

FULL COUNCIL



Agenda Item: Civic Announcements

Meeting Date: Monday 13 July 2026

Contact Officer: Secretary to the Mayor

The role of Mayor involves chairing the Town Council, sitting as an ex officio voting member on Council Committees, representing and promoting Witney, organising key events in the town in partnership with others, raising funds for local charities, and supporting community activities which contribute to the life of the town and the objectives of the Witney Town Council. The Mayor is supported by the Deputy Mayor, whose attendance in place of or alongside the Mayor is noted in the report below which detailing the activities of the Mayor since the last meeting of the Council.

Corporate Strategy:

The Council's Strategic Plan 2025–29 sets out the Council's long-term priorities and direction, supporting its mission to 'make Witney a great place to live, work and visit.' This report contributes to the delivery of the following strategic pillar of the plan:

Civic engagement supports all the Council's strategic objectives by encouraging residents, businesses, and community groups to take an active role in local life. Through representation at community events, the Council can better understand local priorities, promote civic pride, strengthen community connections, and ensure that its services and projects meet the needs of the town.

PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT 6 May 2026 to 13 July 2026 for Cllr Jane Doughty

Supporting the Community

Visit to Mulberry School charity
Cllr Andrew Coles' Christian Aid event
Art Weeks – Deputy Mayor attended
Opening Blake's kitchen
Witney Pride opening
Churchfield's Dementia café opening at Witney Library
History Day – Blake Primary School
Judging at Witney Carnival

Representing and Promoting Witney

Bicester Town Council Mayor making
2120 (Witney) Squadron Awards dinner – Masonic Hall Witney – Deputy Mayor attended
Mayors and Chairs dinner – Dorchester Abbey – Deputy Mayor attended
Annual Formal Reception – RAF Brize Norton – Deputy Mayor also attended
Chair of OCC and Earth Trust invite to Wittenham Rose Ceremony

Key Events and Council Activity

Witney Pride flag raising – Deputy Mayor also attended
World Refugee Day flag raising – Deputy Mayor also attended
Armed Forces Day flag raising
Choosing 2026 Christmas Light design winner

Raising Funds -Mayor's Charities 2026-27:

Mayor's charities: Oxfordshire Autistic Society for Information and Support (OASIS) and Witney Day Centre

- Fundraising Bingo and Pimms event planned for 31 July 2026
- Fundraising Quiz event planned for 19 September 2026

Any hospitality totalling £50 or more afforded to the Mayor whilst undertaking any event as Civic Leader of Witney Town Council will be declared as hospitality in line with the Councillor Code of Conduct & Localism Act 2011. The acceptance of any hospitality does not afford the provider any undue influence or favour in any Town Council business.