

WITNEY ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2022

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FROM CHAIR OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S HALLS, CEMETERIES & ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

CLLR MEL JONES

This Committee has responsibility for all aspects of the public halls, cemeteries, and allotments under the control of the Town Council.

The Committee is overseeing a number of projects in Witney. The main ones being:

Public Halls

The redevelopment of the Corn Exchange into a Community Arts Facility continues, and the café bar has been developed to offer a wide range of food and drink during the daytime, when there are performances and for private bookings in the hall.

A designated stage area with professional curtains, lighting and audio relay system has been installed and retractable seating will follow later this year.

The Corn Exchange has a wedding licence for the Gallery Room and the council provides wedding packages.

A number of performances including a Christmas pantomime, sea shanty evening and jazz nights have been held in the Corn Exchange.

It has been a difficult time due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, but bookings are now on the up at both the Corn Exchange and Burwell Hall. There are a number of clubs/organisations that have regular bookings and individuals hiring the halls for parties etc. is also increasing.

Cemeteries

A new access gate has been provided at the Tower Hill cemetery following consultation to establish the need. It provides those wishing to pay respects a safer, shorter, and less steep route to the more recent grave sections.

A scheme of wildflower planting has been undertaken in the cemeteries to help increase the biodiversity of the council's land.

A Children's Memorial is planned at Windrush Cemetery later in the year which will be an area where all parents may reflect on their loss.

Allotments

New allotments have been provided at Windrush Place and the management of the plots has been handed over to the Witney Allotment Association.

The committee is always keen to hear from residents and will assist as much as they are able and always want to make Witney accessible to all.

Cllr Mel Jones, Chair of Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee