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ANNUAL TOWN REPORT FROM TETBURY TOWN COUNCIL 2021-2022

MAYORS REPORT – COUNCILLOR ANN PEARCE



Welcome to the Annual Report, a bittersweet moment, one of sadness that this is my last piece for the advertiser as my role of Mayor of Tetbury comes to a close, but also one of immense pride in all that has been achieved over the past year.

Tetbury Town Council has taken the lead in provision for our residents, having during my first term as Mayor seized the opportunity to set up its own Health & Wellbeing Committee, and working group, to look at ways in which we can better serve our community especially as we were in the midst of a global pandemic. Tetbury Town Council became aware of a possibility of a sizable grant available from Gloucestershire County Council and myself and the Chair of the Committee Cllr Ind made a successful application with the vision of employing an additional member of staff so that we would be able to assist our residents when other services were difficult to run. Tetbury Town Council opened up its office space to enable the Health Visitors to have a safe place to continue weighing babies, and to assist new mums without them having to travel greater distances to attend baby health checks and weigh-ins. Our additional team member has been able to offer advice to residents in need, and signpost to the appropriate services. We continue to work closely with partner agencies to bring the best provision we can to our residents. The Friendship Café continues to go from Strength to Strength, providing an intergenerational service that we can all be proud of. Through the work of the Working Group, we will have a Dementia Café opening in May. The inception and building of the Community Fridge, helping to prevent Food Waste, whilst being a valuable community resource.

Official engagements have been marred by the pandemic; however, I have enjoyed the opportunities that have presented themselves, having the opportunity to re-open the Town for business after the lock-downs, with our fantastic Town Crier Tony Evans, meeting the many Shop Owners and wishing them well, joining Greening Tetbury for the Paint the Town Green week, getting to meet our very own Gold Medallist Tom McKewen, to turning the Christmas lights on with Tom and the winners of the Christmas Decoration competition. The



Christmas Light Trail. Arranging Christmas Lunches for those residents on their own at Christmas, visiting the Tetbury Brownies and inspiring them to make Christmas Cards that were subsequently delivered with the lunches, and more importantly listening to each and everyone of them, finding out what matters to them and the compassion and wisdom in their young voices! One of my final engagements has been the Pride of Tetbury Inspirational Awards, presenting certificates to members of the community who provide much needed services for the Town or indeed raise money for local projects. People who go out of their way to volunteer a few hours of their time to make our Town a better place to live.

I would like to thank my Deputy Mayor Cllr Peter Coleman for all of his support, and the great team in the office for all of their support, the committee chairs for leading their respective committees, and all the councillors who continue to volunteer their time to make Tetbury a wonderful place to live. I hope that we can continue to build on the great foundations that have been laid this past year.

As I bid you all farewell, please do remember to stay safe!

Best Wishes

Cllr Ann Pearce – Mayor Tetbury Town Council.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE DOLPHINS HALL
MONDAY 9TH MAY STARTING AT 7pm. Please come along and have your say**

FINANCE & SCRUTINY

The Finance & Scrutiny committee has the responsibility of overseeing the status of the Councils finances and to ensure that good practice and legal statute is followed.

We are pleased to announce that the allotments on the Highfield Farm development have recently been transferred to Tetbury Town Council. We are in the process of purchasing storage boxes and sheds before handing the allotments over to the residents at the top of the waiting list.

The Finance & Scrutiny Committee meet on the 2nd Monday of the month and all members of the public are welcome to attend.

We would like to thank Councillor Gary O'Connor who has been the Chair of the Finance & Scrutiny Committee for the past 2 years for his dedication to the Committee.



Grants approved by Tetbury Town Council in 2021-2022

Tetbury Bowls Club - £1,000 – To assist with the clubhouse extension.

Tetbury Cricket Club - £1,000 – To assist with regenerating the cricket nets.

TAYCT – £10,000 – To assist with the Youth Provision.

If your organisation needs financial assistance for a certain project, please contact the Town Council offices for a grant application form.

HERITAGE & REGENERATION – COUNCILLOR KEVIN PAINTER



A committee is only as good as the people who run it and work with them that statement may seem simplistic. But there's a mountain of truth behind it.

Maintaining the beauty and the positive spirit of the Town is due mainly to the talented small enthusiastic team of the Town Council staff who maintain the Visitor Information Centre, and of course the grounds team who look after the open spaces who along with the office team carried on working even throughout the height of the pandemic crisis ensuring safety for all.

However no staff is ever large enough to cover the whole of our town that is why we work with so many amazing volunteers, on various projects, to maintain the Tetbury ethos.

As well as maintaining the character of our wonderful Town, our Committee gets many suggestions over the table, being a small enthusiastic committee. This is the ideal platform for discussion and to get things done.

Whether it be honouring Tetburians with poignant and fitting benches in suitable locations such as John Price who will now always be remembered behind the Market House and even young Shaun Scotford whose bench oversees the play area at the Goods Shed. In fact, this prompted our own Vicki and Tara, to construct a map of benches and who they are for.

We also had the initial discussion for the successful out of Flock Down. We supported the renovation of the Northfield phone box by Cllr R Smith and now moving onto the overseeing the Charlton Road phone box regeneration, the Committee initiated The Cookspool project



to enhance wildlife with Cllr Gary O'Connor. Our own Vicki volunteered and helped coordinate some of the Ukrainian aid and support.

Our committee also instigates, and assists the Christmas light switch on. The Queens beacon event to be held in June. The planting of the Queens platinum Jubilee green canopy Tree. The 451 comic book original art and first editions display Centre. Thanks must go to the Cotswold Wardens who when they found out the wall had collapsed in the exquisite St Saviours Church volunteered to rebuild it. We had a presentation on Disability equality access and etiquette. It was agreed to implement research and report on how to enhance the Town, no easy task and will be a major piece of work. And one of the major attractions of the town is the free Police Museum, Curator Maria Marsh who works with our committee has done a fantastic job in securing funding and more volunteers and even getting the external courthouse stairs repaired. Thank you all

So it's time to say thank you to you, the people who make our town so great with such amazing enthusiasm, and of course our team and our committee. But special thanks must go to Victoria Bolwell 'Vicki' who as well as being the V.I.C. manager is also the officer who turn dreams into reality.

Thank you, and please continue to stay safe.

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND YOUTH – COUNCILLOR NIKKI IND

It has been a very busy year of consolidation and merging the work of the 2 individual Committees – Health & Wellbeing Committee and Youth Committee and I would like to start by thanking my colleagues on this committee for their hard work over the year.

I am pleased to advise that our application for £20k from the Gloucestershire County Council Covid Recovery Fund was successful and this enabled the Town Council to employ our Health & Wellbeing Coordinator, Andrea Payne, who has been busy developing services with partner organisations in the town since her appointment.

We have had the launch of our Friendship Café, which is open to all residents of any age free of charge – Thursday mornings 10am – 12 noon at the Dolphins Hall and this multigenerational morning is wonderful to see, please do come along. We have also been developing a signposting service and working closely with the Health & Wellbeing Working Group, we look forward to new initiatives coming soon – Dementia Café & Walk & Talk sessions. I have also been pleased to attend meetings with Andrea at the Gloucester Friendship Café, City Farm, Community Café in Tuffley & Longfield Hospice to help us



understand best practice and how we can develop services for our community and residents.

Whilst the closure of the Wednesday & Friday Day Centre has been a blow, be assured that we are working locally to find a solution and in the meantime those residents using this service have been attending both the Friendship Café and the Piano Sessions at The Goods Shed. Our thanks go to Penny Williams, who recently retired, Carol Cox, who is continuing to support those Day Centre attendees in the community, volunteer drivers, volunteers and Community Connexions, who assist with transport.

We continue to develop Elderly Care Services; however, we are also working closely with Tetbury Area Youth & Community Trust to ensure that our young people have the services and support throughout their formative years. There are now 2 sessions running for 2 different age groups, supported financially by Tetbury Town Council and we are looking to develop these services further, including working towards the provision of a new Youth Shelter. The Town Council has also worked closely with partners in the implementation of the Holiday Activities and Support Programme and has funded additional activities during school holidays.

The Town Council is also planning a Directory of Services for our entire community – helping residents to find appropriate services and support.

Finally, we are delighted to have launched the Community Fridge – an initiative supported by local volunteers and the Co-op – we thank them for their support, also Jesse Smiths, who kindly donated their fridge & freezer following their recent refurbishment. Please visit the fridge – it is at the back of the Town Council offices via The Ferns. This initiative is to stop food waste in our community and is open for all residents to use.

The Committee is here to support initiatives and projects that will benefit our community's Health, Wellbeing & Youth, so please let either the Committee or our Working Group know if you have any ideas or if you would like to become involved.

PLANNING – COUNCILLOR COLIN PEARCE



As most people are fully aware the Planning committee of Tetbury Town Council is only an advisory committee to CDC Planning.

Over the past year the town has witnessed new and completed developments unfortunately without the infrastructure to support these developments such as leisure facilities, road structure etc.



As a committee we have not supported several developments which includes the old Tesco garage site.

Local residents are asking about the plans for a new Doctor Surgery, these details will need to be presented to Cotswold District Council before the Town Council can provide comments on the new surgery.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE – VIC SUPERVISOR – VICTORIA BOLWELL

Tetbury Visitors Centre is supported by our Heritage and Regeneration committee who throughout the year have supported the team in the VIC. The H&R committee are continually looking at improvements for tourism.

Tetbury Visitor Information Centre would like to say thank you to all the customers that continued to come through the door in early 2021. As we came out of yet another lockdown, we took that time to reevaluate the face of the shop.

We sadly said goodbye to a long serving member of staff Suzi Barnes, Suzi was iconic in our shop and had become close to many residents.

At the start of the summer, we refreshed the face of the shop making the maps and books more accessible and the space in the shop safe for the guidelines that were in place.

Our sales of maps and walks increased every month, we would like to thank The Tetbury District Footpath Group who provide us with our best sellers. If you are interested in getting out locally, we stock these walks and highly recommend them.

Our four-legged friends become a popular visitor too, we have a variety of items from mugs to note pads and of course the best dog friendly pub walks!

Tetbury Visitors Information Centre staff pride themselves in not only being there for visitors but for residents too. We can provide you with bus timetables, help with booking Coach Trips and Train journeys.

We welcomed Sue Leyfield to the team in April, Sue has lived in Tetbury for over 30 years and is familiar with the town.

If you have not already seen our Instagram and Facebook pages Matthew keeps our feeds current and highlights the local business and events around the Town. Our followers increase weekly and we have a loyal following.

We were proud to make it into the top 100 places to visit in Gloucestershire at the SoGlos 2022 awards.



Matthew, Sue and I are looking forward to the coming months and warmer weather. Please pop in and say hi if you are passing!



CLIMATE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP – COUNCILLOR JUDITH TAYLOR

The working group, made up of councillors, representatives of Greening Tetbury and the lead officer at Cotswold District Council, have continued to meet virtually on a monthly basis. Over the last year, there has been clear evidence of the council tackling climate change issues including: the composting of grass cutting and leaves, the introduction of wildflower verges, the removal of weeds by pulling them up (not using pesticides), a review of all planning applications to ensure they take into account strategies to reduce a building's carbon footprint, and looking to develop an infrastructure plan to support walking and cycling in and around Tetbury.

Greening Tetbury are valuable members of this group and have many links to other organisations particularly in relation to biodiversity. The council will be increasing the number of bat boxes in its two churchyards.

Another priority is to encourage residents to calculate their own carbon footprint...please keep an eye on the council's website for more information on this in the coming months.

HEALTH, WELLBEING & YOUTH WORKING GROUP – COUNCILLOR ANN PEARCE

The Health and Wellbeing Working Group merged with the Youth Working Group in line with the Committee. The Working Group has many members, and we have been fortunate to keep it as an online 'Teams' meeting in order that we may include many valuable partner organisations. We have participation in the group from all over County which shows the value in having such a group.



One of the ideas worked upon and taken to committee has been the Dementia Café, which is due to launch in National Dementia Week during May, this has been down to the hard work of Libby Miles of Upton Mill Care Home and Xyza McCutay of Kingsley House, who have worked together to enable a vision for a much-needed service. We have a representative of Cotswold District Council attending from the Wellbeing team, this enables us to share more information with the schools and other organisations. Through this we are able to source funding ideas and also apply for them within the correct criteria. A recent proposal, borne out of the rapid rise in the cost of living, was also accepted by the committee to provide additional funding if needed to all Youth providers in the town to allow any child to still attend their chosen out of school activity, if for reasons of finance, any parent is unable to continue sending their child to such an activity.

If you would like to get involved in the Working Group then please do get in touch, Working Groups are there for residents to join, and a vital part of shaping the Town Councils visions and priorities.

HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP – COUNCILLOR COLIN PEARCE

1. Tetbury Town Council are hoping after many years that the Traffic Regulations Order will be completed in the summer, this includes double yellow lines added at certain junction around the town to make them safer.
2. Gloucestershire County Council have fixed the speed signs on Bath Rd/Wiltshire Bridge and Charlton Rd.
3. Highways working group are still working with Gloucestershire Highways to provide mobile speed signs
4. Members of the working group have been trained by the Police to carry out speed watch checks within the town, this is being co-ordinated by Mark Baker.
5. Lorry Watch is still running as we have concerns for our town's fabric, this is coordinated by Jackie Williams.
6. There is a campaign to reduce speed limits in certain areas of the town
7. Parking is still a major issue in the town, we have set up a working group to support the work that has been carried out by District Councillor Norris.
8. Please call 08000 514 514 to report potholes/objects on the highway / exposed cables / flooded roads/ street and lane lighting

*NEW PICKET HARP ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (NPHAA) –
COUNCILLOR NIKKI IND – TETBURY TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE*

As it was last year, apart from socially distanced meetings on site, general meetings and the AGM could not take place, however, work at the Allotments continued as normal.

Building on the previous work undertaken by the hard- working committee and allotment holders, over the last year a programme of replacing the sheds has commenced, with support from Tetbury Town Council via S106 allocated funding. This programme will allow for a set number of sheds to be replaced each year as they deteriorate.

In addition to this, the Association are looking at potentially installing a pedestrian gateway to the site and as plots are vacated or tenants wish to downsize, some plots are being split in half to assist with the waiting list.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire Committee for their hard work and particularly Charlie and Nigel, whose commitment to the Association makes a real difference.



Tetbury
Town Council

POLICE MUSEUM – MARIA MARSH - CURATOR

It has been an interesting and another slightly different year at the museum. We re-opened at the beginning of August for two days a week- Wednesday and Fridays. The museum is looking great with a new coat of paint. Another change is that we have our friendly volunteers on hand to greet people and answer questions and give tours of the museum. This has proved popular with visitors judging by the comments we get in the visitor's book. Our visitor numbers are very good at around 1300 for the six months we have been open. We have many different activities volunteers can get involved with and if you are interested do get in touch.

We have been very busy at the museum coming up with ideas and making plans.

Thanks to a Recovery grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund we were able to engage an audience development consultant and a governance consultant. We now have new leaflets and a logo. The funds also allowed us to create a new website designed for our visitors - tetburypolicemuseum.org.uk

The museum was lucky to be involved with the Rebuilding the Foundations project along with ten other museums in the Gloucestershire. One great benefit besides all the training and information provided by the consultants involved is the connections we have made with the other museums in the project.

Another exciting project was the grant from Historic England to repair and restore the outside Victorian staircase. We are indebted to the hard work and dedication of Simon Foster-Bryan of Woodworx and his team for the wonderful job they did. After a couple jobs are completed, we intend to have a grand opening. And we are very grateful for the recovery grant from Historic England to enable this fascinating feature to be restored.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN HIRST

Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet have agreed a proposed £520.2 million budget for 2022/2023 that promises to Build Back Better in Gloucestershire. This budget will see an increase of more than £37 million from the 2021/2022 budget.

Spending plans include an extra £100million for our roads, a £150 million injection into school buildings with a multi-million investment in our market towns and high streets and ongoing support and protection for the most vulnerable in our communities. There is also a commitment to continue investing in Gloucestershire's fight against COVID-19 and more investment in the County's fire service.



It will also be an environmentally friendly budget with funding for 26 miles of cycle track from Stroud to Bishop's Cleeve to encourage greener more active travel and the creation of a Climate Emergency Fund with at least £1million invested each year.

A public consultation was held between December and January to all the County's residents to have their say on the budget proposals. Cabinet considered these views before proposing the final budget for the Council to vote on at its meeting in February. Responses saw 69% of residents agree or strongly agree with the budget proposals for the 2022/2023 budget.

The priority areas of Adult Services and Children's Services will receive an extra £13 million and £14 million respectively. Public Health Services, Climate Change, Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue, Digital Services as well as the delivery of jobs, homes and infrastructure are also priority areas within the 2022/2023 budget.

Many individuals wish to join our county on a monthly basis with at least 80 people per month joining as British Citizens. Almost 630,000 people live in the County of Gloucestershire, and we are very lucky to have a strong employment base which means that most of our residents can also work within our diverse economy. The County is also very proud of the way that we support our communities with excellent hospitals and NHS facilities, good schools and excellent faith relations together with a range of voluntary services which help the common aspects of our lives to flourish in the many towns and villages of Gloucestershire.



INDEPENDENT DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – TETBURY EAST AND RURAL WARD



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR NIKKI IND

This year I have continued to work closely with the Town Council, virtually and now once again personally and I am pleased to have this opportunity to update residents. At the District Council, I was proud to be elected as Vice-Chair at the Annual Meeting and I currently sit on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, along with several Boards and Working Groups.



As well as the day-to-day routine work, the Health and Wellbeing of our residents continues to be a priority for me, as I believe that this should be at the core of the work I do. I have supported the following grant funding applications - Tetbury Rail Lands Trust for their work extending access for all from Larkhill to the Trouble House and two new defibrillators in Tetbury, the first located in the Telephone Box on Northfield Road and the second to be installed shortly at the Town Council Offices. As a Town Councillor, I have been the Chair of the Health, Wellbeing & Youth Committee this year.

I regularly attend the Cotswold Community Network meetings, working closely with the Cotswold District Council Healthy Communities Team and partner organisations, sharing best practice throughout the District. This year I was particularly pleased to attend the first Friendship Café in Tetbury, this Town Council initiative has been a real success and I look forward to the future and developing services in the Town.

I have continued working with Council colleagues at County, District and Town level on the ongoing local issues of the GP Surgery, Dolphins Hall Project, Health & Wellbeing provision – including Leisure and Recreation - for all ages, Highways - traffic, speeding, pavements and parking - and Climate Change. It is important for me to engage with all colleagues who can help develop services for us all living here in our corner of the Cotswolds.

If you have any queries or issues you would like me to raise on your behalf or if you want to know more about the work I am doing, please let me know and I look forward to another year working with and for you.

Best wishes

Councillor Nikki Ind

Nikki.Ind@cotswold.gov.uk

CONSERVATIVE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – TETBURY WITH UPTON WARD



DISTRICT COUNCILLOR RICHARD NORRIS

Firstly, thank you to everyone in the community who worked tirelessly to help support those who were affected by the power cut back in February, impacting large parts of the Tetbury with Upton ward. It was pleasing to see so many residents had already received support from friends, neighbours, and relatives when I visited the areas without power, with everyone pulling together.



As a local councillor, I see my role as a representative of the community I serve. My responsibility is to the community that has elected me - to be its voice and advocate. Communities and people come first, and I continue to listen to your views, understand your needs and respond appropriately.

I am pleased to have delivered bike racks to the town centre having recognised there was a great need for cyclists (both residents and visitors) to have somewhere to leave their bikes safely. Tetbury is a popular destination for cyclists and the new bike racks will encourage visitors to spend more time here, and visit our wonderful independent shops and cafes. Tetbury is an even better place for cyclists to visit now.

I have completed a Tetbury Car Parking report which has been passed to CDC, GCC and the Town Council. Our town centre shares a common and pressing issue with many communities across the district. Provision of appropriate parking is complicated by problematic 'pinch-points' and competing demands from different groups. I am pleased to report that the Town Council have agreed to form a 'Working Group'. This is only the start and I am hopeful that the issues we face with both On-Street and Off-Street parking are now taken seriously.

Disappointingly, and despite an amendment I tabled at the CDC Budget meeting in February, an attempt to save 'free after 3' parking was voted down. Free after 3 will now be removed from West Street and Church Street car parks. Many of you joined me shopping local as restrictions were relaxed, supporting our local independent retailers. We recognised the importance then and we continue to now - removing free after 3 from car parks is a backwards step.

Over the past year I have been involved in a number of community led events and it was a pleasure to help transform a popular local footpath, improve local biodiversity, and support the environment by helping to plant 700 trees adjacent to Bath Road. This is a tangible contribution to help the environment and improve our local area.

There are many other actions over the year to report on and I will be communicating these to Tetbury with Upton residents in the near future.

If there are any issues that concern you then please contact me, you can get in touch a number of ways.

Tel: 07879441938

Email: richard.norris@cotswold.gov.uk

Facebook: @richardntetbury

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you

POLICE ANNUAL REPORT – COVERS PERIOD OF 1ST APRIL 2021-31ST MARCH 2022
PC CHRISTOPHER PRITCHARD (AREA BEAT MANAGER)



During this period there were **254** crimes.

CRIME BREAKDOWN

Burglary Residential – 8

Burglary Business and Community – 2

Theft – 33

Shoplifting - 25

Criminal Damage – 24

Violence – All of the below are classed as violent crimes:-

Malicious Communications – 18

Harassment -23

Public, Fear, Alarm or Distress – 26

Assault without Injury – 29

Assault with injury including a police officer being assaulted – 50

Coercive and Controlling Behaviour - 6

Fraud – 1

Other Notifiable such as public order offences - 9

INFORMATION

Tetbury Neighbourhood Policing Team is pleased to welcome our new Beat Officer PC Chris Pritchard

The Tetbury Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted by telephoning the non-emergency number 101 or emailing 101@gloucestershire.police.uk Information can also be passed via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. We are also contactable online via the Constabulary website. www.gloucestershire.police.uk and follow the links from the Neighbourhood Policing section on the left of the page.