Corsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report

2025-26

Age-friendly Corsham

Councillors and Staff May 2025-April 26*

Corsham Gastard Ward
Cllr Tina Ellis

Corsham Ladbrook Ward
Cllr Steve Abbott
Cllr Alan Brown (Chair)
Cllr Ruth Hopkinson**
Cllr Dave Jarman
Cllr George McCaffery
Cllr Ian Scrannage
Cllr Gareth Ward
Vacancy

Corsham Neston Ward
Cllr Jeremy Brook
Cllr Nicholas Brakspear
Cllr Vic Steadman

Corsham Pickwick Ward
Cllr Helen Belcher OBE**
Cllr John Coward
Cllr Anna Mackie
Cllr Richard Munn
Cllr Neil Pocock
Cllr Anthea White
Vacancy
Vacancy

Councillors Who Left 2025-26
Ladbrook Ward:
Cllr Tanvir Bush
Cllr Neville Farmer
Cllr Bobby Keeler

Pickwick Ward:
Cllr Jane Roberton
Cllr Amanda Thomas
Cllr Lucian Waugh

***These were serving Councillors as of April 2026 For the most up-to-date contact details for Town Councillors please go to our website, or contact the Town Hall.**

***Cllrs Belcher and Hopkinson are also Wiltshire Councillors*

Chief Executive
David Martin

Head of Community Services
Sharon Thomas

Community Services Officer (Arts)*
Sarah Leigh

Community Services Officer (Health and Wellbeing)*
Vickie Fauset

Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events)
Charlotte Phillips (until May '25)
Harriet Peacock (from Sept '25)

Head of Finance and Administration*
Kirsty Gilby

Planning and Finance Officer
Liz Moor (from April '25)

Administration Officer*
Rachel Sellens

Cleaner/Caretaker*
Alex Debank

Head of Technical Services
James Whittleton

Environmental Project Officer
Garry Ford

Technical Assistant
Abigail Leverett
Simon Gilmour (Maternity Cover Jan'26+)

Grounds Team Leader
Trudy Boughey

Groundsperson (Amenity)
Mark Gilby

** part-time*

Groundsperson (Property)
Brendan Kelly

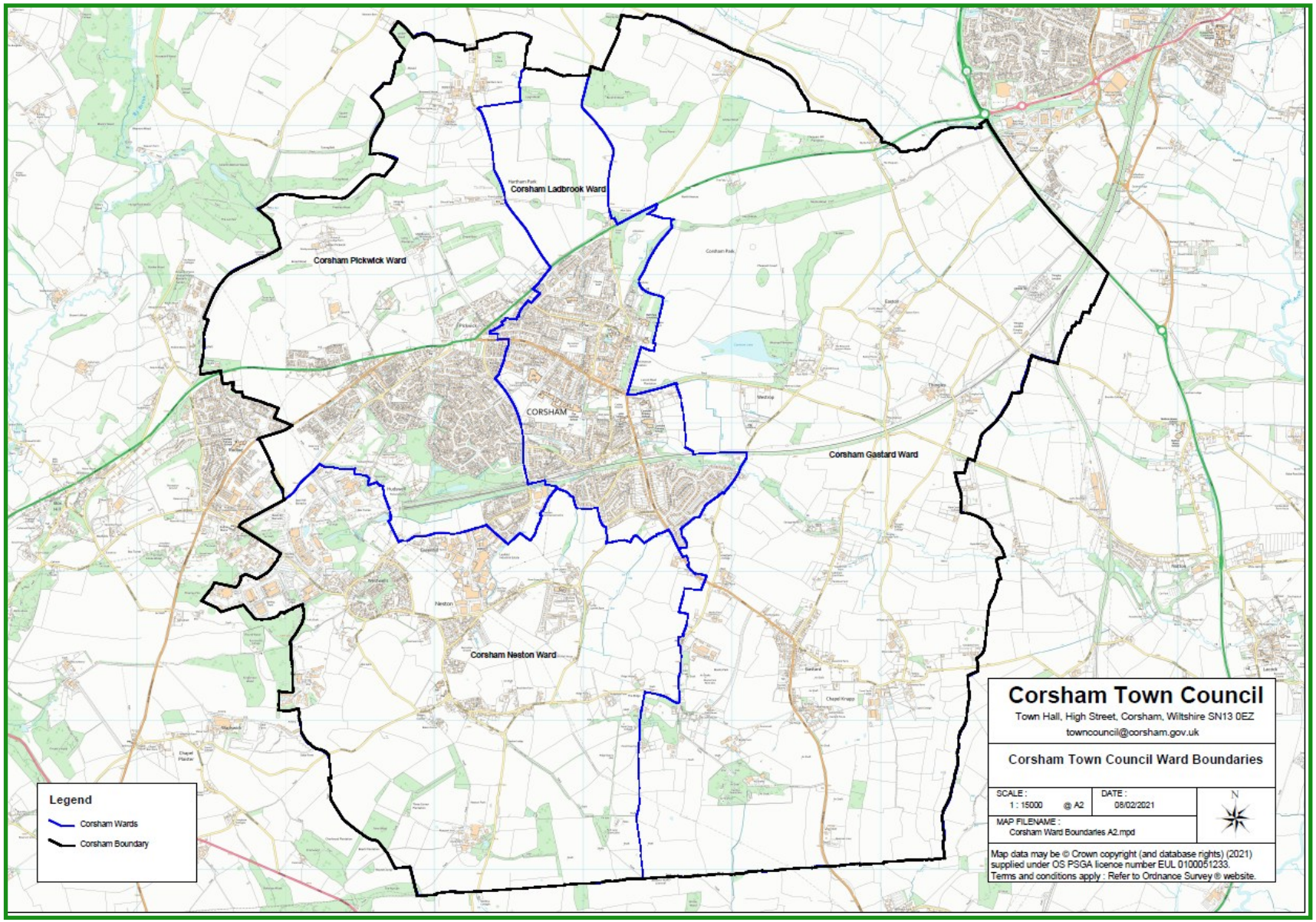
Street Cleaner*
Eddie Harvey

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

Contents

Title	Page
Councillors and Staff	**2**
Corsham Parish - Ward Boundary Map	**4**
Corsham Town Council's Vision	**5**
Corsham Town Council Chair's Annual Report	**6**
Grants Scheme 2025/26	**8**
Diary Dates for 2026	**9**
How to Contact the Town Council	**9**
Corsham Town Council Accounts	**10**

Corsham Parish - 2025-26 Ward Boundary Map



Corsham Town Council's Vision 2022-2026

In November 2022, the Town Council launched its Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

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's new Strategic Plan for 2026-2030 will be launched in the summer.

Corsham TOWN COUNCIL

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

The Town Council's vision for Corsham for 2022-2026 is 'An engaged community - making life better in Corsham through equality, accessibility and inclusivity'.

A guiding principle of delivering this vision is the strong desire to create an engaged, sustainable community which balances environmental, social, cultural and economic needs.

There are four overall strategic themes:

- **Environment and Climate Change** - Minimising the town's impact on climate change and protecting our natural environment
- **Transport and Highways** - Implementing a sustainable Transport Plan
- **Business and the Economy** - Ensuring a thriving and successful town centre and supporting local businesses
- **Community Wellbeing** - Supporting local interest groups and delivering targeted activities to improve health and wellbeing

At the heart of the Strategic Plan is community engagement and we want to continually improve our engagement with people and groups in our community. We plan to open up new ways of getting a clearer understanding of the concerns and priorities of those who live and work here so that we improve our decision-making and allocation of resources. We are always open to approaches from individuals or groups who have something to say.

Our Community Engagement Strategy is available to download from our website, or you can obtain a copy from the Town Hall. EasyRead versions of this and the Strategic Plan are also available.

Corsham Town Council - Chair's Annual Report

This report on the Council's year from May 2025-April 2026 was given by Town Council Chair, Cllr Alan Brown at the Corsham Celebrates event, incorporating the Annual Town Meeting, held at the Town Hall on Thursday, 23 April 2026.

We began the Council year with local elections in May, although there were no contested elections in Corsham. Five Councillors: Tanvir Bush, Neville Farmer, Jane Roberton, Amanda Thomas and Lucian Waugh, decided to step down at that time, with Bobby Keeler stepping down later in the year. They have since been replaced by John Coward, Patricia Freestone, Neil Pocock, Ian Scrannage and Vic Steadman, who all bring new energy and the ideas needed in an ever-progressive Council. I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors, past and present, for their hard work and the positive difference they make to the Town Council and the town itself.
We do currently have two vacancies so if you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor, please have a chat with me.

From a staffing point of view, there have been two new, full-time appointments this year. Harriet Peacock took over as our new Tourism and Events Officer, and Liz Moor took over as our Finance and Planning Officer following Kirsty Gilby's promotion, on the retirement of Maxine Jones, to Head of Finance. Simon Gilmour has also joined the Town Council temporarily as our Technical Assistant while Abigail Leverett is on maternity leave. All three have had a positive impact on the work that we do.

I would like to take a moment to mention Mervyn Jackson, who sadly passed away earlier this year after a long illness. Merv was Corsham through and through and a passionate Town Councillor for many years before illness forced him to step down. He so enjoyed working for this community, as we all do, but Merv's greatest love was our events, particularly our Christmas Lights Switch On when he had a very special - and secret - role to play. We will always think fondly of him and remember him in his red suit.
Merv would have been disappointed by our weather-impacted calendar of events last year. We had to cancel the Street Fair due to forecast high winds and also had to run a much-reduced Christmas Lights event due, again, to high winds with some torrential rain thrown in for good measure. At least the Eco Fair and Taste of Corsham got away unscathed, and we hope the weather treats us more kindly in 2026.

We continue in our Age-friendly Corsham work as we try to ensure that Corsham is a great place to grow older, something that cuts across so much of the work we do. And for the younger members of our community, there have been playground improvements at Coppershell in Gastard. We also continue to work with the members of the Corsham Skatepark Group in our joint efforts to build a new skatepark at Springfield Rec. And our local schools are also getting the opportunity to create public art for the town, with the Cross Keys sheep project, which celebrates Corsham's historic links with the wool trade. The Corsham School's sheep has been replaced by one from Neston School. That will be replaced by Corsham Regis' sheep towards the summer, with all our other schools taking a turn in the coming months.

We also continue in our efforts to put Corsham on the map, with our tourism and promotion work. We must be doing something right as the Telegraph declared us the fourth prettiest High Street in England in a recent article. That work will also be boosted by Corsham's appearance in the second series of Jilly Cooper's Rivals on Disney Plus, with the production company returning three times to film key scenes in the town over the past 12 months. And no, none of us were asked to be extras, although the odd peacock may have made an appearance.

As a thank you, the production company always make a generous charitable donation to make up for any disruption caused by the filming in town. That funding, alongside our own grants scheme, allows us to support and fund many organisations that do so much good for our community, including among many others, Pound Arts, Corsham Youth Zone, The Brunel Shed, Company at Christmas, Corsham Twinning Association, Corsham Windband, Gastard Village Hall, the Peacock Arts Trail, Wiltshire Scrapstore and Leafy Lane Playing Fields Association in their efforts to build a new 3G pitch which will benefit the hundreds of children who play football for AFC Corsham. Being able to support our local groups and clubs is one of the best things about being a Town Councillor.

We have been pleased with the progress of our Transport Plan, with 20mph limits in both the town centre and Neston now fully embedded. The aim to build a new railway station continues to gather support where it is needed. And we are progressing our plans to create a better workshop space for our Grounds Team at Arnold House.

It has not been a year without difficulties, though. We continue to work on our new Neighbourhood Plan to do what we can to ensure that development in Corsham is what we need and where we want it, but there have been a number of contentious and challenging planning applications, each of which has the potential to impact Corsham either directly or indirectly. The expansion of Ark Data Centre and Origin 3, building on the land north of Bath Road, were hard fought by many local people, including the Town Council, but were ultimately approved. The decision on Brockleaze BESS, the battery energy storage system at Neston Park Estate, is due, and although the main elements are beyond the parish, the Lime Down Solar Park would undoubtedly have an impact on this part of Wiltshire, depending on the decision by the Secretary of State.

Let's end on some positives! One of the biggest successes of the past year has to be our environmental work, particularly in improving the biodiversity of the town with the planting of trees and wildflowers; the creation of two new wildlife ponds; the installation of bird and bat boxes (with thanks to The Brunel Shed's Memory Shed members for so many of those) and bug hotels, and so much more. The volunteers who work with Garry Ford, our Environmental Project Officer, have put in hundreds of hours so it was great to learn that we won the National Association of Local Council's Star Council award for our response to climate change. We are very proud to have that trophy on display.

And, of course, we were extremely proud to support Peacock WI and their incredible Poppy Project, which culminated in a visit to Corsham by Her Majesty Queen Camilla.

There are things to look forward to in the town as well. Alongside the Town Council's plans for 2026, the new hotel in the old Lloyds bank building, due to open this summer, will bring employment and increased footfall to the town centre. The landlord of Martingate intends to refurbish the precinct and continues to negotiate to install a new pharmacy in the old Boots building, and WOMAD – the Internationally renowned music and dance festival – is taking up residence on Neston Park Estate.

And as we move into a new year for the Town Council, we have been working on our new Strategic Plan for 2026-2030, setting out our priorities for People, Place and Prosperity. The draft plan is out for community consultation at the moment, and we would welcome your feedback to help guide our work on wellbeing, public spaces, environmental action, the local economy and long-term investment in Corsham's future.

Ladies and gentlemen, in writing this address I was overwhelmed at the huge amount of work that Corsham Town Council has done in the past 12 months. There really is too much to mention here tonight. We could not achieve what we do without the amazing officers based at the Town Hall and our wonderful Grounds Team who work incredibly hard to maintain the environment we all enjoy.

We also could not do what we do without your support and the commitment of the hundreds of volunteers in our town who are responsible for so many of the organisations with whom we work. Thank you.

Grants Scheme 2025/26

Grants

Twenty-one grants were awarded during the 2025/26 financial year.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

The Town Council runs its own Grants Scheme awarding sums of money up to £750 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.

Projects for young people and community wellbeing projects can apply for £751-£2,000 and these applications are considered by the Community Services Committee at their meetings in January, March, May, July, September and November.

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. Details of other grant funders can also be found on the website.

Note: *In exceptional circumstances, such as large capital projects, grants over these sums 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
Brunel Shed*	£1,500
Company for Christmas	£750
Corsham ASC	£750
Corsham Baptist Church	£700
Corsham Climate Action	£300
Corsham Community Club	£750
Corsham Petanque Club	£750
Corsham Twinning Association	£500
Corsham Windband Association**+	£4,500
Fairtrade	£120
Gastard Village Hall+	£5,000
Leafy Lane Playing Fields Assoc**+	£5,750
Music and Motherhood	£2,000
My Space/iID	£2,000
Peacock Arts Trail	£1,500
Read Easy N&W	£250
Stay Safe Initiative	£1,200
We Hear You	£500
Welfare Fund Services Cotswold Centre	£1,375
Wessex MS Therapy	£750
Wiltshire Scrapstore	£1,100

** Match-funded with Corsham Area Board*

*** Two projects*

Diary Dates for 2026

Taste of Corsham	www.corsham.gov.uk	16 May 2026 + FREE parking
Blue Sky Festival	www.poundarts.org.uk	12-14 June 2026
Corsham Walking Festival	www.corshamwalkingfestival.org.uk	12-14 June 2026
Corsham Summer Fete	www.corsham.gov.uk	4 July 2026
Street Fair	www.corsham.gov.uk	12 September 2026 + FREE parking
Magic and Mayhem Festival	www.poundarts.org.uk	November 2026 (dates tbc)
Wishing Tree	www.corsham.gov.uk	28 November 2026
Christmas Lights Switch On	www.corsham.gov.uk	4 December 2026 + 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:

Corsham TOWN COUNCIL

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 2026

Subject to Audit

Current Assets	**£**
Debtors	269
Prepayments	9,626
VAT	26,465
Current Account (Lloyds)	11,408
Unity Trust Bank (Instant Access Account)	62,210
Unity Trust Bank (Current Account)	9,898
Deposit Account (CCLA)	1,200,000
Petty Cash	300
Total Assets (rounded to nearest £)	**1,320,177**
Current Liabilities	
Creditors	11,930
Accruals	42,053
Receipts in Advance	475
Total Liabilities (rounded to nearest £)	**54,457**
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities (rounded to nearest £)	**1,265,720**
Capital and Reserves	
General Purpose Fund	155,947
Earmarked Reserves	1,109,773
Total Assets	**1,265,720**

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
Key
1 TOWN HALL
2 FLEMISH COTTAGES
3 CORSHAM COURT
4 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
5 METHUEN ARMS
6 ALMSHOUSES
7 THE POUND ARTS CENTRE
8 SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY CAMPUS
9 MARTINGATE SHOPPING PRECINCT
CAR CHARGING STATION
BUS STOP
WC
P PARKING
To BIDDESTONE
CASTLE COMBE
A4 To CHIPPENHAM
A4 To LONDON
A4 To BATH
HARTHAM PARK
HARTHAM LANE
CROSS KEYS RD.
Corsham Town Hall
filming in progress
Corsham Court
BATH SPA UNIVERSITY
PRIORY ST.
A4 Pickwick
Middlewick
MIDDLEWICK LANE
Pickwick
NATIONAL EXPRESS
HARE & HOUNDS
GREEN GROCER
WARE
FLO
CHURCH ST
HISTORIC HIGH ST.
POST OFFICE LANE
NEWLANDS RD
GREEN GROCER HARDWARE CHEMIST BAKER
BOOKSHOP HEALTH FOOD BUTCHER DELI FRAMER
COMICS HOMEWARE GIFTS BEAUTY NEWSAGENT
PICKWICK RD.
...and lots more!
MARTINGATE SHOPPING PRECINCT
TAXIS
PEDESTRIAN SHOPPING
CAR PARK
CORSHAM PARK
BEECHFIELD ROAD
To BRADFORD ON AVON
VALLEY RD.
PICKWICK RD.
THE CORSHAM SCHOOL
MANSION HOUSE
To LACOCK
WILTSHIRE CYCLE WAY
Springfield community campus and play area
Visit Corsham
Corsham TOWN COUNCIL
www.corsham.gov.uk/visit
illustration by Susie Brooks
Artwork by Brooks Smith Creative Designed in Corsham
STATION RD.
Anyone for cricket?
POUND PILL
The Pound Arts Centre
Corsham Almshouses

Corsham
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