

# Corsham Town Council Newsletter

COMMUNICATING  
WITH RESIDENTS



ISSUE 72 WINTER 2023

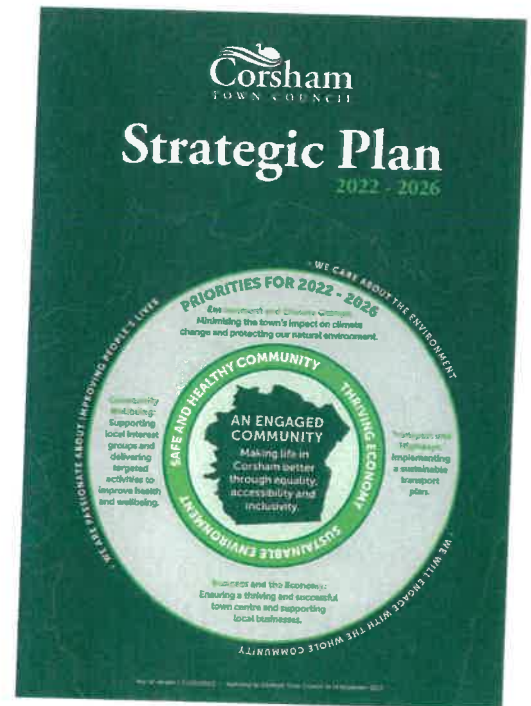
## Making Life Better in Corsham

The Town Council's Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 was approved by the Town Council at its meeting in November.

We are dedicated to making sure the Plan reflects community aspirations and addresses local issues, so our priorities - Environment and Climate Change, Transport and Highways, Business and the Economy, and Community Wellbeing – are based on research and feedback from the community.

As a public body we recognise that the decisions we make have an impact on people's lives, which is why we have put community engagement at the heart of the Plan. We want your help to shape our services and influence the decisions we make. To help us in this, we have produced a Community Engagement Strategy to help us open up new ways of getting a clearer understanding of the concerns and priorities of everyone who lives and works here. Our vision is to create 'An engaged community – making life better in Corsham through equality, accessibility and inclusivity'. As we work through the objectives and actions of the Strategic Plan, there will be plenty of opportunities for you to have your say. And you can always get in touch with us via your local Councillor; by email: [towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk); by telephone: 01249 702130; by post or by using the Comments form on the back of this newsletter, where you'll find our address, or by calling into the Town Hall during office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm; Friday 9am-4.30pm).

You can find out more about the Strategic Plan and the Community Engagement Strategy on our website, at [corsham.gov.uk](http://corsham.gov.uk), or pick up printed copies from the Town Hall. Easy read versions of the Community Engagement Strategy and the Strategic Plan priorities are also available.



## Community Awards 2023

**Do you know someone who makes a big difference to life in Corsham?**

We know there are lots of people out there showing kindness, compassion and community spirit every day and we want to recognise them. Maybe they work tirelessly as a volunteer, are a sporting inspiration, make a huge contribution to local events or are the best neighbour on your street. The Town Council wants to honour those local heroes who make a difference to our lives by presenting them with a Community Award at a

special Corsham Celebrates event on 20 April. The awards are open to everyone – unless someone has won an award in the last five years – and to all ages, so if you know an inspirational young person, tell us! Nominations are open now and forms are available on the Town Council's website, [corsham.gov.uk](http://corsham.gov.uk), or direct from the Town Hall. Nominations close on Friday 17 March 2023.

*Peter Harper (left), one 2022's winners, was recognised for his environmental work and the Community Garden at The Pound*

**CORSHAM  
COMMUNITY**  
*Awards*



## Dates for Your Diary

**31 March-26 April**  
Easter Eco Trail  
Town Centre

**22 April**  
Eco Fair  
Town Centre, 10am-2pm

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

**9 September**  
Street Fair  
Town Centre, 12-4pm

**Every Tuesday**  
Corsham Market  
8am onwards





## From the Chairman

Hello again. As we move into 2023, my wish is that the coming year will be happier than the last. In making that wish, though I am conscious that for many people in our community the light at the end of the tunnel must look pretty dim at the moment. All I can say is that we, the staff and Councillors at the Town Council, will do our very best to use the Council Tax that we receive from you, the taxpayers, to make the light

shine a bit more brightly.

As an example of that, at our Full Council meeting in January we had an inspiring presentation from the team of volunteers and staff who run Corsham Youth Zone – the Friday evening club for young people at Springfield Campus. CYZ has been running since 2015, but only just survived the difficulties caused by the pandemic. With financial and moral support from the Town Council, and Corsham Area Board, CYZ is busier than ever, and the team are more determined than ever to offer a positive vision for our young people. So, thank you to them, and to all the other individuals and organisations in our community that offer some light to those who need help in these dark times.

On a wider note, we have approved our new four-year strategic plan and have set our budget for next year. You can find more details on the Plan elsewhere in the newsletter but here are a few examples of current priorities we are

working on.

- Achieving plastic free community status
- Implementing a biodiversity action plan
- Introducing 20 mph limits at key locations in and around Corsham
- Discussions on how our bus services can be improved
- Implementing a range of wellbeing initiatives

If you want to know more about any of these areas of work or have other suggestions, please get in touch.

I can also confirm that the two-hours free parking in town has been budgeted for and will continue next year. We believe that this makes a significant contribution to keeping our town centre alive and vibrant. Other good news for the town centre is that Martingate, the owners of the old Lloyds Bank building, have submitted plans to Wiltshire Council for the refurbishment of the building, with the aim of providing a

boutique hotel with a brasserie restaurant and wine shop on the ground floor.

In closing, on behalf of all at Corsham Town Council, I send sincere congratulations to Councillor Helen Belcher on being awarded an OBE for services to transgender equality. Helen's tireless contributions on this issue have undoubtedly made a positive difference to the lives of many people in Wiltshire and beyond.

Very best wishes to all for 2023.

**Steve Abbott, Chairman,**  
Corsham Town Council  
[cilrsabbott@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:cilrsabbott@corsham.gov.uk)

### Town Council Surgery

If you have any issues, concerns or suggestions about where you live in Corsham, you can talk to a local Town Councillor at the Town Hall. Upcoming dates are 10 February, 10 March and 14 April, from 1-1.30pm. No appointment necessary.

# Environment and Climate Change Update

## Plastic Free Community Status

In 2023, the Town Council will be working to achieve plastic free community status for Corsham. The Plastic Free Community Campaign - [plasticfree.org.uk](http://plasticfree.org.uk) - was set up by Surfers Against Sewage to remove single-use plastics 'because if it's on our street today, then it's in our rivers tomorrow, and our beaches and oceans forever.' Single-use plastics are things such as plastic drinks bottles, disposable coffee cups, takeaway containers... things that have a huge impact on our environment. Becoming a plastic free community does not mean there



is no plastic at all, it means that we are starting work to reduce plastic pollution and are collaborating and including everyone to bring about the change we need to see.

In order to achieve this status, we need the support of residents and businesses. Green Ginger is the first Corsham business to sign-up. The health food store, which specialises in refills, has helped customers with 825 litres of refills in 10 weeks. That's about four tonnes of household refills in a year, meaning 400 kilos of plastic are being reused. We also need to sign up at least 20 community allies - schools, churches, sports groups, youth groups and others - to the campaign. If you would like to

join us on the plastic free journey, email [bsearle@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:bsearle@corsham.gov.uk).



## Corsham Recycling Hub

Corsham Recycling Hub is based at Springfield Campus on Beechfield Road and supported by the Town Council and Corsham Climate Action. Thanks to everyone taking everything from old toothbrushes to Pringles tubes to the Hub over the last year, a grand total of £1,946.98 has been raised for charity and 1,724 large bin bags' worth of waste has been recycled instead of being buried in landfill or incinerated. Among other incredible Hub facts, 153,480 (approx.) medicine blister packets have been recycled and £306.96 raised for Marie Curie; 2,146 inkjet cartridges have been collected to be refilled and

reused and £1,531.65 has been raised, via Recycle for Wiltshire Air Ambulance, from confectionery, biscuit, oral care, make-up, bread bag, Pringles, Babybel and Ferrero Rocher packaging!

The Hub is open 10am-7pm on Wednesdays and from 10am-4pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Visit [corshamclimateaction.org.uk/](http://corshamclimateaction.org.uk/) zero-waste to find out more.

## Corsham Eco Fair 2023

To find out more about being a Plastic Free Community, the Recycling Hub and all the small changes you can make to help the planet (and save money too), come along to the Corsham Eco Fair, taking place in the town centre, on Saturday 22 April - Earth Day - from 10am-2pm. You will find stalls, activities, information and more to help us all make a difference.





# Transport and Highways Update



Plans for a new railway station in Corsham have taken another step forward after Wiltshire Council, in partnership with Corsham Town Council, Michelle Donelan MP and other local stakeholders, submitted a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) to the Department for Transport.

The SOBC highlights that the station will improve transport connectivity to key destinations,

ensuring better access to jobs and services; support local economic growth; reduce reliance on cars and deliver transport that is affordable and financially sustainable.

Cllr Steve Abbott, Town Council Chairman, said: "Our thanks go to everybody who is working on this project, including all those who completed our public survey, which received over 1,500 responses. We also appreciate the many letters of

support received from local stakeholders. The case for the station is looking very positive and we eagerly await the outcome, which is expected in the early part of this year."

If the project passes the SOBC stage, the next step will be the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage, which looks in more detail at design, planning, access, operational feasibility and demand forecasting, followed by the Full Business Case (FBC). If the project passes all these key stages in a timely manner, it is estimated that the new station could be operational by 2028.

To keep up-to-date with the Corsham Railway Station project, visit [corsham.gov.uk/corsham-railway-station](http://corsham.gov.uk/corsham-railway-station).

The Town Council is also working with Wiltshire Council to improve safety on our roads. Following overwhelming support from our public consultation, Neston will see 20mph limits introduced on a number of routes. There are plans for 20mph limits, or a possible 20mph zone, to be introduced in Corsham but these will take longer to implement.



## 40 Years of Twinning

**Jane Gater, of Corsham Twinning Association, writes:**

On Saturday 22 October, we were delighted to welcome nine members from Jargeau Twinning Association to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Corsham-Jargeau Twinning Association, twice delayed from 2021 because of the pandemic.

A busy four days included skittles at The Corsham Club competing for the traditional Henderson Cup, which was won back by the Jargeau team. The group also enjoyed a tour of Corsham Court and a visit to St Bartholomew's Church; a drinks reception

and dinner at the Town Hall, which was a good opportunity to talk about the future of the Twinning; a visit to Avebury Manor and Marlborough, and a party for Carole Teisseire-duJardin, the President of Jargeau Twinning Association, to celebrate her birthday and the 40th anniversary of the Twinning.

We are delighted to report that, since the visit, a new Chairman, Rebecca Harris-Stokes, has been appointed at our AGM and we look forward with optimism to the future of the Corsham-Jargeau Twinning Association. To find out more, visit [corshamtwinning.co.uk](http://corshamtwinning.co.uk).



## Community Wellbeing



The Town Council's Community Wellbeing work focuses on three main areas: families, young people and older/vulnerable people.

We are supporting The RISE Trust's work with local families with pre-school children by funding parenting courses and extra play sessions at Springfield. The Trust's detached youth team are also in Corsham on Wednesday and Friday evenings meeting young people who are in the town centre. The youth workers offer the chance to chat and can share advice and guidance, as well as help to reduce anti-social behaviour. Our wellbeing work also includes funding art and music therapy, the Stay Safe Initiative and the SPARK festival for students at The Corsham School, and the Corsham Youth

Zone youth club which meets at Springfield Campus on a Friday evening.

Much of our recent work for older/vulnerable people has seen us collating information about the Warm Spaces available locally. Information can be found on our website and a leaflet is available at the Town Hall. We also continue to help fund the Corsham Community Club lunch group, the Creative Lunch and Corsham Connections, as well as supporting Corsham Foodbank and Souper Friday.

If you'd like to know more about our Community Wellbeing work, do get in touch via [vfauset@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:vfauset@corsham.gov.uk).

## 2023 Town Council Event Dates

22 April – Eco Fair

17 June – Taste of Corsham

9 September – Street Fair

1 December – Christmas Lights Switch On



**Corsham Gastard Ward**

Tina Ellis 07751 437825

**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

Stephen Senior 07857 746503

Ruth Williams 01249 701586

**Corsham Neston Ward**

Jeremy Brook 01225 810059

Nicholas Brakspear 07842 125835

Anna Mackie 07877 817474

**Corsham Pickwick Ward**

Helen Belcher\* 07967 466909

Alun Croxford 07939 014034

Mervyn Jackson 01249 716121

George McCaffery 07803 415655

Jane Robertson 07929 996729

Amanda Thomas 01249 323728

Gareth Ward 07740 348595

Anthea White 01249 713827

*\*Cllrs Helen Belcher and Ruth Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors*

## Meet Your Councillors

Two of our 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?



**Stephen Senior**  
Corsham Ladbrook Ward

1. With both our girls at university, we decided to move south from the northern Cotswolds and Corsham was the perfect town and location.
2. Corsham is just the right combination of attractive town and beautiful countryside. The other outstanding feature is the very active community. People really get involved and there's something for everyone to do.
3. I had been a Parish Councillor before and I know that thriving communities depend on volunteers and that it's difficult to find people to take on leading roles. Fortunately, Corsham now has a Town Council that has all positions filled.
4. I want to see Corsham remain the happy, safe and economically successful town it has become. If I had to choose one thing it would be to help reopen the railway station.



**Amanda Thomas**  
Corsham Pickwick Ward

1. I came to Corsham in 2014 from South Cerney. I didn't think I could find a more beautiful place to live than the Cotswold Water Park – but I was wrong! After being a bit of a nomad all my life I feel as though I have come home.
2. I love the way Corsham's history has been preserved, and love walks around the lake. Also, since I moved here several different shops have opened that give the town centre a real buzz.
3. I always seem to have an opinion on things so thought it was time I put my money where my mouth was!
4. I am happy to support the Council and to offer any skills I have that might make a difference in Corsham.

## Business and Economy

The Town Council's aim to support local businesses saw it hold a drop-in Business Networking Breakfast, in conjunction with the Digital Mansion Corsham (DMC), in November. Over 40 local businesses, from start-ups to major companies, were represented and heard short presentations from the Town Council, Wiltshire Council and Naturally Social, along with the chance to chat and learn from each other.

Another Breakfast is planned, from 8-10am, for Tuesday 28 February at DMC. This one will have a focus on sustainability and all local businesses are welcome

to attend. To book your free place, visit [eventbrite.co.uk/e/corsham-sustainable-business-drop-in-breakfast-tickets-516490646427](http://eventbrite.co.uk/e/corsham-sustainable-business-drop-in-breakfast-tickets-516490646427).

In the spring, the town centre will benefit from a new retail map, designed by artist Susie Brooks, which will highlight the shops and businesses available to residents and visitors. And we are hoping to see the return of Fiver Fest, with all sorts of items and services available to buy for £5, in March.



## 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](mailto:towncouncil@corsham.gov.uk) or visit our website at: [www.corsham.gov.uk](http://www.corsham.gov.uk), or you can call us on 01249 702130. You can also send us comments via our Facebook page. You can also contact your local Councillor (details above) or attend a Town Council Surgery (see page 2).

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

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

