crowd safety will be managed by using a large open space and limiting visitors to 15-minute rotations around the tables.
- The event will take place on a Sunday to accommodate working people and young attendees.
- The event will run for approximately two hours.
- Setup and takedown will be split into two shifts and managed by different groups of youth councillors.

A list of all restaurants in Witney was noted:

Gurkha

The Old Court Hotel

The Plough

OXON BBQ Witney

The Edge Eatery

San Marzano Witney

Curry Paradise

Huffkins Witney

Pokhara Delicious

Bella Italia

No. 14 Wesley Walk

Part & Parcel

Pizza Express

Moon Coffee

Sandwich De Witney

Ye Olde Cross Keys

The Blue Boar

Shaan Indian Restaurant

Como Lounge

USA Chicken and Pizza Witney

Café Marada 39

The Fleece

Suwanna Thai Restaurant

The Three Horseshoes

Restaurants highlighted were chosen by the Youth Councillors to visit. Groups were decided to go out and ask the restaurants on 31st January 2026 at 1:30PM. The admin for the Youth Council will be present in the centre of town at 1863 during this time for youth councillors to find if there is an issue.

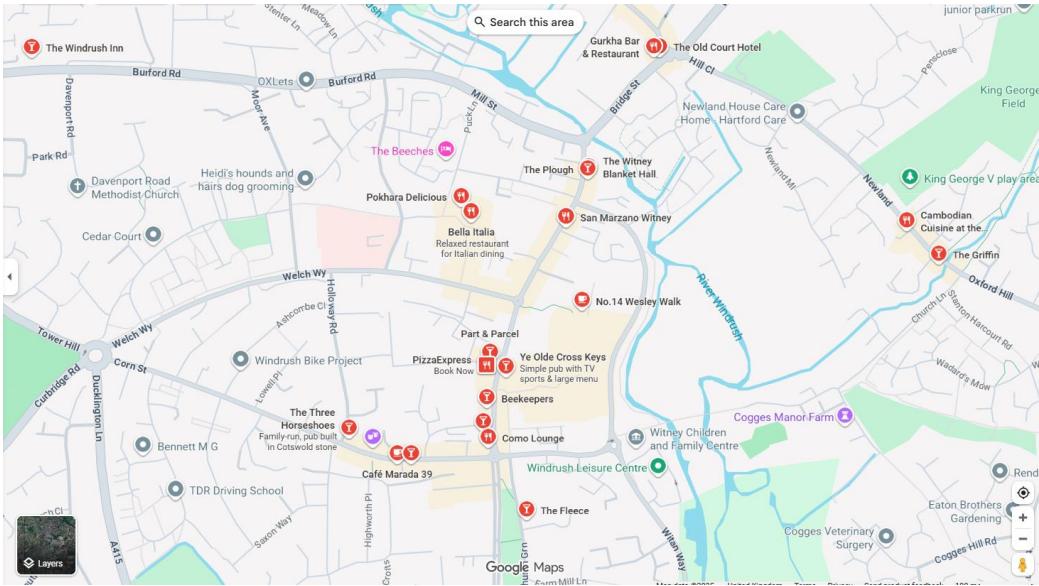


Figure 1 Map of the restaurants in Witney

5. Items for Future Agenda

A youth councillor suggested further planning for this event and a recap of the results from 31st Jan be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

The dates of the upcoming Youth Council meetings were received.

- Wed 11 March 2025 – 4PM to 5PM