

# MARLBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2021-22



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# TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

## Councillor Mark Cooper

**On 6 May 2021 we began a new four-year Council term after an uncontested election.**

Of our full complement of sixteen councillors, eleven returned after the last term and five were new to the Town Council. Three of the new Councilors are also Wiltshire Councillors: they add a new dimension for the benefit of our community by helping to develop an effective working relationship with our partners in Wiltshire Council.

Combining the invaluable experience of long-serving councillors with the opportunity for new councillors to contribute ideas has created a real driving dynamic, which this year has helped keep the council in good health and focused on the important work of responding to local needs.

With sadness in July the Council saw the passing of Councillor Bryan Castle, who was a long serving councillor and ex-Mayor. I would like to take the opportunity to convey the Council's gratitude for all his service and contributions over the years.

The vacancy Bryan's passing created went on to be filled by way of co-option by



***"It has been my absolute pleasure and honour to serve a second term as Mayor of Marlborough"***

Councillor Mark Luson, who was welcomed to the Council in December and very quickly is proving to be a real asset. In January the Council lost the valuable services of Councillor Vanessa Hillier, and our thanks also go to her for all the hard work and contribution she made in her time on the Council, particularly during the pandemic and with staffing matters.



***Councillor Bryan Castle***

The highlights of the year for me have been to see the re-emergence of the civic events once again, demonstrating Marlborough's commitment to its community both past and present. It was a privilege once again for

us and the community to come out to pay our respects on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday. It was great to see the excitement of the Mop fairs return, and the Christmas lights switch on with the people of Marlborough filling the High Street to cheer in the festive period.

Councillor Lisa Farrell will be the Town Mayor for 2022/23, for the second time.



**Councillor Mark Cooper**  
**Town Mayor**





## INTRODUCTION

### *Town Clerk, Richard Spencer-Williams*

It is my pleasure to introduce the Marlborough Town Council Annual report for 2021-22 as the new Town Clerk. Having been in post for just one year it has been a privilege to support and work with such a committed team of councillors and staff all working for the benefit of the Marlborough community. It always impresses me how local councillors are prepared give their time freely in such a professional way to benefit their community.

2021-22 has been of year of post pandemic recovery for the Council, as it has for everyone. This has meant working within the guidance and our own risk assessment thresholds to find ways of reinstating the usual level of service, and events where possible. This has brought its own challenges, all of which the Council has risen to meet progressively over the course of the year. These will continue to guide the deliberations, considerations and activities of the Council over the coming council term.

#### **Priorities and Aims**

Climate emergency  
Existing services and assets  
The town's parks, open spaces and play areas  
Develop a Town Centre Plan  
Develop a Traffic Plan promoting and increasing road safety and pedestrian experience in the town  
Marlborough Area Neighborhood Plan  
Civic services and programme  
Meet the burial needs of the town  
Effective management and utilisation of The Common  
Improve service delivery to the town via devolution of services from Wiltshire Council  
Maximizing Marlborough's assets for the benefit of the town  
Promote the concept of Eco-Tourism as an approach & product supported by Marlborough's location  
Capitalise on the heritage assets held by Marlborough Town Council as an integral part of the civic experience  
Engage young people, the community and the business sector in support of shared goals and needs  
Increase the Council's cultural development offer and events  
Proactively establish Marlborough Town Council's role in influencing, enabling, and partnerships  
Support and enable business and employment development  
Resourcing and finance – ensuring all aspirations are supported realistically, and creatively



Over the past year the new Council has come together to create a shared vision for the Council term identifying & agreeing a set of aims

## OVERVIEW



**Marlborough Town Council has four Committees:**

**Planning Committee  
Finance & Policy Committee  
Property Committee  
Amenities & Open Spaces Committee**

The Planning Committee meets roughly every three weeks, with the other Committees meeting four to five times a year. They have delegated powers to oversee the Council's services relevant to each. Additionally, the Council has a Staffing Sub Committee which has responsibility for staffing matters.

The Committees then report to the Full Council, which has oversight of all matters, and particularly those which cut across the responsibility of more than one Committee.

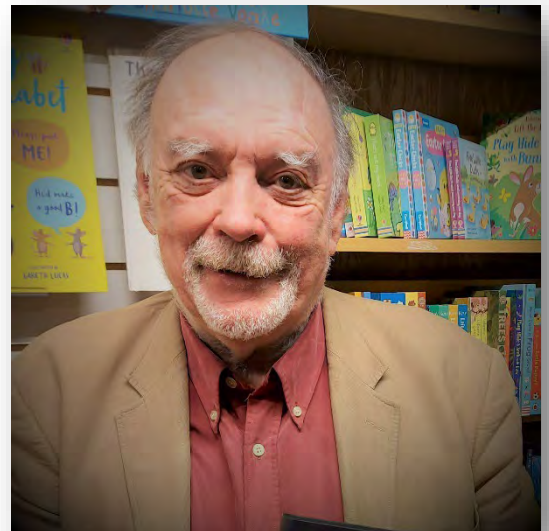
## PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Nicholas Fogg**

All Town Councillors sit on this Committee, with the Mayor in an ex-officio role so with no vote. It meets every 3 weeks to consider planning applications, road closures, premises licenses, work to trees and planning associated consultations. In total, the committee met 17 times in 2021/22.

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

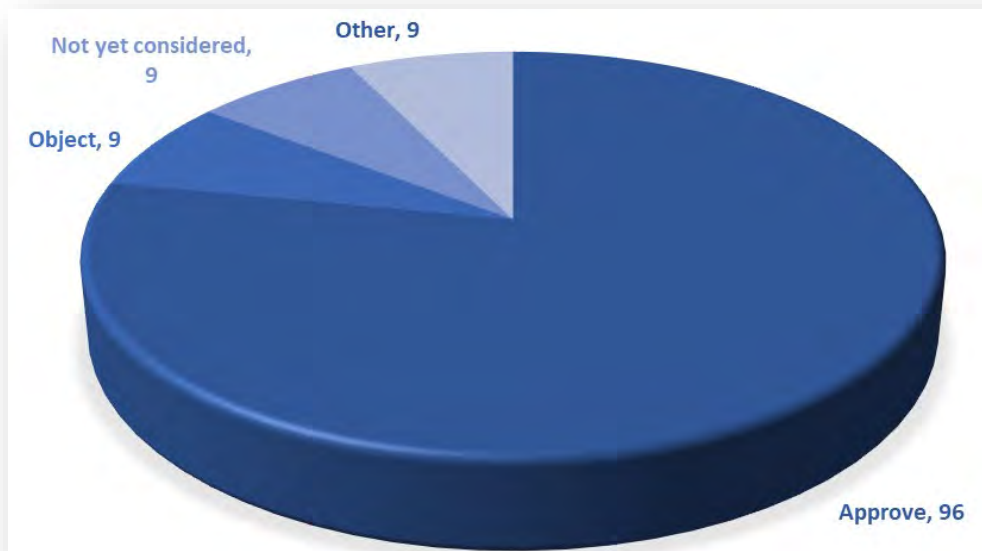
The Town Council is a consultee on planning issues: decisions are made by Wiltshire Council as the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Councillors need to make sure that any objections are made on sound material planning grounds which link to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and policies set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy.



***"We focussed on getting things right"***



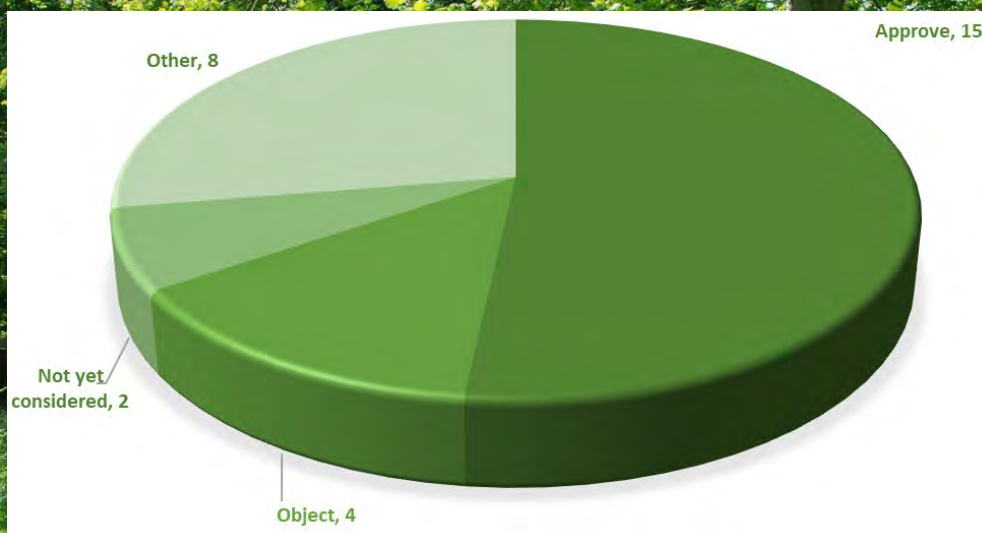
The number of planning applications received to 30 March 2022 was 127. Wiltshire Council refused five: all were applications where the Town Council had raised objections.



## TREE WORKS APPLICATIONS

Marlborough's Tree Warden is Councillor Don Heath who has a good knowledge of the town's trees and advises on various applications for works (felling, pollarding, etc.) and often visits sites. He is also the local town and parish representative to the Council of Partners for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is always pleased to hear from those with an interest in environmental conservation.

**A total of 30 applications for tree works were received in 2021/22, one of which was refused by Wiltshire Council**





## Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hall is Chair of the Steering Group working on the production of the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan (MANP) which covers land use in Marlborough with Manton and the neighbouring parishes of Mildenhall and Savernake. The group is made up of representatives from those parishes as well as other interested groups and individuals.



**Councillor Mervyn Hall**

The Town Council is the qualifying body for the process.

**To date, 2021-22 saw the MANP move through Regulations 14-17 of the Neighbourhood Planning process, which included responding to the rigour and scrutiny of independent examination.**

Read more at our website

[Marlborough Town Council - Neighbourhood Plan \(marlborough-tc.gov.uk\)](http://marlborough-tc.gov.uk)

### COMMUNITY AREA TRANSPORT GROUP (CATG)

The CATG is a partnership forum led by Wiltshire Council that identifies and agrees local priorities for highway projects. The Town Council's representatives to this Wiltshire Council Area Board sub-group are Councillor Mervyn Hall and Councillor Richard Allen.

In the last year some of the issues being progressed include:

- Traffic calming at Frees Avenue
- A crossing in Marlborough High Street
- Traffic calming on the A4 Manton section

*(CATG changed its name to LHFIG in 2022 – Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group – and at the same time broadened its scope to include improvements for pedestrians and cyclists)*



**Councillor  
Richard Allen**



## SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES

Speeding presents a danger to the community, whether they are children on their way to school or less mobile people crossing the roads. Marlborough Town Council has one Speed Indicator Device (SID) which it rotates around town to remind drivers to slow down and is in the process of purchasing a second: the SIDs are managed in rotation at approved locations. The data helps the Council understand the extent of the speeding issue as well as providing evidence for partnership working with the Police and Wiltshire Council Highways to improve road safety.



## YELLOW LINES

The Planning Committee made three requests this year for refreshed or new yellow lines at Cardigan Road, The Parade and Elcot Lane.

Requests for yellow lines, whether they are to replace worn markings or add new lines, need to go to Wiltshire Council annually each January.

Residents are encouraged to make the Council aware of places they think they are needed.



## FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Andrew Ross**

The Finance & Policy Committee is responsible for the management of the Council's finances and policies, and it met four times in 2021/22. Its most important work is to steer the Town Council in setting its budgets. It considers what funds it needs (the costs of running services, staff salaries, capital projects, etc.) and matches its estimates against planned income (funds from investments, rental income, venue hire and more). The shortfall is what it needs to raise from local council taxpayers: known as the precept. Wiltshire Council collects this on behalf of the Town Council and it is paid in two instalments during the financial year.



***"A sound Council year of post pandemic recovery activity, with some unexpected challenges which were provided for in our contingency planning"***

## AUDIT AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Council is rigorously audited to check that the Council as a whole exercises due diligence over the use of public funds and assets, and to check that risk management arrangements are in place. This occurs internally throughout the year, and at year end by an appointed external auditor.

**To the credit of the Finance & Policy Committee and the staff involved, the mid-term audit reflected that:**

***"the Council continues to maintain effective internal control arrangements"***

***"Members continue to receive regular budget monitoring reports including a high-level narrative"***

***"the accounts are in balance"***

***"the Council continues to keep its governance framework under review"***



***Sue Fry, our Office Manager, takes care of our finances as well as venue hire***



## PRECEPT & BUDGET SETTING

December is the time of year when Local Councils have to decide on their budget for the coming year. This can be a difficult process of balancing costs against services, community needs and ambitions, resulting in a local precept rise which can be used to fund locally defined services and projects.

The precept of 4.9% was decided at the Full Council meeting in January and reflected an emerging Development and Action Plan for the Council term of 2021-25, whilst allowing for rising fuel and employer costs, a degree of post pandemic recovery, the reinstatement of grounds team capacity lost as a budget saving in the previous year, and the requirement for activity in response to the climate emergency.

The overall Council Tax you pay helps towards a variety of services. The largest proportion is for those provided by Wiltshire Council such as education, housing, roads, car parks, bin collections, and social care right across the county. Also collected by Wiltshire Council are the precepts set by Wiltshire Police Authority and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services. The proportion of the Council Tax collected for the running of your Town Council and your most local services is around 10% of your overall annual Council Tax bill.

## GRANT AWARDS

With a budget of £6,500 the Finance & Policy Committee made awards to five organisations, all meeting criteria showing that the work they do benefits Marlborough.

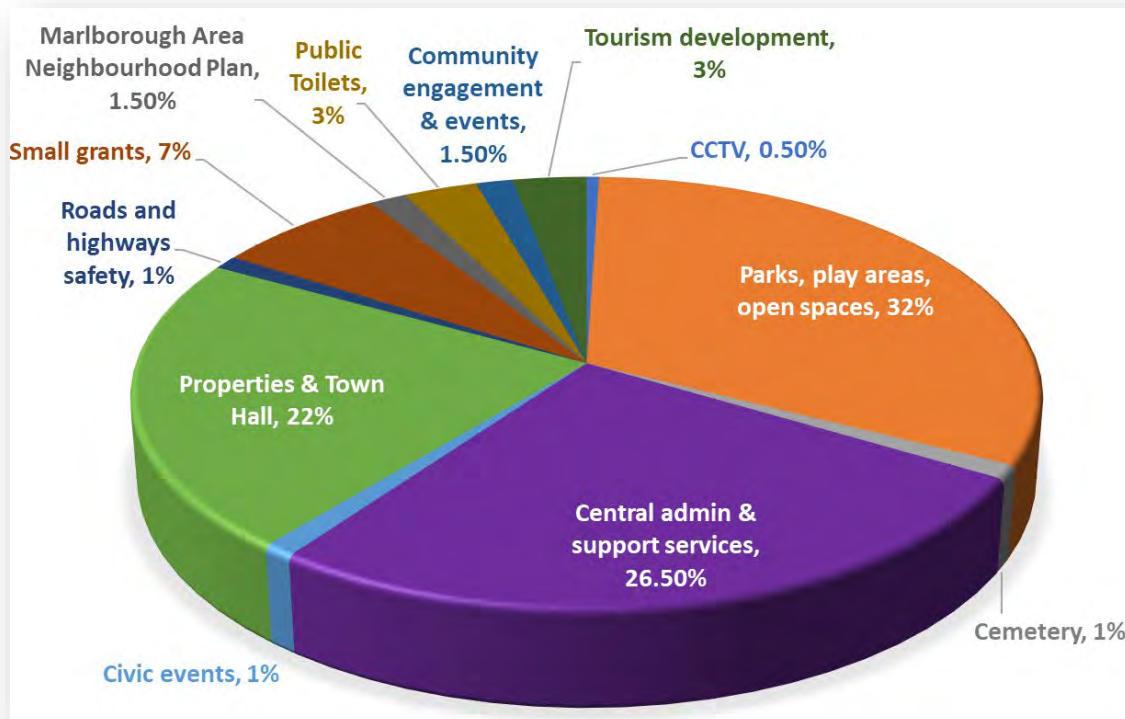
Friends of Marlborough St Mary's	The Greatwood Charity	Love Marlborough Kids Meals	The Merchants House Trust	Wiltshire Sight
				
£3,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£500

## POLICIES

The Council's Policies are important as they provide the framework for all Council activities and decisions. The Finance and Policy Committee also holds responsibility for oversight of the Council's standing orders and policies. This year this has meant the revision of the Standing Orders on two occasions to improve practice, the adoption of a Climate and Environment Protection Policy Statement, a Corporate Identity Policy and a draft Electronic Communications Policy.

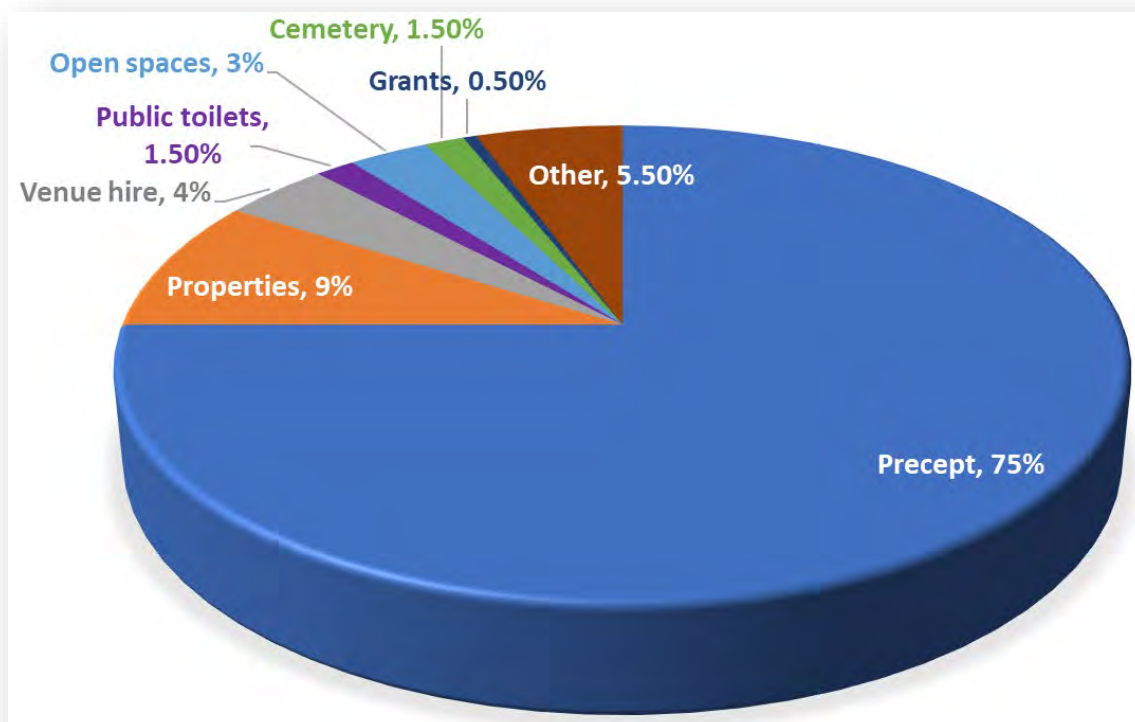
### EXPENDITURE - HOW YOUR MONEY IS SPENT

This chart illustrates the budget allocation for 2021-22:



### INCOME – HOW THE COUNCIL’S SERVICES ARE FUNDED

This chart illustrates the budget generation for 2021-22:





## TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES



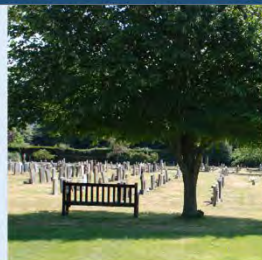
Maintenance and management of - the Town Hall, Community & Youth Centre, 3 commercial & 7 residential properties, The Common, The Green, Salisbury Road Recreational Ground, Elcot Lane Playing Fields, Skate Park, 6 Children's Play Areas, Priory Gardens, Wye House Gardens, St. Mary's Churchyard, Stonebridge & Coopers Meadows, 3 Allotment sites, 2 War Memorials, Floral Displays, Football Pitches, Cemeteries & 1,500 trees



Event Management – Royal Visits, Civic Dinners, Christmas Lights Switch-on and Festive Market and various community events



Administration of burial records, cemetery space, plaques and memorials



Civic work around military links, Remembrance Parade, Armistice Day etc

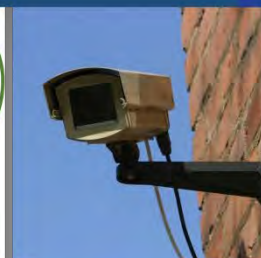
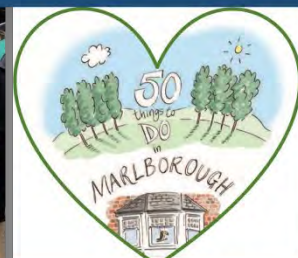


Local communication via the website, social media, newsletter and notice boards

Consultation and assessment of all relevant planning applications



Tourism promotion



Management of a CCTV system



Work towards securing external grant funding, and implementing new projects

General enquiries, information about Wiltshire Council services, liaison with external agencies e.g. Wiltshire Police



Administration of a Small Grants Scheme and CIL allocation



Management of public toilets

## STAFFING COMMITTEE

**Chair: Councillor Lisa Farrell**

**Vice Chair: Councillor Kymee Cleasby**

The Staffing Committee has corporate responsibility for staffing matters on behalf of the Council and works closely with the Town Clerk to implement staffing policies.

In 2021-22 the Committee saw the recruitment of a new Caretaker and a Civic and Cemetery Administrator.



***Councillors Lisa Farrell & Kymee Cleasby***

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Guy Loosmore**



***"This year we were pleased to see the recovery of our property portfolio post-pandemic, and I am pleased to see the Town Hall refurb works were completed and all within budget constraints"***

The Property Committee is responsible for all Town Council owned properties and has met 4 times in the last year. It exercises landlord responsibility on behalf of the Council and monitors the overall upkeep and sustainability of the Council's property assets.

## TOWN HALL

The building was first opened in 1903 and as a listed building needs careful structural monitoring. External refurbishment works were completed over the summer of 2021 and Marlborough Town Hall is gleaming once again having undergone a comprehensive external spruce-up. Our thanks go to the public for their patience during any disruption caused by the works.

2021 has seen the recovery of the Town Hall bookings which were significantly affected by the Covid pandemic and restrictions.



<b>Town Hall Bookings</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>
Wedding Ceremonies	16
Wedding Receptions	3
Sales	12
Meetings (Excluding MTC)	5
Plays/Films/Concerts	20
Elections	2
Charity Dinners/Private	9
Organisations/Local Groups	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>

The Town Hall following exterior refurbishment works, completed Summer/Autumn 2021



## MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE

Since taking this building on from Wiltshire Council under a 7-year lease in 2017 and after extensive refurbishment, it is becoming an important centre for local community groups. It offers its own car park, a multi-use sports hall, a soundproofed music room, a social area with a pool table and large screen TV, a computer suite, a fully equipped kitchen and a coffee bar area. The building is alarmed and covered by a CCTV system.

<b>Community Centre Bookings</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>
Pre School-Groups	137
Youth Groups	49
Fitness Groups	59
Education	81
Organisations/Local Groups	12
Parties/Private Hire	4
Football	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>342</b>

Youth clubs, sports teams, health & fitness groups, educational classes, service providers (e.g., Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Council) and private hirers all use the facilities. Marlborough Youth Football Club uses the specially reconfigured changing rooms and adjacent pitch at weekends.

## COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

The Council owns three shops and seven residential properties. These corporate properties are managed and rented out through our professional property agents. Different arrangements are in place for some Council-owned assets from which community groups,



*New fencing at one of the Council's residential properties*

sports clubs or Trusts operate (e.g., The Merchant's House, the Bowls Club, Rugby Club, Golf Club and Boxing Club.) In January 2022 the Council agreed to an extended lease for the Merchant's House Trust to support its ability to seek funding sources from charitable trusts.

## PUBLIC TOILETS

The Council provides public toilets in two locations, one at George Lane Car Park and one at the Town Hall.

In 2021-22 the toilets had 29,330 visits and generated an income of £5,866, partially offsetting the cost of business rates, utilities, cleaning, maintenance etc.

## NEW PROJECTS

The Council is working towards creating a new workshop facility for the Grounds Team. With more services being provided by our own team and possibly more to come from Wiltshire Council, the current facility at the Salisbury Road Recreation Ground is no longer fit for purpose.

## AMENITIES & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

**Chairman: Councillor Don Heath**

The Amenities and Open Spaces Committee is responsible for all Town Council owned parks, open spaces, and play areas. It met six times in 2021/22. Integral to this Committee's work is our Grounds Team, headed up by Grounds Manager, Nigel Weatherly. Based at the Workshop at the Recreation Ground, our team maintains various open spaces in and around Marlborough and Manton – The Common, The Green, Priory Gardens and Wye House Gardens, Elcot Lane Village Green, Salisbury Recreation Ground and the Skate Park, Jubilee Field, and the cemeteries. The Grounds team assist with Stonebridge Meadow and the Council's allotments. Additionally, they cut grass, pick litter, maintain our street furniture and bus shelters, plant and look after floral displays and bedding, mark out pitches and keep an eye on the condition of trees (more than 1,500 of them) as well as dealing with the street preparations for events – all the things that make a difference to residents and have a real impact on our visitors.



*"2021/22 was a year of Covid recovery, and we managed the challenges well"*





In June Sheep returned to Coopers Meadow for the summer and into the autumn to help keep the fenced meadow area managed by way of grazing. The six sheep were kindly offered by a local shepherd, Mr Hibberd, and the welfare of the sheep was monitored by ARK volunteers and the Town Council ground staff.

The Council provides play areas at:  
The Common  
Coopers Meadow  
Jubilee Field Manton  
Orchard Road  
Salisbury Road Recreation Ground  
Wye House Gardens

The Town Council would like to convey its thanks to all involved.



*June saw the roundabout at Salisbury Road Recreation Ground back in action with the surface repaired by the Grounds Team*



In 2021 The Amenities and Open Spaces Committee carried out a full review of the play areas, and now has a clear view of its priorities for further investment in these areas over the next three years. These included providing:

**Better provision for children and young people on The Common**

**Developing the land adjacent to Rabley Wood and land at Tinpit as a conservation site**

**Progressing a site plan for Salisbury Road Recreation Ground to be a destination for family and community use**

**Improving the Wye House Gardens play area**



*Councillor Noel Barrett-Morton is a member of the Open Spaces Working Party responsible for the review of parks and open spaces*

## ELECTRIC TOOLS

In June the workshop suffered a break-in, and all the Council's power hand tools were stolen. We replaced all but the chainsaws with electric tools in support of reducing our environmental impact.

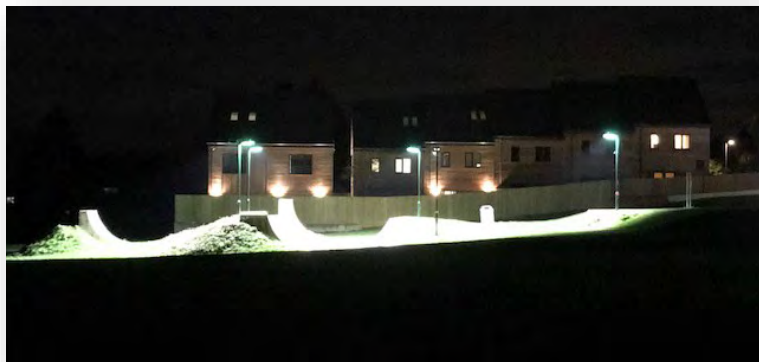


*The Grounds Team at the Salisbury Road Workshop*



## SKATE PARK

In response to the community's demand, in October we saw the installation of the new lighting for the skatepark, and it has proved to be very popular with the young skaters.



## THE COMMON



*Haymaking at The Common*

The Common is used for sport and recreation as well as being a popular place for dog walkers. It's also a venue for various events and activities (e.g., circuses, fairs, boot sales and pigeon liberations). The Common is regularly used by the Rugby Club, Marlborough Youth Football Club, parkrun and Model Flying Club.

Following its promotion to a higher league, the Council has been working closely with Marlborough Rugby Football Club and Marlborough Youth Football Club to help them create a much-needed levelled area for training.

Going forward the Council aims to develop its governance and management practices for the Common.

## ALLOTMENTS

There is a community-led Allotment Association which was formed to oversee the Elcot Lane, St John's Close and Stonebridge sites.

Councillor Luson is the Council's recently appointed representative for the allotments.



*Councillor Mark Luson*

## STONEBRIDGE MEADOW

This 15-acre award winning water meadow is a wonderful area of wildlife and nature conservation with an amenity area, just a short walk from the town centre. It is jointly owned and continues to be maintained by the Town Council and Action for the River Kennet (ARK). Day to day management is dealt with through a Management Committee with representatives from both parties. Councillor Heath is the Town Council's representative.



*Fritillaries at Stonebridge Meadow*

## CEMETERY

Burials and Interments	2021/22
Ashes Interments	13
Burials	17

The Grounds Team maintains the cemetery at Frees Avenue to a high standard and they are responsible for the digging and preparation of burial plots.

Our Civic Secretary works closely with team members, funeral directors and stonemasons to ensure that burials and interments are handled sympathetically and with dignity.

## VICTORIAN CEMETERY

The Friends of the Old Victorian Cemetery, working with our Grounds Team, continue to make enormous progress at this special site. This closed cemetery is steeped in local history and well worth a visit.



*Kim Wakeham explaining the history of the Victorian Cemetery to Councillors*



## PRIORY GARDENS

These gardens form a beautiful piece of open space right in the centre of town directly accessible via a path from the High Street.

Priory Gardens is a special amenity, well maintained by our Grounds Team with flower beds, green space and a place for all to enjoy their leisure time. Everyone is welcome – residents and visitors, young and not so young.



## LITTER BINS AND STREET FURNITURE

Did you know that Marlborough Town Council empties 45 bins all year round 2-3 days a week in the winter months and 6-7 days a week in the summer?

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC

We always endeavour to respond to all public enquiries. This could be residents or visitors calling at our offices, a phone call, via social media or emails or a formal question via either the Town Clerk or the Council.

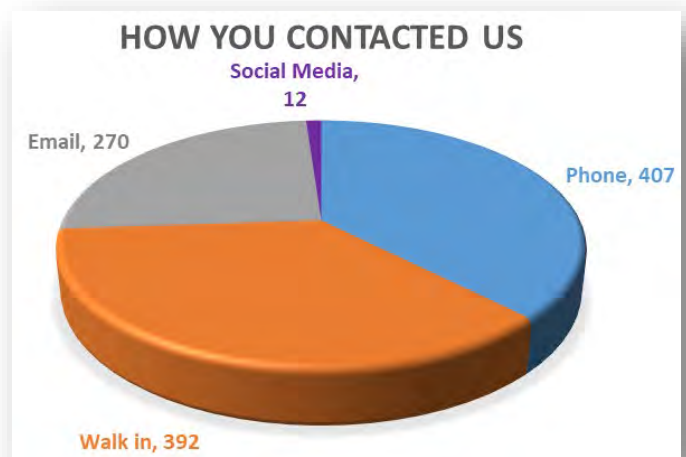
## IN PERSON

All residents are welcome to attend our Town Council and Committee meetings held in the Town Hall (via videoconferencing during the pandemic lockdowns). Each meeting starts with public question time – your question does not need to be related to an agenda item.

Residents and visitors are also welcome to call in to our enquiry office at 5 High Street during office hours.

## IN PRINT

Until February we published our news in Marlborough Town & Country Magazine which regularly landed on doormats in the town. Sadly, the magazine has now ceased publication: we'd like to thank the Editor, Andrea Jerome for her support and for such a high-quality publication which we know our residents really valued over the years.



## WEBSITE AND GOOGLE

An important part of the Town Council's role is the proactive use of our website and social media. This helps to engage with communities, keeping them informed about Town Council activities and what's happening at a local level. The Town Council website can be found at [www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk) and is the main place to go to get information about the services we offer, find out about our meetings and keep up to date with our news.

Between January and December 2021 there were 4,596 unique visitors to the Town Council's website: they made 7,278 visits to 132,596 pages, averaging about 22,000 page visits per month. These might otherwise have been phone calls to our enquiry point.



Many people go to Google as a first port of call for information: in the 6-month period up to mid-April 2022:

<b>5,657 people looked us up</b>
<b>76 used the 'call' button to phone us</b>
<b>234 got directions via Google maps</b>
<b>500 clicked through to our website</b>

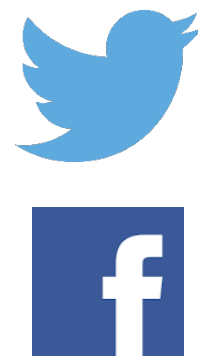
In addition to the main Marlborough Town Council website, we set up a dedicated small site in the run up to the Dark Skies Festival; this was linked to a DarkSkiesFest At Home YouTube channel when the planned festival in 2020 had to go online as the country was under orders to #StayAtHome. Contributors who would have been present at the festival kindly made videos which we broadcast via the Facebook Festival page over the course of a day in October. We were very happy to welcome them in person for the festival in 2021.

Finally, our team took over the Marlborough in Bloom website in 2020 when the Committee disbanded and will continue to look after it while the Bloomers are taking a rest from competition entry.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Our main Facebook page for disseminating information about the Town Council, @MarlboroughTC, has just under 2,000 followers but regularly reaches around 12,000 people each month. We have fewer followers on Twitter at just under 1,000 at @MTCwilts, although our posts regularly reach ten times that number of





people. There are interest group Facebook pages for Marlborough in Bloom and the Dark Skies Festival too.



Last, but not least, there's a dedicated Instagram account purely for Tourist Information where we share the marvels of Marlborough, nearby attractions and promote events, shopping, dining and accommodation options for our visitors: follow us at @VisitMarlborough.



***Dawn Whitehall is our Webmaster***

## NOTICE BOARDS

There are Town Council notice boards at the Town Hall, Manton High Street and Stonebridge Meadow where we share good old-fashioned paper posters, meeting agendas, notices of elections and other items of public interest.

## CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Formed in the previous year, the Council continued with its Climate Emergency Working Party, working with representatives from the community to further Marlborough's response to the climate emergency and help inform the Council of action it can take. Former councillor Susie Price is the working party's chair, with Councillor Jo Waltham as the vice chair. Councillors Hall, Heath, the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk also support the group and act as Council representatives and intermediaries.

The working party has supported the Council in its formation of a Climate and Environment Protection Policy Statement, challenging all Committees to consider how they can include climate action in their remit, securing an initial budget to commission an environmental impact assessment to audit the Council's services and activities and advise on positive action it can take going forward to reduce its carbon footprint and adopt environmentally friendly practices.



***Councillor Jo Waltham is Vice Chair of the Climate Emergency Working Party***

<https://marlborough-tc.gov.uk/climate-and-environment>

## GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN - 28 MAY TO 13 JUNE 2021

Marlborough Town Council joined forces with Keep Britain Tidy and our community of litter heroes on the [#MillionMileMission](#) to clear litter from Marlborough and Manton's streets and parks, because what is good for our environment is good for our mental and physical health too.

In the past 12 months our outdoor spaces and places have mattered to us more than ever before and so we have been mobilising a team of litter pickers to support the town, picking litter in their free time for the benefit of us all.

If you would like to get involved in future litter tidies, please contact Clare Harris at [charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk) or call 07395 793018. She would love to hear from you! #GBSpringClean #CleanUpWilts



*Thank you to Margaret  
for routinely  
incorporating litter  
picking into her daily  
walks*

## SOUTH WEST IN BLOOM 29<sup>TH</sup> JULY

Thursday 29th July was the big day! The judges arrived at 10am and were guided around a route, specifically chosen to take in the highlights of the town. Starting and finishing at the Town Hall, the route zigzagged down the High Street, meandered through Priory Gardens, into Coopers Meadow, through The Parade, finishing up in Wye House Gardens before heading back to town.



***ARK volunteers show off the silverware from South West in Bloom***



## COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Marlborough's Community Fridge was officially opened by the Town Mayor, Councillor Mark Cooper on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

The Town Mayor can be seen in the photo with Milly Carmichael of Transition Marlborough handing over his donation to the fridge: a carton of eggs!

The fridge is open on Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.

The fridge has a lovely, friendly bunch of volunteers already on board, but we always need more to help run the fridge during opening hours. Please contact Clare Harris at

[charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:charris@marlborough-tc.gov.uk) to find out more about what is involved and how you could help.

To find out more visit <https://www.facebook.com/MarlboroughCommunityFridge>



## BUS BACK BETTER SURVEY

In November 2021 we worked with Option 24/7 to gather and feed back the views of local people on how bus services could develop to help inform Wiltshire Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.



It is good news that because of the feedback gathered in this survey bus services are likely to be extended to:

**Improve connections to meet train times at Great Bedwyn  
Add more services to Ogbourne St George and Ramsbury  
Reinstate a direct service between Marlborough and Devizes  
A business case for additional A76 Marlborough/Bath services was being progressed**

## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

### COACH FRIENDLY STATUS

On Monday, 21 June

Marlborough became the first town to receive coach friendly status since the pandemic began. Coach Passenger Transport UK has been running the Coach Friendly Scheme since 2003 and John Burch, South West Regional Manager, handed over the official certificate to the town. Marlborough has always been an important stop on the coaching route and the award underlined the importance of that tradition right through to the present day.

The status should encourage coach parties to the town to help build a buoyant local tourism economy, supporting local traders and turning visitor attractions into successful businesses.



*The Mayor, Danny Kruger MP and Tourism Officer Belinda Richardson with the Coach Friendly Status Certificate*

## CIVIC AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Andrea Millar joined the Town Council team in March 2022, taking up the role of Civic and Cemetery Administrator.

As well as managing the Mayor's diary and liaising with funeral directors on a day to day basis, it also falls to Andrea to take the lead in arranging civic and ceremonial events such as Mayor Making.

Andrea works closely with our Officers of Dignity – Town Crier Mike Tupman and Mace Bearers Bob Dobie and Barry Mercer.



*Andrea Millar*



## MAYOR MAKING

Councillor Mark Cooper has achieved two 'firsts' for Marlborough: he was elected Mayor for the first time online in May 2020 becoming our first Zoom Mayor.

With the lockdowns and restrictions of the pandemic preventing him from carrying out the usual Mayoral duties he was re-elected Mayor in 2021 by fellow Councillors, all wearing masks, at a socially distanced Annual Town Council meeting with none of the usual guests in attendance.



## PEPPERCORN RENT

On Tuesday, 5th October the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton CStJ and husband Mr Peter Troughton, were guests of honour at an event in Marlborough Town Hall hosted by The Merchants House.

It was time for the Merchants House Trust to pay their annual rent to Marlborough Town Council and they were a year in arrears due to the pandemic. Alison Galvin-Wright, Chair of the Trustees handed over a ceremonial bag of peppercorns to our Mayor, Councillor Mark Cooper to pay in full, witnessed by the Lord Lieutenant, Trustees, Councillors, Mr & Mrs Bayly and guests.

2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the Merchants House Trust but, after standing in the High Street for nearly 370 years this iconic 17th century building is in need of repair. The Merchant's House 30th Anniversary Appeal is aiming to raise £150,000.





## 4TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION FREEDOM PARADE

The parade on 7 October marked a decade since 4MI was granted the Freedom of Marlborough in June 2011 and it 'exercised its freedom' with a ceremonial march through the town to celebrate 20 years since the battalion's formation.

<https://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk/news/news-articles/2500-wiltshire-battalion-march-through-marlborough>



## RE- OPENING OF THE MOP FAIRS

After being cancelled in 2020 for the first time since World War 2, on Saturday, 9 October the whirling waltzers, big wheel, carousels and candyfloss returned to our High Street when our Mayor was invited by the Showmen's Guild to open the Mop Fair.





## ARMISTICE DAY AND REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PARADE

Marlborough's traditional Remembrance commemorations returned on Sunday, 14 November with a parade forming in the High Street to arrive at the Cenotaph for the 2-minute silence and laying of wreaths. This was followed by a Service of Remembrance at St Mary's Church. Marlborough also observed the 2-minute silence at 11:00 on Armistice Day, 11 November.



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON & CHRISTMAS MARKET

Marlborough was definitely in the mood to welcome in the Christmas season with a busy market, magical street entertainers, and wonderful singing from the BlueBelles Choir and Marlborough Academy of Drama and Dance. Father Christmas came along too and it seemed like the whole town

joined the Town Crier and Mayor to count down to the big switch-on.





## DARK SKIES

Living, as we do, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), and blessed with many pockets of dark skies, The Town Council, in partnership with the North Wessex Downs AONB and Marlborough College, created the event to celebrate this fact and to provide a platform from which to share knowledge. Quite simply because the more of us that experience the magic of the night sky and understand its importance, the more value we place on protecting it for future generations.

The Dark Skies Festival was a huge success. Over 1,600 visitors saw the Museum of the Moon in the stunning Chapel at Marlborough College, over 1,300 attended talks, workshops, and activities across the main festival weekend, and 40+ volunteers supported the festival, giving up their time to manage venues and activities throughout the week and across the weekend.

<https://marlborough-tc.gov.uk/whatson/darkskiesfesthome>



## PARTNERSHIP WORK WITH WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Marlborough Town Council has three members who are also Wiltshire Council Councillors. The combined dual membership Councillors Jane Davies, James Sheppard, and Caroline Thomas serve as a strong bridge between both Councils for the benefit of the Marlborough community, particularly in matters such as highways, road safety, and potential asset transfers.





## OFFICERS OF DIGNITY



*Mace Bearers Barry Mercer and Bob Dobie take time out after the formalities of opening the Mop Fair, watched by Town Crier Mike Tupman*

Our Officers of Dignity support the Council all through the year and bring a real sense of occasion to so many of our events: Mop Fairs, Remembrance, Christmas Lights Switch-on, Commonwealth Day, Peppercorn Rent Ceremonies and much more. We are grateful for the effort put in by our Town Crier and Mace Bearers who really help to keep the town's historic traditions alive.

## WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR IN 2022-23

Here are some of the new projects the Council is working on for the coming year:

**To carry out a Climate Impact Assessment audit**

**To install new town and visitor signage**

**Build a new workshop for the Grounds team**

**Support a programme of Platinum Jubilee celebrations and tree planting**

**A new stock fence at Coopers Meadow**

**Neighbourhood Plan referendum**

**Developing biodiversity on the Common and in other locations**



*Clare Harris, our Assistant Town Clerk, had a busy year organizing events such as Dark Skies Fest, and will be leading on our event planning for 2022*

## COUNCILLORS

There are 16 Marlborough Town Councillor seats split across two wards, East and West. Town Councillors are volunteers and are not paid; residents can contact any Councillor for their Ward. All attend Full Council and Planning Meetings and are also members of Committees. There's more information about how the Council works and its services at <https://marlborough-tc.gov.uk/council>. As at June 2022 your Town Councillors are:

**Richard Allen**

West Ward



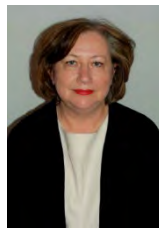
**Noel Barrett-Morton**

West Ward



**Kymee Cleasby**

East Ward



**Mark Cooper**

West Ward



**Jane Davies**

West Ward



**Lisa Farrell**

East Ward



**Nicholas Fogg**

West Ward



**Mervyn Hall**

East Ward



**Donald Heath**

West Ward



**Guy Loosmore**

East Ward



**Mark Luson**

West Ward



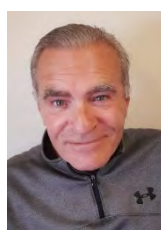
**Andrew Ross**

East Ward



**Kelvyn Shantry**

East Ward



**James Sheppard**

East Ward



**Caroline Thomas**

East Ward



**Jo Waltham**

East Ward





## THE STAFF TEAM

### IN THE OFFICE

**Barbara  
Chandler**

Office  
Cleaner



**Sue  
Fry**

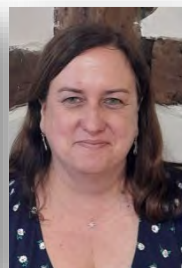
Office  
Manager



**Clare  
Harris**  
Assistant  
Town  
Clerk



**Andrea  
Millar**  
Civic &  
Cemetery  
Administrator



**Belinda  
Richardson**  
Tourism  
Officer



**Richard  
Spencer-Williams**  
Town  
Clerk



**Dawn  
Whitehall**  
Corporate  
Services  
Officer



### OUT AND ABOUT

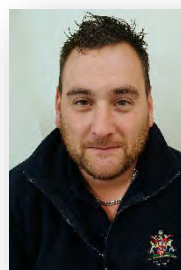
**Ryan  
Atcherley**  
Senior Groundsman



**Mark  
Stroud**  
Groundsman



**Ashley  
Tarrant**  
Groundsman



**Jason  
Walker**  
Foreman



**Nigel  
Weatherly**  
Grounds Manager

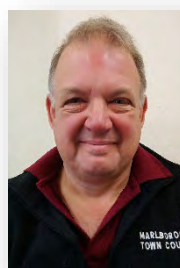


### IN OUR VENUES

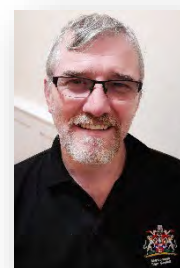
**Alan Brown**  
Town Hall  
Caretaker



**Martin Phipps**  
Caretaker



**Chris Woodward**  
Assistant  
Caretaker



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to:

**Marlborough College** and **Marlborough Golf Club** who allowed us to share their tools and keep the hedges and verges strimmed until we could replace those stolen from our Workshop.

**Marlborough College** and the **North Wessex Downs AONB** and the army of **volunteers** who made the Dark Skies Fest such a success.

Former Mayor, **Margaret Rose**, who heads up the Friends of the Victorian Cemetery, and to **Kim Wakeham** and **David Sherratt** for their input on this cemetery's historical significance.

Our links with **4 Military Intelligence Battalion** are very strong and we are very grateful for their support all year: Remembrance events, Christmas Lights, charity events and much more.

Marlborough's **Rotary** and **Lions** Clubs and all those involved in supporting the Christmas Lights for helping to make this such a great occasion.

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**Thanks go to all Councillors, staff and the Council's partners for their hard work and commitment to the Marlborough community**

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## CONTACT US

Our offices are at 5 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1AA

01672 512487 | [enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@marlborough-tc.gov.uk) | [www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk](http://www.marlborough-tc.gov.uk)



AUTHOR: RICHARD SPENCER-WILLIAMS | DESIGN: DAWN WHITEHALL