



Wallingford Town Council

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Full Council,  
22 July 2024  
Item 7

## **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT - JULY 2024**

### **Heritage Watch**

A timetable of action, arising out of work with Historic England and Thames Valley Police, has been developed and Stage 1 (July) has been completed. This is substantial community-based work and should be kept under review in public. The timetable is provided as an appendix to this report.

### **Town Hall Conservation Project**

The Town Council's Expression of Interest (EOI) to the National Lottery Heritage Fund has been successful. EOIs are required for grants of between £250k and £10m. We now move to what is known as 'development phase' which comes before the 'delivery phase.' It takes up to 12 weeks to assess an application as part of the development phase and will be presented to one of NLHF's quarterly committee meetings.

### **The Regal – feasibility review of options**

ADP Carter Jonas were appointed as the winning tender at the Full Council meeting in June 2024. They were immediately informed, as were all tenderers.

This contract is being directly managed by the Head of Parks and Estates.

The contractor met with senior staff and the Mayor on 5 July 2024 and visited the site. They will be providing the Head of Parks and Estates with updates throughout their work.

The feasibility review is due to be completed by the end of September 2024 and the outputs are scheduled to be completed to the Full Council for decision in October 2024

### **Wallingford School Awareness Campaign**

This initiative has been instrumental in fostering environmental consciousness among our young residents and enhancing their appreciation of Wallingford's rich history. It has been run for the past four years with Year Seven students at Wallingford School and typically involves 250 students each year.

The students have shown enthusiasm throughout the campaign. They have actively engaged in discussions about litter and the importance of keeping our town clean. Notably, students have taken the initiative to pick up litter and dispose of it properly in bins, demonstrating the campaign's effectiveness in promoting responsible behaviour.

The campaign has successfully highlighted Wallingford's historical significance. Students have gained a deeper understanding and appreciation of our town's heritage.

These efforts have helped foster a sense of pride and respect for our town.

Special thanks to the museums Judy Dewy and Sue Wright for their invaluable time and input.

### **Britain in Bloom 2024**

Building on the successes and learnings from our 2023 entry, we have made significant strides to enhance our contributions and community involvement. In our first entry (2023) for over 17 years, we were awarded a Silver for our Town entry and received the Best Achievement for Community Involvement.

Our entries for 2024 are as follows:

- 'It's Your Neighbourhood': We have submitted seven entries in this category, reflecting the extensive community participation and the diverse range of projects undertaken by our community.
- Town Entry: Our comprehensive Town entry builds on the feedback and insights from last year, aiming to showcase the best of Wallingford's floral displays, environmental responsibility, and community engagement.
- Park Entry - Castle Gardens: Parks Manager Scott Wells has taken the lead for our Castle Gardens entry, ensuring that this beloved green space is a standout feature in our submissions. Judging took place 12 July.

Judging for various projects and areas has been scheduled meticulously, involving multiple leads to cover the diverse range of initiatives. Key dates are between 4 and 19 July.

We extend our gratitude to everyone involved, including all volunteers and community members for their dedication. Special thanks to Parks Manager Scott Wells for his guidance and support during the judges' visit. Their positive feedback highlights the impact of our collective efforts and the promising prospects for Wallingford in this year's competition.

The Awards Ceremony is scheduled for 25 September at the Oakwood Centre in Woodley. Invitations will be sent to all Wallingford groups. This event will be an excellent opportunity to celebrate our achievements and acknowledge the hard work of everyone involved. We look forward to another successful year in the Britain in Bloom competition.

## **Stair lift, Town Hall**

This is in the progress of being replaced and the Head of Parks and Estates Arthur Hodsdon is leading on this. Quotations are currently being sought and the work is fully budgeted. The existing curve lift will be removed and replaced with a new one.

## **Community transport scheme**

Several months ago, the Town Council were successful in attracting grant funding from the County Council to develop a Community Transport Scheme. We have been recruiting for a co-ordinator to work with the Town Council and other key stakeholders to grow the scheme from its inception to a sustainable business model. Unfortunately, we have so far been unsuccessful in finding a successful candidate to date.

## **20 mph speed limit consultation**

Following a previous consultation on proposals for a 20mph speed limit within Wallingford (retaining some lengths of 30mph) - which were put forward in October/November 2023 (see details [here](#)) - the majority of these proposals were approved by the County Council. However, a reassessment by Officers of the of the roads originally proposed to remain at 30mph was suggested, requiring subsequent further consultation and approval.

The County Council are therefore asking for your views on the refined proposals which seek to amend the previously approved town-wide 20mph speed limit by extending the limit outwards to points on: Castle Street/Shillingford Road, Hithercroft Road, Reading Road/Winterbrook, The Street, Wantage Road, and Winterbrook Lane.

The proposals are being put forward following road safety concerns raised by the town, and form part of a countywide programme of works that seeks to deliver '*a safer place with a safer pace*' for the residents of Oxfordshire.

The consultation has been announced in local press and any objections and representations should be submitted by 2 August 2024.

The County Council has provided a Public Notice, a Statement of Reasons, a Consultation Plan, and a Draft Traffic Regulation Order which all be used to increase local publicity.

The consultation is being run by Mr Christian Mauz, Senior Officer within the Environment and Place Team within the Highways and Operations Division of the County Council.

The County Council's consultation portal can be found using the following link:

[https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wallingford\\_amended20mph2024](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wallingford_amended20mph2024)

## **WTC current projects**

The list of current Town Council projects has been updated and is available on request. Cllr Charter is currently using the bandstand proposal as a case study to define the stages that a project must pass through from concept to completion.

## **Climate action**

Councillors Acreman and Sandall have helpfully summarised all the work that the Town Council has undertaken as part of the climate emergency and this summary will be published on the Town Council website during week commencing 15 July 2024. We are also increasing prominence of this document by inclusion on one of the drop-down menus.

## **Younger People Working Group**

The Full Council created this Working Group at their meeting in June 2024. Its convenor and chair is Councillor Sandall. The terms of reference have been completed and are available on request. The membership will be Councillors Beauchamp, Sandall and Keats-Rohan, and the non-councillor members will be David Crutchley, Yasmine Betteridge (TRAIN), Kelsey Protcor (Wigod Way Family Centre), Karen Whiting (Beacon Youth) and Georgina Croome (OX10)

Luke Whitcomb,  
Meetings Officer  
with contributions from stakeholders  
15 July 2024