



Annual Report

2021-22



Councillors and Staff May 2021-April 22*

Corsham Gastard Ward

Cllr Tina Ellis 10 Monks Lane, Gastard, Corsham SN13 9PH

Corsham Ladbroke Ward

Cllr Steve Abbott Weaver's Cottage, 71 High Street, Corsham SN13 0HA (Chairman)

Cllr Alan Brown 21 Hitherspring, Corsham SN13 9UT

Cllr Tanvir Bush c/o Town Hall

Cllr Neville Farmer 1a Post Office Lane, Corsham SN13 0HJ

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson** Priory Cottage, Bences Lane, Corsham SN13 0DD

Cllr Dave Jarman 3 Paul Street, Corsham SN13 9DG

Cllr Ann Morris c/o Town Hall

Cllr Ruth Williams 39 Priory Street, Corsham SN13 0AS

Corsham Neston Ward

Cllr Jeremy Brook 29 Elley Green, Neston, Corsham SN13 9TX

Cllr Nicholas Brakspear Pickwick Manor, Corsham SN13 0HU

Vacant

Corsham Pickwick Ward

Cllr Helen Belcher** 3 Masons Way, Corsham SN13 9XW

Cllr Alun Crockford 30 Paul Street, Corsham SN13 9DG

Cllr Mervyn Jackson 28 Purleigh Road, Corsham SN13 9LJ

Cllr George McCaffery 68a Pickwick Road, Corsham SN13 9DB

Cllr Jane Robertson c/o Town Hall

Cllr Tracy Smith c/o Town Hall

Cllr Gareth Ward 5 Macie Drive, Corsham SN13 9EJ

Cllr Anthea White 2 Dairy Mews, Pickwick, Corsham SN13 0BT

*These were serving Councillors as of April 2022. For the most up-to-date contact details for Town Councillors visit our website:

www.corsham.gov.uk, call us on 01249 702130 or email us at towncouncil@corsham.gov.

Boundary changes at May 2021's elections saw the loss of the Corsham West Ward and Corsham Town become Corsham Ladbroke.

Councillors Who Left 2021-22

Gastard Ward: Cllr Gillian Sanders

Neston Ward: Cllrs Peter Anstey and Raymond Le-Var

Town Ward: Cllrs Lucy Bray, Maz Wakeman and Carrie Woodward

Pickwick Ward: Cllr Lesley Jefferson

West Ward: Cllr Steven Moysey

Chief Executive

David Martin

Head of Community Services

Sharon Thomas

Community Services Officer (Arts) *

Sarah Leigh

Community Services Officer (Health and Wellbeing)*

Vickie Fauset

Head of Finance and Administration*

Maxine Jones

Planning and Finance Officer*

Kirsty Gilby

Administration Officer*

Rachel Sellens

Cleaner/Caretaker*

Alex Debank

Head of Technical Services

James Whittleton

Environmental Project Officer

Beth Searle

Technical Assistant*

Carol Clark

Lead Groundsperson

Neil Ash

Groundsperson (Amenity)

John Davison (up to May 2021)

Trudy Boughey (from July 2021)

Mark Gilby

Groundsperson (Property)

Brendan Kelly

Street Cleaner*

Martin Hirst (from April 2021)

* part-time

**Cllrs Belcher and Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors



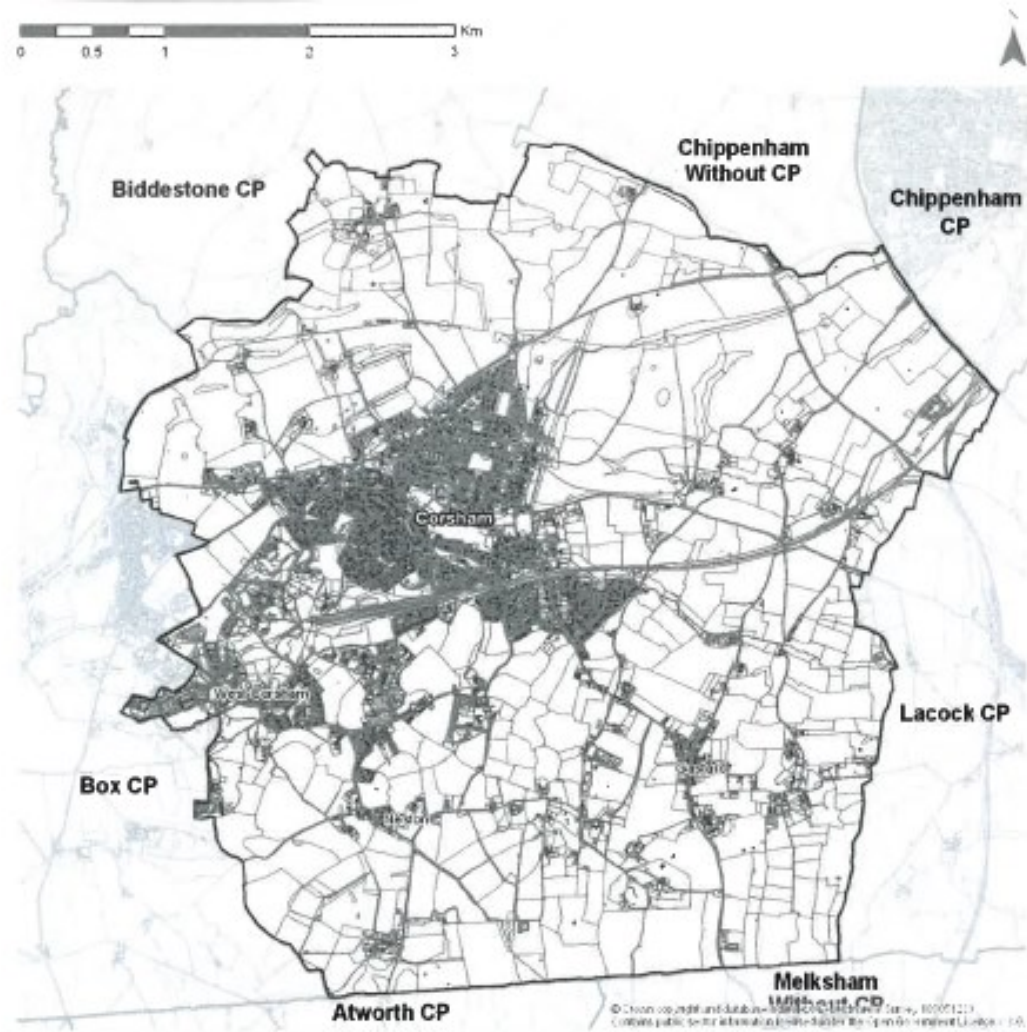
Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0EZ
01249 702130 towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk
www.corsham.gov.uk



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Corsham Parish - 2021-22 Parish Boundary Map



Corsham Town Council's Vision

The Town Council is coming to the end of its second Strategic Plan, for 2018-2022. Work has begun on new Strategic Plan for 2022-2026, which will be launched later in the year.

There is a strong desire to make sure the Strategic Plan reflects community aspirations and addresses local issues. Objectives within the plan are based on research and feedback from a wide range of sources.



The Town Council exists to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of Corsham.

The Council provides leadership through community governance and engagement in a democratic and representational way.

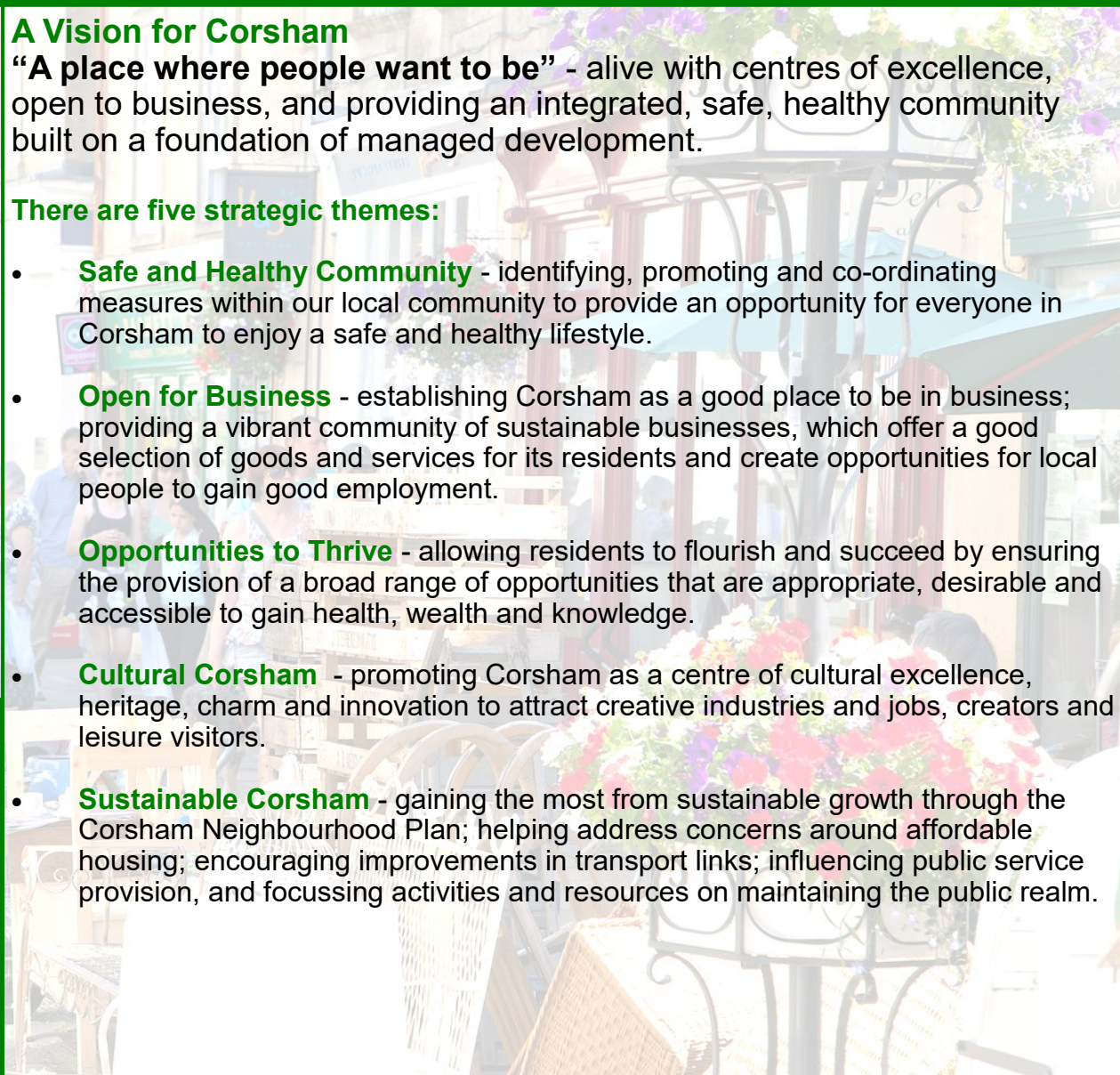
To find out more about the work of the Town Council and the aims of the Strategic Plan visit www.corsham.gov.uk

A Vision for Corsham

“A place where people want to be” - alive with centres of excellence, open to business, and providing an integrated, safe, healthy community built on a foundation of managed development.

There are five strategic themes:

- **Safe and Healthy Community** - identifying, promoting and co-ordinating measures within our local community to provide an opportunity for everyone in Corsham to enjoy a safe and healthy lifestyle.
- **Open for Business** - establishing Corsham as a good place to be in business; providing a vibrant community of sustainable businesses, which offer a good selection of goods and services for its residents and create opportunities for local people to gain good employment.
- **Opportunities to Thrive** - allowing residents to flourish and succeed by ensuring the provision of a broad range of opportunities that are appropriate, desirable and accessible to gain health, wealth and knowledge.
- **Cultural Corsham** - promoting Corsham as a centre of cultural excellence, heritage, charm and innovation to attract creative industries and jobs, creators and leisure visitors.
- **Sustainable Corsham** - gaining the most from sustainable growth through the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan; helping address concerns around affordable housing; encouraging improvements in transport links; influencing public service provision, and focussing activities and resources on maintaining the public realm.



Corsham Town Council - Chairman's Annual Report

This report was given at the Corsham Celebrates event, incorporating the Annual Town Meeting, held at the Town Hall on 28 April 2022.

Town Council Chairman, Cllr Steve Abbott gives a report on the Council's year from May 2021-April 2022.

- The main things to mention were:

The Town Council's commitment in support of government and Wiltshire Council's target to reduce carbon emissions. The Town Council would be implementing a carbon reduction action plan for its own operations, which will enable it to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. In 2022, the Town Council will implement a biodiversity action plan to protect and enhance its green and blue infrastructure.

The Town Council's support and solidarity for the people of Ukraine following the Russian invasion. In a statement, the Town Council said 'Corsham Town Council supports the people of Ukraine and strongly condemns the attacks and violations of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

The ongoing work the Town Council has undertaken to help Corsham recover from the coronavirus pandemic, from business support to funding mental health initiatives for young people.

Despite the ongoing impact of the pandemic, we have - as far as possible - continued to deliver against our five strategic themes:

A Safe and Healthy Community

- As well as continuing to contribute to the work of the Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group, the Town Council's Health and Wellbeing Working Group continued to support a number of organisations and groups in the town, particularly those focusing on young people and mental health.
- We retained 'Walkers are Welcome' status for the town through our links with the Corsham Walking Festival team, who ran their very successful event in June, after a year's gap due to Covid.
- We continued to actively review road safety in the town through the use of our speed indicator device (SID) as well as researching 20mph zones and their locations.
- We continued to consult residents on our work, including on the public realm improvements in the town centre and on our plans to take on the play areas at Katherine Park and Potley/Pockeridge.

Open for Business

- Two hours' free parking continued, funded by the Town Council, and feedback from the town centre's businesses and retailers continues to be very positive.
- We continued to work with Visit Wiltshire and the Great West Way on our tourism plans.
- On Saturdays through the summer, in a joint project with Martingate, our Summer Busking Saturdays returned, offering local musicians the opportunity to perform, while encouraging people into the town to listen, and to stay longer. And our first event in nearly two years, the Street Fair, took place in September, followed by the Christmas Lights Switch On in December.

Opportunities to Thrive

- The Town Council continued to share information about free online activities and educational opportunities on its Facebook page.
- The Town Council funded various projects in support of young people's mental health, including the Stay Safe Initiative (internet safety) and The Rhythm Practice (music therapy). We also funded RISE Trust's work with families and pre-school children, allowing them to extend their sessions at Springfield Campus and run various parenting courses. Corsham Youth Zone, the Friday night youth club, continued to receive grant funding from us.
- Corsham in Bloom returned, with the judging taking place in person after 2020's photographic entries.

Cultural Corsham

- We continued to support and engage with the Pound Arts Centre, and help promote the activities and events they were able to hold, during what continued to be a difficult year for them and the Arts sector as a whole.
- Our long-established relationship with the Peacock Arts Trail committee continued, as the Trail returned, albeit in a slightly different format, in October.
- The Town Council's commitment to increasing public artworks in the parish saw us commission local artist Anya Beaumont to create new entrance gates for the Valley Road entrance of Springfield Rec, and Caroline Rudge designed artwork for the Lacock Road cemetery. We also continue to work with The Brunel Shed on the refurbishment of two more quarry trolleys which are due to be installed on Park Lane.
- StoryTown, a celebration of story-telling in all its formats, returned as a hybrid festival.

Sustainable Corsham

- In October 2021, Corsham Town Council declared a climate and ecological emergency, stating: Corsham Town Council fully accepts the need for urgent action in response to the climate and ecological emergencies that we face. We are committed to reducing the carbon footprint of our community in support of central government and Wiltshire Council targets to reduce carbon emissions. We are implementing a Carbon Reduction Plan for our own operations which will enable us to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- The Town Council's commitment to the environment saw us recruit a full-time Environmental Project Officer.
- Projects undertaken, often in conjunction with Corsham Climate Action (formerly Transcoco), have included the town's first Eco Fair, the wildflowering of amenity sites, tree-planting, the use of an electric vehicle by our grounds team and the replacement of petrol-run tools eco-friendly alternatives, surveying local businesses regarding their environmental credentials and offering help and support where needed and ensuring that all the Town Council's projects and events help to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Our tree-planting was included as part of The Queen's Green Canopy, to mark the Platinum Jubilee. The memorial oak planted at the Garden of Remembrance on 1 November, in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh, was also registered as part of the Canopy.
- Work on a rail station for Corsham has continued via the Town Team, with a successful bid to the Department of Transport for funding approved in November 2021.

Governance

Following the local elections in May 2021, the Town Council was reduced to 13 Councillors, all of whom were elected unopposed. The vacancies have been advertised as co-opted positions and we hope to have a full contingent of 20 Councillors in due course.

As the Town Council's work has increased, the Town Hall team has grown in response, with the recruitment of Carol Clark as Technical Assistant to work with the Head of Technical Services; Vickie Fauset as Community Services Officer (Health and Wellbeing) - a role created in response to the pandemic, and Beth Searle joining as Environmental Project Officer. The Grounds Team has also seen changes, with the retirement of John Davison, who was replaced by Trudy Boughey. Mark Gilby also increased his role on the team.

Much of this Council year was still affected by the coronavirus pandemic, with the alternative operating arrangements set up in 2020 still in place at the start of the year, although we are seeing a slow return to some kind of pre-pandemic normality. We, again, would like to record our thanks to all those who gave, and continue to give, their time and understanding to support vulnerable people in Corsham.

Grants Scheme 2021/22

Grants

Thirteen grants were awarded during the 2021/22 financial year, reflecting the ongoing difficulties caused by the pandemic which meant that many groups and organisations were still unable to meet and thus did not need to approach the Town Council for funds.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

The Town Council runs its own Grants Scheme awarding sums of money up to £500* to community organisations working to benefit residents by improving the range of activities and services within Corsham.

Each application is considered at the Town Council's Finance and Administration Committee's meetings which take place in February, April, June, August, October and December. Priority is given to grants that help to fulfil the aims of the Town Council's Strategic Plan.

Grants can be awarded to new, as well as existing groups and there are no restrictions on whether the funds are for a capital or revenue project, but the organisation applying must be not-for-profit or charitable and grants will not be made to individuals.

For more information visit www.corsham.gov.uk/community/grants or call the Town Hall on 01249 702130.

** In exceptional circumstances, such as large capital projects, grants of over £500 can be awarded. The Town Council must be notified of such requests by September so that funds can be earmarked in the following year's budget.*

| Name of Organisation | Amount Awarded |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| The Last Baguette | £500 |
| Golden-Oldies Charity | £400 |
| The Brunel Shed | £500 |
| Citizens Advice Service | £500 |
| Families Out Loud | £500 |
| Corsham Windband Association | £500 |
| Inclusive Intergenerational Dance | £500 |
| Company for Christmas | £500 |
| Corsham Walking Festival | £500 |
| Explorer Scout Unit | £500 |
| Rewired Counselling | £500 |
| Wiltshire Digital Drive | £500 |
| Corsham Climate Action | £500 |
| Corsham Bowls Club | £2,000 |

Diary Dates for 2022

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Corsham Walking Festival | www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk | 10-12 June 2022 |
| Taste of Corsham | www.corsham.gov.uk | 18 June 2022 + FREE parking |
| Green Sky Festival | www.poundarts.org.uk | 13-19 June 2022 |
| Summer Fete | www.corsham.gov.uk | 9 July 2022 |
| Street Fair | www.corsham.gov.uk | 10 September 2022 + FREE parking |
| Corsham StoryTown | www.corsham.gov.uk | 15-16 October 2022 |
| Magic and Mayhem Festival | www.poundarts.org.uk | 14-20 November 2022 |
| Wishing Tree | www.corsham.gov.uk | 26 November 2022 |
| Christmas Lights Switch On | www.corsham.gov.uk | 2 December 2022 + FREE parking |

How to Contact the Town Council

If you require further information on any aspect of the work of the Town Council, or to comment on our Annual Report, please contact us:



**Town Hall, High Street, Corsham,
Wiltshire SN13 0EZ**

Tel: 01249 702130

Email: towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk

Website: www.corsham.gov.uk



Corsham Town Council Accounts - Balances as at 31 March 2022 Subject to Audit

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Current Assets | £ |
| Debtors | 811 |
| VAT | 18,274 |
| Current Account (Lloyds) | 72,152 |
| Investment Account (Santander) | 942,318 |
| Deposit Account (CCLA) | 200,000 |
| Petty Cash | 300 |
| Total Assets (rounded to nearest £) | 1,233,856 |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Creditors | 2,333 |
| Accruals | 5,779 |
| Receipts in Advance | 175 |
| Total Liabilities | 8,287 |
| Total Assets Less Current Liabilities | 1,225,569 |
| Capital and Reserves | |
| General Purpose Fund | 259,712 |
| Earmarked Reserves | 965,857 |
| Total Assets | £1,225,569 |

You can find more information about the Town Council and its finances at www.corsham.gov.uk/home/council/council-information/finance/.

Welcome to Corsham



