

Fetes and Festivals

There's a summer of fun ahead, with three festivals to enjoy in just over week in June!

It all steps off with **Corsham Walking Festival** (corshamwalkingfestival.co.uk), from 10-12 June. As always, the Walking Festival brings you Corsham and the surrounding countryside in all its glory with guided walks discovering everything from ancient parishes to wonderful wildlife.



The ever-popular, free Children's Treasure Hunt is back, and there's a Cryptic Mystery Walk (True or False – Can You Tell the Difference) too. For more information, and to book, visit the website.

Then, from 13-19 June, it's **The Pound's Green Sky Festival** (greenskyfestival.org.uk) It's everything we've come to expect from the Blue Sky version of the familiar, family-



friendly festival we all love but, this year, it's a chance for The Pound Arts Trust to show off some of the work they have been doing in order to be carbon-neutral by 2030. Alongside that, there will be talks, workshops, music, theatre and more – all linked by the green theme. Check out the website for up-to-date news on this year's acts and activities.

And as if that wasn't enough, on 18 June, from 10am-4pm, the Town Council's **Taste of Corsham** food festival is back! Come and try, buy and enjoy the best local and regional food and

drink in the town centre. There'll also be a taste trail, live music, crafts and lots, lots more.

Add in Summer Busking Saturdays, a long weekend for the Platinum Jubilee (see p2 for more details) and the Summer Fete (see below), and we are set for the best summer yet! Come and join us.



Dates for Your Diary

30 April-12 June
Jubilee Beacon Trail
Town Centre

1 June
Corsham Area Board
Location tbc, 7pm

10-12 June
Walking Festival
corshamwalkingfestival.co.uk

13-19 June
Green Sky Festival
greenskyfestival.org.uk

18 June
Taste of Corsham
Town Centre, 10am-4pm

9 July
Corsham Summer Fete
Springfield Rec, 12-4pm

10 September
Street Fair
Town Centre, 12-4pm

Every Tuesday
Corsham Market
8am onwards

Corsham Summer Fete

It has been four years since our last Summer Fete so we're planning to make it bigger and better than ever - and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee at the same time!

There will be the usual mix of stalls, activities, fun and games, fairground rides, live music, entertainment, food and drink and more. Come and celebrate Corsham and Her Majesty the Queen's historic reign with your friends and family. The Fete takes place on Saturday 9 July, from 12-4pm, at Springfield Rec. If you are interested in having a stall or being a part of the Fete, contact Sharon Thomas at the Town Hall (sthomas@corsham.gov.uk).





From the Chairman

The following statement on the Russian invasion of Ukraine was endorsed by the Town Council at its meeting on 14 March: Corsham Town Council supports the people of Ukraine and strongly condemns the attacks and violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We express our full support and solidarity

to the Ukrainian people and to our peers in local government in Ukraine.

Whilst it is easy to make expressions of support, it is hugely difficult to know how best to respond, either as a Council or as individuals, to the awful plight of the Ukrainian people. We suggest checking Wiltshire Council's website (wiltshire.gov.uk/support-for-ukraine) if you are considering making a donation and the Town Council will continue to look for ways in which we might be able to provide meaningful help.

The work of the Town Council pales into insignificance in comparison to the situation in Ukraine, but I'd like to draw attention to two of our projects. In our budget for next year (see page 3) we have included enough money to allow the two-hours' free parking to continue. We have had very positive feedback from town centre businesses

and residents on the value and impact of the scheme. Keeping the town centre alive and vibrant is a major priority and we urge residents to keep up the 'shop local' habit. We had very positive feedback from residents, too, on our proposals for improvements on Newlands Road and are taking steps to move to more detailed designs (see below).

We have also increased the budget for Health and Wellbeing, allowing us to support and fund initiatives in the town, such as:

Activities for Young People – Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ) has been struggling to find volunteers to support the Friday night youth club sessions it runs at the Springfield Campus. We have recently agreed to support CYZ with a grant of £8,200 so that they can employ youth workers to run the sessions. We are also providing £7,000 to The Rise Trust charity to employ two

trained outreach youth workers for two evenings a week (in a 12-month pilot scheme) to engage with young people. In the longer term, we would like to see a much greater availability of out-of-school activities.

Families with Children Under 5 – The Rise Trust currently runs weekly 'Chat and Chill' toddler sessions at Springfield. We are providing £1,400 to the Trust to enable these Tuesday sessions to double in length for the next year.

I sincerely hope the war in Ukraine will be over by the time of our next newsletter but, in the meantime, I know that our caring Corsham community will find ways of supporting the Ukrainian people in this heartbreaking time of trouble.

**Steve Abbott, Chairman,
Corsham Town Council
cilrsabbott@corsham.gov.uk**

Jubilee Jamboree

This summer sees the official celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

As a Town Council we want to mark this historic occasion by creating a legacy which will benefit future generations, so all our tree planting has been included as part of The Queen's Green Canopy (queensgreencanopy.org).

We also want a celebration for the community, so this year's Summer Fete (see p1) will be in honour of the Jubilee. And we want some fun, so we will be hosting a very special digital

story-trail - from 30 April until 12 June - around the town where Sir Barnaby Beacon will introduce you to his friends and guide you through the history of the Queen's reign (jubileebeacontrail.com).

If you are planning your own celebration or street party, you will find lots of useful help and advice at wiltshire.gov.uk/highways-platinum-jubilee-celebrations.



Strategic Plan Update

Thank you to everyone who let us know what they think the Town Council's priorities should be in our new Strategic Plan for 2022-26.

From a list of eight priorities, the top five were Environment/Climate Change, Transport and Highways, Community Facilities, Health and Wellbeing and Physical/Historic/Public Realm.

The other themes – Support for Businesses, Arts and Culture and Tourism and Events – were also well supported and will play a part in the Plan. Overall, our aim is to keep delivering the work we already do, while continually improving the town for the good of residents, visitors, businesses and the environment. Look out for more information on the new Strategic Plan next time.

Public Realm Consultation

Corsham Town Council has been working with urban designers from Atkins to develop plans to improve the public realm in the Newlands Road area.

The aim is to improve the visual amenity of the area, improve pedestrian routes from residential areas to the town centre and to rebalance provision for road users, making it easier for pedestrians and cyclists. In December 2021, the

Town Council undertook some consultation on Atkins' initial plans. The overall response from residents was very positive with 72 of 79 respondents in favour of improving the area. We also received useful comments and suggestions which will help inform the plans as they develop so thank you to everyone who took part. More detailed designs will be produced, with more consultation to follow.



Council Tax 2022/23

For 2022/23, the overall increase in the Town Council's element of the Council Tax bill is 4.83%. The increase is from £210.05 to £220.30 for a Band D equivalent property for the year.

This increase equates to just under 20p per week. The Town Council's overall budget for 2022/23 will be £1,228,776 and the precept will be £1,093,192.

Notable projects and service developments the Town Council is planning to start or continue in the coming year include:

Parking Initiatives	£95,000
Public Realm Improvements	£70,000
Service Delegation and Asset Transfer	£50,000
Strategic Plan Delivery	£45,450
Cycle Network	£25,000
Environmental Projects	£20,600
New Workshop	£20,000
Play Area Improvements	£20,000
Health/Wellbeing Initiatives	£15,000
Fete/Events	£11,330
Destination Marketing	£10,300
Grants – General	£10,300
Asset Management Plan	£10,000
Public Art Strategy	£10,000
Youth Activities	£10,000
Building Contingency	£5,000
Ground Maintenance Equipment (vehicles/plant)	£5,000
Springfield Improvements	£5,000
Transport Schemes	£5,000

An allowance of £40,000 has been included for income from the Community Infrastructure Levy. There are existing earmarked reserves for several projects. The most significant of these are: Service Delegation and Asset Transfer, and Community Infrastructure Levy, some of which is allocated to Public Realm Improvements in the town centre.

The Town Council always gives careful consideration to setting the budget and has to strike a balance between providing the services and facilities that local people want and the impact that increasing the budget can have on residents.

Corsham Town Council Budget 2022/23

How we plan to spend the money

Expenditure	2022/23	2021/22
Finance and Administration	£412,692	£378,344
Property and Amenities	£639,281	£612,204
Community Services	£176,803	£181,894
Total gross expenditure	£1,228,776	£1,172,442
Less	2022/23	2021/22
Income	£135,584	£141,800
Use of reserves	£0	£0
Budget requirement (precept)	£1,093,192	£1,030,642

Meet Your Councillors

Our two newest Town Councillors introduce themselves.

1. What brought you to Corsham?
2. What do you like best about Corsham?
3. What made you decide to become a Town Councillor?
4. What do you hope to achieve during your time on the Council?



Tanvir Bush
Corsham Ladbrook Ward

1. I came to Corsham in 2012 to do a Creative Writing PhD with Bath Spa University. Imagine being able to study from the upper floors of Corsham Court! It was a writer's gift – and to be situated in such a beautiful place, being honked at by peacocks!
2. It is quirky and full of kindness. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside and lots of places for my guide dog to run and play with other dogs (when she isn't working, of course!). People seem to really look out for each other.
3. As a disabled activist, inclusion and access, equity and compassion are hugely important to me. As I have fallen in love with Corsham, I felt a way to give back to the community would be to become a Councillor and help embed these things for everyone. I have a lot to learn, but a lot to give too.
4. I would like to see Corsham become a leader of inclusion, diversity and access in the area, a place where all people have a voice and a presence. If I can help with this in anyway, I will!



Gareth Ward
Corsham Pickwick Ward

1. I started coming to Corsham for work meetings in 2002 and quickly concluded that it would be a lovely place to settle, away from the London suburbs. In 2005 I was lucky enough to find a job locally and move here.
2. Where else can you walk out of a lovely independent shop, onto a period-drama-featured High Street, to find the traffic stopped by a couple of peacocks ambling across the road?
3. My main reason for becoming a Town Councillor is somewhat selfish: I think it will be interesting, although I am sure there will also be frustrating moments! I have the utmost respect for the non-political approach that the Town Council has adopted and its efforts to support both the community and local businesses.
4. Corsham is already a great place to live and work. The people of Corsham have always made me feel welcome. I hope to represent the community and help make sure that the town continues to thrive.

Our three newest Councillors will introduce themselves to you in the next issue.

New Website

The Town Council is planning to launch its new website this month. It is easy to use and find your way around and we have added lots of additional

information, including details on Wiltshire Council's services. Do let us know what you think, and please bear with us in the early days while we ensure it all works as it should.

Corsham Gastard Ward

Tina Ellis 07751 437825

Corsham Neston Ward

Jeremy Brook 01225 810059

Nicholas Brakspear 07842 125835

Vacant

Corsham Ladbrook Ward

Steve Abbott 07795 421933

Alan Brown 01249 715818

Tanvir Bush 07780 874594

Neville Farmer 07966 150444

Ruth Hopkinson* 01249 713216

Dave Jarman 07787 532650

Ann Morris 01249 713181

Ruth Williams 01249 701586

Corsham Pickwick Ward

Helen Belcher* 07967 466909

Alun Crockford 07939 014034

Mervyn Jackson 01249 716121

George McCaffery 07803 415655

Jane Robertson 07929 996729

Tracy Smith 07482 522684

Gareth Ward 07740 348595

Anthea White 01249 713827

*Cllrs Helen Belcher and Ruth Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors

Environment Update

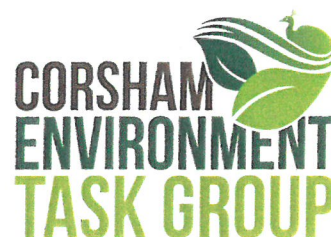
Here is the latest news on just some of the environmental projects the Town Council is working on or supporting. To find out more, or to get involved, contact Beth Searle (bsearle@corsham.gov.uk) at the Town Hall.

Face Masks and Lateral Flow Test Recycling

We are working with specialist company ReFactory - who create new products from single-use plastics - to help residents recycle Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and lateral flow tests. There is now a recycling bin in the main entrance at Springfield Community Campus (not at the Recycling Hub) where you can drop off lateral flow tests (in the plastic/foil bag they come in), disposable face masks, plastic gloves, and visors/face screens. This scheme reduces the amount of PPE that is taken to landfill or ends up littering our natural environment.

High Street Recycling Bins

We have been really pleased to see the volume of recycling being collected in our new High Street bins. This has drastically reduced the amount of public waste that Corsham was previously generating and sending to landfill. We would, however, like to remind all residents that these bins cannot take glass; glass is only recycled through household recycling collections.



CORSHAM ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP

Due to the success of this pilot project, we will be installing more public recycling bins around Corsham.

Corsham Community Garden

'Environmental group Corsham Climate Action (CCA), in partnership with The Pound Arts Trust, is creating a community garden in the old playground area behind The Pound,' writes CCA Chair Adam Walton. 'We received funding from Corsham Area Board, Corsham Town Council and Corsham Co-op for this project, and have prepared a design for the garden and started to clear the site, in preparation for hard landscaping work and the planting of trees and shrubs.'

'Community gardens offer great benefits in terms of well-being and environmental awareness. We intend to work with local groups to enable the garden to be accessible to a broad range of people across our community who can work in the garden, learn about gardening and nature, and enjoy another green open space in the town.'

'We have a small team of volunteers working on the garden. If you would like to help, please contact corshamclimateaction@gmail.com.'



Easter Trail

The eggs are back! To take part in our fun, family trail, all you have to do during the Easter holidays is find the

chick-shaped eggs hiding in shop windows in the town centre, let us know where you saw them, and you could win a prize! Download your entry form at www.corsham.gov.uk or pick one up from the Town Hall.



Play Area Consultations

Corsham Town Council is taking on five play areas from Wiltshire Council, initially under a seven-year agreement.

The play areas are Bences Lane, Katherine Park - the large play area including the surrounding open space, Katherine Park - small play area, and both play areas off Pockeridge Road. The Town Council plans to improve maintenance straight away with more significant improvements to follow, in consultation with residents. We hope to take over management of the play areas at the beginning of April.

Comments – have your say

Are there any other local concerns on which you would like to comment? Let us know your views in the space provided below and return to:

David Martin, Chief Executive, Corsham Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0EZ, email: towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk or visit our website at: www.corsham.gov.uk, or you can call us on 01249 702130. You can also send us comments via our Facebook page. At the moment, our monthly Town Council Surgeries are cancelled but please do get in touch with us via any of the ways listed here, or contact your local Councillor.

Signed..... Print.....

Address.....

Telephone..... Email.....

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