



Sherborne Town Council

Annual Report 2021-22



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Message from the Mayor of Sherborne



My mayoral year started in a slightly better position with regard to Covid, we were just coming out of the third lockdown with meetings still being conducted by zoom; my induction was a low-profile event sat in front of a computer screen!

My mayoral duties have been very varied with many different ways to carry on with events and raising the profile of our town as we come out of an arduous year.

The first civic function I attended was the 2021 Sherborne Business Awards hosted by the Grange at Osborne, a slightly surreal experience as this was the first time I had been anywhere with this many people for over a year. It did showcase how well our local businesses had thought outside the box to enable their businesses to carry on trading even in a limited way.

Eight months on I attended the 2022 Sherborne Business Awards at Leweston School and again this just showed how strong our local businesses are in succeeding to overcome the challenges of the still uncertain times.

I officially opened up the top floor accommodation at Trinity Manor back in the summer and have attended several events at this same venue, including a tree planting by the Soroptimist group along with the outside Christmas Fair, which was organised in the car park to give the residents a bit of safe normality.

I enjoyed being part of Sherborne's Town Video as part of the town's relaunch.

I recorded a poem in the Paddock Gardens for a virtual event supporting Weldmar, along with the popular Memory Jar event, which again was held in Paddock Garden with the jars lighting up in the dusk using mini solar panels.

I was privileged to help present the young people their attainment awards at Future Roots just outside Sherborne near Holnest. This had a lovely, relaxed feel, being held in a marquee in a field away from the actual buildings.

I had several occasions to be at the ceremonies of the Royal British Legion here in town, to commemorate the founding of the British Legion, launch of the Poppy Appeal, Armistice Day and Remembrance Day. I was honoured to be able to make the wreath for the Remembrance Day which I laid on behalf of the town.

Christmas saw several civic functions cancelled due to the increase in Covid cases, but I did enjoy spending several hours at the Christmas Festive day with street stalls along Cheap Street, Digby Road and Christmas Craft Fairs in both the Digby Hall and the Digby Memorial Hall. I managed to do all my Christmas shopping, which was the most organised I have ever been!

In my Sherborne Times article last June, I set out how I was going to be altering the role of Mayor to put more emphasis on staying local, true to myself and giving my time and energy to help benefit Sherborne in the best ways I could.

I continued with volunteering at the Covid Vaccination clinics, which were organised by our three local GPs and held in the Town Council's Digby Hall venue. There has been a great team spirit with all the volunteers from Sherborne and surrounding villages.

Last June saw me doing a virtual induction to become a Sherborne Volunteer Ambassador, set up by Dorset Council to help the high streets to recover from the Covid pandemic. I spent more than 60 happy hours meeting and greeting visitors who were enjoying finding new destinations within England due to travel restrictions. I worked with local businesses enabling them to get visitor guides into many suitable venues and this year we are getting shop window stickers to indicate where visitor information is available.

I continue to do regular litter picks around most of Sherborne, using the opportunity to chat to residents along the way. During this time, I have inspired young and older residents to pick up a litter picker and get out in their own time to help with the clean up of our environment and to enjoy being active within our community. Over the past two years I have picked up a total of 190 compost bags full of rubbish and managed to recycle numerous plastic bottles and cans.

Early last summer I was helped by a couple of ladies to replant one of the flower beds in Paddock Garden, Sylvia Avgherinos and myself donated the plants for the enjoyment of all. We tended this bed throughout the summer, weeding and watering when required. More recently Cllr Matt Hall and myself went on a plant buying trip to Devon on behalf of the Town Council, to purchase a selection of plants to be planted into the raised water feature beds within Pageant Gardens. By the time you are reading this the plants will have settled into their new positions to add even more colour, scent, interest and new sources of food for the bees and butterflies.

Lastly, I would like to say it's been a privilege to represent Sherborne in the various Civic duties I have carried out on your behalf & I am proud to have been called the People's Mayor on several occasions.

Anne

Your Town Councillors



Mayor 2021/22

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Deputy Mayor 2021/22

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Staff, Health & Safety Portfolio Holder

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Open Spaces Portfolio Holder

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Properties Portfolio Holder

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Environment Committee Chairman

Cllr Margaret Crossman
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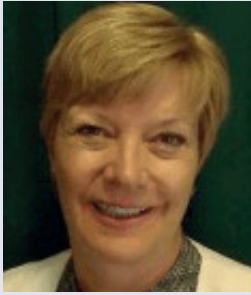


Plans Committee Chairman

Cllr Suresh Jeganathan
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Cllr Jill Warburton

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Cllr Susan Greene

East Ward

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Despite the impact of the pandemic, attendance by councillors at all meetings has been excellent.

Finance Portfolio Holder – Cllr Bill Taylor

With the new financial year just begun, Sherborne Town Council faces a similar dilemma to every other household and business in the country. How do we improve the life of our beautiful town in the midst of continuing worries about COVID, soaring energy costs and steeply rising inflation?

Our answer is to focus above all on the health, wellbeing and resilience of all our community: the people who live and work in Sherborne, the businesses that keep the town thriving and the tourists who visit this special corner of Dorset.

COVID taught us how important green spaces are to our physical and mental health. So we are investing heavily in improving all our parks, sports and leisure spaces. Pageant Gardens is being continually upgraded and we have seen huge improvements to the environment of the Quarr. Paddock Gardens is also being refurbished.

As one resident told me: “Getting out and about in Sherborne kept me sane during lockdown. I’m so glad I’m not still living in a tiny flat in a London tower block.”

Many thousands of sports fans rely on the Terrace Playing Fields every week of the year. So we’re upgrading the facilities there – including an ambitious plan to install solar energy collectors and heat pumps to replace ageing boilers. Good for the planet, too: one of the council’s many contributions to fighting global warming.

Our allotments also helped keep people healthy, sane and happy during COVID and we plan to protect these precious gardening spaces and create more of them.

After two years of our pandemic recovery fund, we’re still investing in grants for vital community organisations to make sure they survive post-COVID. These clubs and voluntary groups play a crucial role in maintaining mental and social health. Our grants also help support business groups, tourism and thriving town markets.

The impact of the pandemic on the Digby Hall in Hound Street demonstrates how some good can often come out of misfortune. Council income from hall bookings crashed because of lockdown, but that freed up the hall to become the centre of Sherborne’s hugely successful COVID vaccination programme.

Congratulations to all the GPs, nurses and volunteers who made it happen so smoothly. Talking of health, Sherborne Town Council also campaigned to make sure that the Minor Injuries Unit at the Yeatman Hospital reopened as promised after its temporary COVID closure.

Community health is our top priority and I believe our new budget reflects that. The Town Council share of your council tax for 2022-23 will go up by only 5 pence a week for a Band D property. That’s an increase of only 1.25 per cent at a time when national price inflation is threatening to exceed 7 per cent.

It’s a recognition of our need to spend our money very wisely in tough times while also supporting the bounce-back-ability of a great town.

Open Spaces Portfolio Holder – Cllr Matt Hall

Where did that year go? Over the past year, a considerable amount of work has been done to maintain and improve the outside spaces for the residents of Sherborne and its visitors.

Pageant Gardens has seen the installation of the new water features which have been liked by so many of those who visit the garden, along with the resident ducks, who are still there. As I type this, we await a delivery of plants that will help brighten up the associated beds with colour and varieties of plants that attract insects. The main police station entrance is having the gate refurbished and the trip hazard removed. New bird, owl and insect boxes have been installed to help keep the wildlife in this natural haven right in the centre of our town. Much work has and will continue to be done on the trees within the garden. Some require only a simple haircut while unfortunately others have succumbed to rot and disease, which has put an end to several large trees. However, it is our policy to replant where possible in the garden and if not to use other locations within the town.

After consulting with the residents of Granville Way and Lambsfield, two new benches have been installed on the green spaces along with extra tree planting. New bollards are being purchased to stop a grassed area being used by vehicles as a short cut. We are also looking at prices and designs for improving the play provision on Lambsfield which we hope will inspire and keep our children amused on sunny and the not so sunny days.

Paddock Garden has seen a major investment this year by the way of a new path surface. The original gravel top had long since disappeared which was leading to a deterioration in the path base. The new surface, which is made from recycled straws, has a 20-year guarantee and unlike the old gravel top, comfortably allows buggies, push chairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters to enter without the risk of being bogged down. Wall repairs were needed on health and safety grounds and a low-key set of replanting has started with the aim of replacing those plants that have succumbed to the ravages of the English climate. We have also reduced the number of bins within the garden to make it look more appealing and less bin city. All the garden benches have been cleaned.



The take-up of allotments in town is still at a high level, with a waiting list at many of our locations. New half-size allotments have recently been created at the Westbridge Park site with the aim of reducing the waiting list and to allow those residents with busy lives to take on a more manageable sized plot.

The old Pony Paddock on Hunts Mead has been renamed The Platinum Reserve in celebration of the Queen's jubilee. The aim is to provide a green corridor between existing homes and any new developments that may happen through the new Dorset Local Plan. This area, which already has native species of flowers, which through a specific maintenance regime will expand in numbers and varieties. Further planting including trees has and will continue to be introduced to the area that will give a green space for residents to enjoy, something which the residents of the Ridgeway Estate have not had close to hand before.



Work continues at the Terrace Playing Fields to improve the facilities for our successful sporting teams, especially the quality of the pitch surface with new equipment being bought and others sourced as I write. The new rabbit proof fencing is expanding in length at every opportunity which is particularly important for the safety of the pitch users. More trees have been planted and we are currently looking at installing a water filling station for the users of the facilities, with the aim of reducing single use plastics and providing less rubbish for the town council to have to pay to dispose of. The long-awaited green energy improvements for the Gainsborough building is at last getting closer to an actual start date. With the rising cost of energy, the sooner this happens the better for the town council to financially benefit from and help reduce the climate impact the council has upon the environment.

Unfortunately, it has not been all good news this year. Many of the new trees which have been planted over the last 12 months have been vandalised including one of the newly planted cherry trees which are part of the Sakura project. The newly installed noticeboard in Pageant Gardens was more than vandalised it was destroyed. We will endeavor to make another attempt at a noticeboard in Pageant Gardens but in a slightly different location.

The Outside Spaces Portfolio will continue to work with all areas of the town council to keep Sherborne a beautiful place to live, work and play.

A special thanks must go to our Property Manager, Paul Newman, and to all the outside team for their fantastic work over the past year. No matter the weather, no matter how unsavory the task they are always there to help the town council and benefit our residents and visitors through their hard work.

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Staff, Health & Safety Portfolio Holder – Cllr Jon Andrews

Well it's been another busy year in the staffing portfolio. Firstly, a big thanks to all the staff for their flexibility during what was another trying year due to the covid pandemic. I know a few of the staff have contracted the virus during the last year and hope they have all fully recovered. The council has continued to function without too many hiccups and hopefully face to face meetings will become the norm.

During the year we have had a few people leave and retire so our thanks must go to Yvonne our RFO who has retired, Judith our Facilities Officer who has also retired and Helen our Receptionist who has relocated to Wimborne.

We have managed to replace and restructure some of the roles and have taken on some new staff. Matt has replaced Yvonne as the RFO and has started to restructure the finance reports and is in the process of changing the town council accounting software. Joanna has replaced Judith in the facilities role and I know is getting to grips with the cemetery and allotment parts of her role. Sarah has replaced Helen and in addition has taken on some further admin tasks as well as covering for Joanna. Health and Safety was a role that was picked up by Judith and under her guidance we have improved beyond all recognition in the last nine years. Nowadays this is seen as such an important role and consequently we have employed Mark who has professional qualifications in H & S management. We are currently looking to employ a summer seasonal outside team member as the growing season has started in earnest.

So, as I said a very busy year lots of interviews etc but we have replaced a great team with a great team.

Plans Committee Chairman – Cllr Suresh Jeganathan

It has been my pleasure to chair the Planning Committee over the past year.

This year has been a 'quieter' year of planning proposals coming in front of the Town Council, without the focus on the Dorset Local Plan and Sherborne House of last year.

As we emerge from the pandemic, our national and local economies look very different from previously. We are fortunate in Sherborne to have a dynamic independent business scene and it is a great sight to see a vibrant Cheap Street, with our smaller-scale businesses doing well and planning for their futures.

We enjoy great architectural surroundings and the balance in a town such as ours, is to preserve the rich fabric and history but equally accommodate progress and commercial development.

Within the remit the Town Council has, Councillors contribute to each meeting by commenting on each application, reflecting vital local insight upwards to Dorset Council's planning department. Our monthly Planning Committee meetings have been mainly conducted on Zoom through the year, with members of the public welcome to join these virtual meetings.

Of course, the Town Council is a statutory consultee in planning matters, without the power to grant or deny planning permission for any project.

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Environment Committee Chairman

– Cllr Margaret Crossman

Members of the Council recently formalised our commitment to work across the Council to push forward with our Environmental and Climate Emergency pledge. This work is directed by the STC Forward Plan which underpins everything that we do. Reports for these actions are in the appropriate portfolios. This united effort was illustrated by the planting of the liquid amber tree in what is now the Platinum Reserve (formerly the Pony Paddock) on Accession day – a small but symbolic act.



Our main focus this year has been to do what we can as a Council, managing out our resources to reduce our carbon footprint at the Gainsborough Pavilion up at the Terraces. Despite difficulties caused by “supply chain issues” and the Pandemic we have now heard from Low Carbon Dorset that they have granted STC 40% of the cost of these carbon dioxide reducing measures. This means that Sherborne gets 100% of the benefits at 60% of the cost. In addition to reducing the town’s carbon footprint we are supporting local firms and growing the green economy in Dorset. There are four main parts to the project.

Photovoltaic: We plan to put solar panels on the roof of the changing rooms and the Band Practice room. The Evergreen system is a nominal 17.16kWp system and is estimated to produce 14 650 kWh per year with a saving of 6 730 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Whoever uses this energy we save this amount of carbon dioxide. It is our intention to display the amount of energy being generated at the Pavilion.

LED lighting: Over the last 4 years the fluorescent lights have used an average of over 4300 kWh per year. That is an average of 1113kg of carbon dioxide a year. If we use 90% of the energy for lighting and LEDs use half the current of the present lights this will produce 500 kg of carbon dioxide a year and use almost 2000kWh per year. So the LEDs will save over 600 kg of carbon dioxide a year and save us about 2400units of electricity which would otherwise have cost us around £670 at prices in April 2022.

Heating and Heat pumps: A heat pump provides 2 or 3 times more heat energy than it uses in electrical energy. Heat pumps work best when it is warm outside but they do work well down to an outside temperature of 5C. (For instance a heat pump will take the inside of your freezer down to -20C.) The water for the showers and the heating for the changing rooms and the Band Practice room is currently provided by an oil boiler which is very near to the end of its useful life. Replacing the boiler with heat pumps has the added incentive of considerably reducing the town’s carbon footprint and we can stop using fossil fuels. Our average oil consumption over the past 4 years was 2290 litres per year. That is equivalent to 20 860 kWh at a cost of £1200 and produced 5 530 kg of carbon dioxide. (Given that the cost of oil has now tripled this should save us about £3600 per

year.) Assuming that the heat pump gives us the same energy at SCOP of 3.43 and that we draw all the energy from the grid we will produce 1 550 kg of carbon dioxide giving a carbon saving of 3 970 kg per year. (Using energy we have generated will reduce this even further, however, this is difficult to quantify.)

Total carbon dioxide savings per year (in kg).

LEDs	600
Photovoltaic	6 730
Heating	3 900

Giving a total of 11 300 or 11.3 tonnes per year.

Hot water:

Water usage at the Gainsborough Pavilion. In an average non-Covid year we use 360 units of water. Our biggest need for hot water is in the winter which is when we get the least sun. There are 8 changing rooms with 5 shower-heads each plus 2 referees rooms. Maximum usage is on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons so we need heat pumps which are robust enough to heat all the water needed between the morning teams leaving and the afternoon teams finishing their matches. Given that we do have cold, short and dark winter’s days it would be prudent to have a back-up system. Electric immersion heaters can use energy from the grid – which has a much smaller carbon footprint than a fossil fuel boiler. The new shower-heads mix air with the water to give a powerful shower using less hot water. Water takes a huge amount of energy to heat but the new shower-heads will mean that we can get our athletes clean at a lower cost in terms of both money, water usage and carbon footprint.

Heating systems:

We need new radiators because the heat we get out of a radiator depends on:-

- 1) The temperature difference between the water in the radiators and room temperature
- 2) The surface area of the radiator

We are used to using dirty fossil fuels which give us big temperature differences so we can achieve a good heat flow with smaller radiators. Heat pumps do not supply high temperatures but we can get the same heat flow if we have radiators with a bigger surface area. So we need new radiators both for the changing rooms and the Band Practice room.

The pan-Dorset Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) monthly meetings continue. It was at one of these meetings that we were told about Hubbub and Community Fridges which we have been working on this year. The need for a Community Fridge for the mitigation of food waste and relief of food poverty is becoming more acute as the cost of living crisis bites even harder. We have decided to focus on one fridge and progress has been made towards the installation of a Fridge. Two sources of funding have been secured and movement has been made towards the planning permission required for the site at St Paul’s and, through the good offices of the Church some of the infrastructure has been secured.

Other CEE meetings informed us about “Britain Talks Climate”, a Community Carbon Calculator and a pilot scheme for Carbon Literacy training.

Britain Talks Climate is a 121 page document which is based on listening to people and shows that Climate Change is consistently seen as a concern by “everybody”. Not just rich, white, middle class or left-wing people. Certain values and ideas - protecting future generations, creating a healthier society and preserving the countryside in ways that end our throwaway culture – have almost universal resonance across Britain. The report is available on-line. The purpose is to broaden the base of those working towards reducing the town’s carbon footprint.

The Community Carbon Calculator is also available on-line. impact-tool.org.uk

This was developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and the University of Exeter. They used two different approaches to recording carbon footprints each of which tell us useful things. On the website - “Using Impact” will get you started, it contains two videos which explain the process. Information is now available at ward level i.e. Sherborne East, Sherborne West and Sherborne Rural as well as at town and county level.

Carbon Literacy Training from the Carbon Literacy Project:

Carbon Literacy is “An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis”. “The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” Carbon literacy is about helping people discover the ways that they are affecting their own carbon dioxide emissions. This is becoming increasingly important as energy prices soar. The carbon map (carbonmap.org) allows us to see the effects of climate change globally.

Cllr Ray Bryant has spoken recently at a Dorset CEE meeting telling us of their plans to reduce the carbon footprint of the county and improve our environment.

At the last meeting we were concentrating on reducing car use by improving the bus offering. The discussion was led by Dorset Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG). I sent the secretary of Sherborne TAG details of the meeting and it was good to see the Chairman of STAG at the meeting. We were agreed that the planet cannot support the number of cars that we have. We need to replace cars either with active transport (i.e cycling or walking) or with public transport (bus, train etc).

Some of us attended the Climate Summit organised by SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks). This was an on-line summit and was attended by 140 for the whole day. (They were hoping for between 40 and 50 people.) A great deal of interesting information was shared.

Renewing the inspiration:-

Sign on a verge in Weymouth – “Pardon the weeds we’re feeding the bees”

“Be the change you want to see” (Ghandi)

“The bulk of carbon emissions come from the richest households – because they don’t know”

“All models are wrong – but some are useful”

“Bail out the sinking boat with a bucket – not a pipette”

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A report on Home Energy Surveys and infra-red cameras for detecting heat loss from homes was given at the last Environmental committee meeting. Over the last 11 years Dorset Greener Open Homes have been showcasing homes where the householders have already put in energy-saving measures. On the open days householders are happy to answer questions from the public about how they have reduced their home's carbon footprint. Sherborne was involved for the first time last year with four homes being open over two weekends (gardens actually as it was during Covid!).

Two excellent videos on DIY household thermal imaging surveys are available on schoolsenergyproject.org.uk. These surveys are best done in winter when the outside temperature is about 10 C below inside temperatures and the heating is on. Thermal images are always going to be “fuzzy” so some cameras incorporate a “visible” camera so that edges can be extracted and imposed on the thermal image.

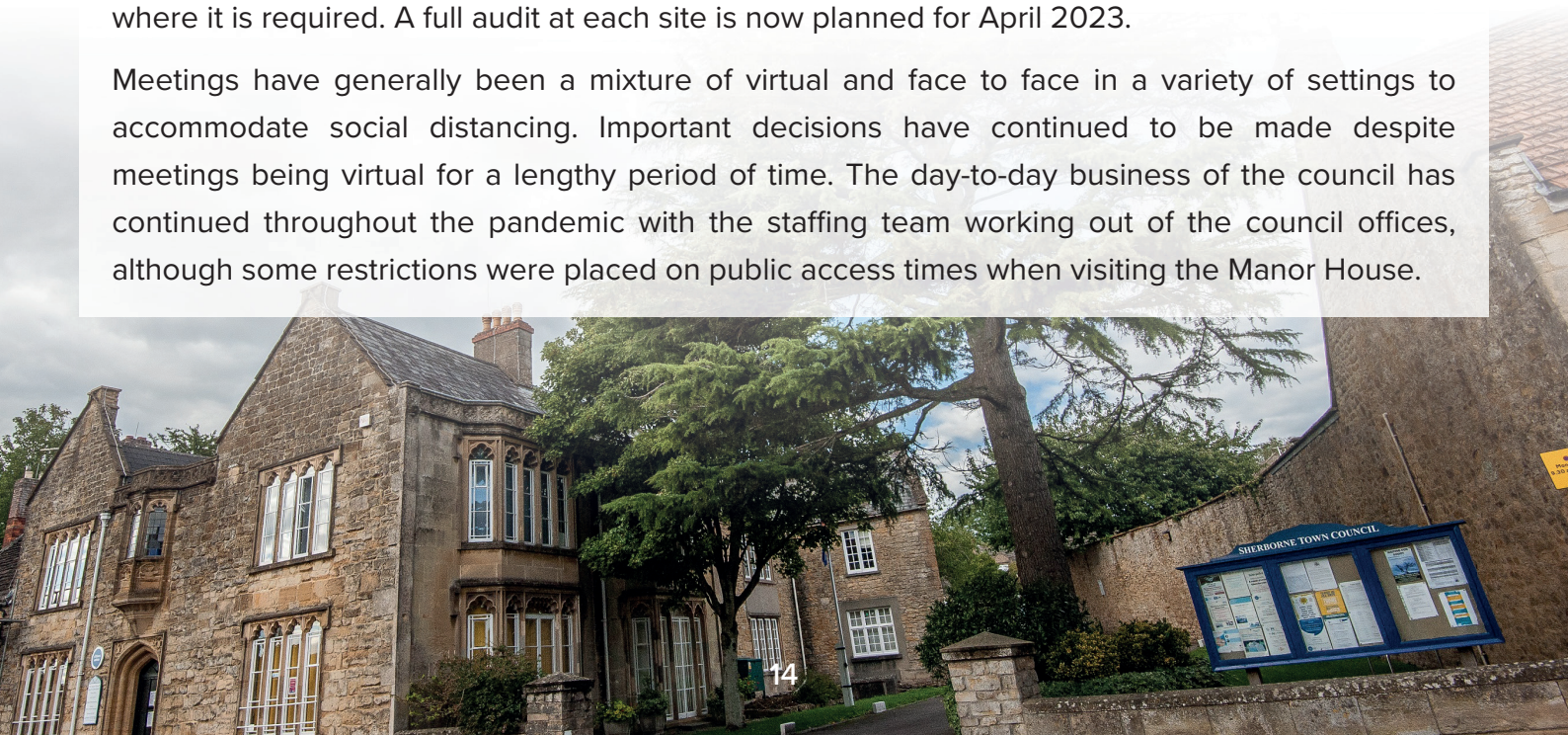
Finally, at the last Environment committee meeting we were delighted to welcome three young people from the Gryphon school and their teacher. It was good to listen to the students' plans and hopes and we look forward to working with them to reduce the carbon footprint of the town and improve the environment that we all share.

Overview from the Town Council Office

The last 12 months have seen the Town Council making good progress which has included important maintenance improvements across several outdoor spaces in the town. Progress continues to be made on items within the Forward Plan.

The Town Council Operational Staffing team has seen some changes owing to retirements and the creation of a new position. New staff have been welcomed into important roles within the team namely: - Responsible Finance Officer, Facilities Administrator and Clerical Administrator. A new Health and Safety Officer was recently appointed and will be implementing the Health and Safety Executives management system. Reviews of risk assessments and safe systems of work will be undertaken to include fire safety evacuation plans, monitoring and investigating of accidents, equipment and machinery inspections, operating procedures, noise and vibration, and training where it is required. A full audit at each site is now planned for April 2023.

Meetings have generally been a mixture of virtual and face to face in a variety of settings to accommodate social distancing. Important decisions have continued to be made despite meetings being virtual for a lengthy period of time. The day-to-day business of the council has continued throughout the pandemic with the staffing team working out of the council offices, although some restrictions were placed on public access times when visiting the Manor House.



Further path improvements have been made at the Quarr Nature Reserve as well as the introduction of a lovely new bench and accessible steps, constructed in house by our ground's maintenance team. Pageants Gardens has seen the introduction of new water features, which has created a tranquil space for those to enjoy as part of a wider enhancement project. All of which has proven to be a great success within the local community. New benches were also installed around the band stand along with additional street furniture. New perimeter fencing has been introduced in sections around the gardens. A fantastic new wood carving has been created which has attracted much positive attention. New Owl and Bat boxes also appearing in some existing trees, along with the introduction of new lecterns.



Paddock Garden has seen a significant financial investment into improving the existing paths and maze surfacing which is now accessible to everyone. A resin bound solution has transformed the surface, with the subbase created using the equivalent of 2,364,000 plastic straws in the making of the improved surfacing.



The Terrace Playing Fields has seen the continuation of new fencing erected around the playing pitches with further works planned. The Town Council continue to invest in Sport Pitch maintenance at this location with additional new machinery due to be purchased shortly which will include a Quadraplay and Verti Drain to support this work. New Cycle Racks have also been installed recently.



Allotments continue to be in high demand and there is a long waiting list. The newly created additional allotments in Westbridge Park are also proving popular.

The Digby Hall also continues to be in demand following a lengthy period when the facility was being used as the vaccination centre for the benefit of Sherborne residents. It was fantastic to welcome back hirers after such a long period. It was an outstanding effort by everyone associated with health provision locally and indeed the volunteers supporting the professionals, to deliver so many vaccinations and keep our local community safe.

Following the closure of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC), which was the focal point for all things related to tourism and local guidance, the Town Council received some transitional funding from Dorset Council to enable it to continue to promote tourism within Sherborne.



A Town Promotional Video was created and has proven to have been a great success for the town – thanks to G & T Film Productions for some great work and some added fun along the way. A new Sherborne Microsite, under the Visit Dorset banner, will soon to be published and it is hoped the site will be inclusive across many aspects of the town. The phone box opposite the Abbey has now been adopted by the Town Council and literature and visitor information will shortly be displayed inside. New brochures to assist tourism will also be published in readiness for the Summer. The Dorset Council Ambassador Scheme has been a great success supporting visitors to the town and our thanks go to the many volunteers involved in this Dorset wide initiative.

Cleaning works to the Sherborne War Memorial were undertaken prior to the Remembrance Parade in November 2021. Cleaning and minor repairs will also be made to the Conduit shortly, subject to conservation approval.

The Town Council continue to invest in Summer Hanging Baskets for CheapStreet and the surrounding roads. General planting will also take place across the town which will include various summer bedding.



The Town Council continue to invest in youth provision within the town. Grant funding has recently been allocated to a variety of local youth providers with the Service Level Agreement for the Sherborne Youth and Community Centre recently extended for a further period of two years.

The Town Council website continues to see improvements and the addition of Facebook and Twitter has proven positive. This will help the Town Council be more transparent and assist with promoting day to day activities, news and events as well as meetings communication. Since last year's report there is a rise in followers on the Town Council Facebook page - from 117 followers to 544. Twitter has risen from 96 to 185. There has been more engagement with residents and businesses via social media. The possibility of introducing Instagram is now being considered in time for the Platinum Jubilee and the launch of the new Visit Sherborne microsite. The Green Sherborne part of the website has progressed with more groups, aligned with the council's forward plan being added to the page. Editorial in the Sherborne Times continues quarterly. The Town Council continued to sponsor the local Business Awards. Public consultation continues to improve via new methods which have included a leaflet drop to Granville Way residents relating to local public open spaces.



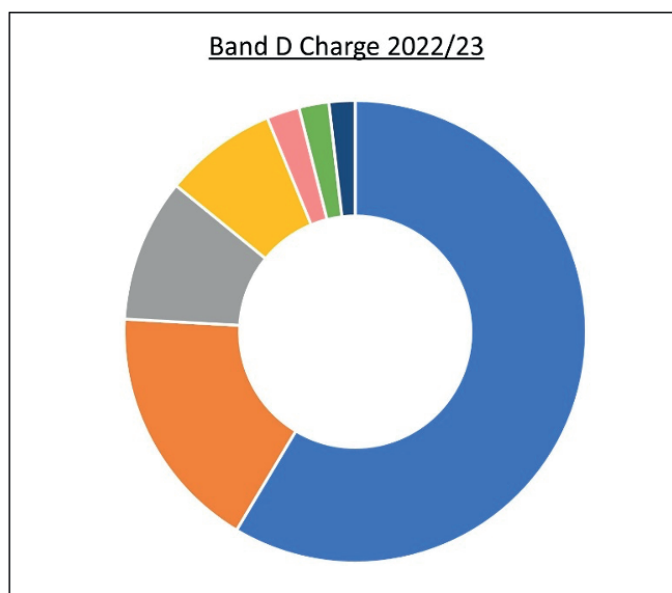
The Town Council welcomed the delivery of over 100 trees from the Woodland Trust as part of the Queen's Canopy Project as well as 15 Cherry Trees as part of the Sakura Project.

Precept 2022/23

The Town Council submits a request to the council tax authority each year called the precept. This year the council resolved to request £870,582 for 2022/23, which is £228.59 per Band D equivalent household. This means there has been an increase of £2.83 in the amount of money residents pay annually for the Town Council services in the coming year.

Finance – Annual Report 2022

	<u>Band D</u>	
	<u>Charge</u>	
Salaries	£	133.91
Administration	£	39.52
Parks & Open Spaces	£	22.91
Vehicles, Plant & Machinery	£	18.04
Grants	£	5.25
Properties	£	4.78
Terrace Playing Fields	£	4.18
	£	<u>228.59</u>



Planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations is well underway and a programme of general activities will be published shortly. The Sherborne Beacon will be lit on the evening of Thursday, 2nd June and a circle of 7 new trees will be planted in local schools later in the year to mark this occasion. Pageant Gardens will play host to a variety of music and entertainment on the afternoon of Saturday, 4th June. Bunting and flags will be erected over Cheap Street during the celebrations and new planters have been purchased for appropriate locations across the town. The Town Council have recently named the green open space off Hunts Mead Road, formerly known as the Pony Paddock, to the Platinum Reserve to mark this rare occasion. A Liquidamber tree was also planted on this site to mark the Queen's Accession Day early in February. The Town Council received funding from Dorset Council for flags and bunting, new picnic benches, planters and promotional banners all of which will be in place in time for the celebrations.

There are still projects to be completed that will run over into the new financial year and funding has been allocated accordingly. Such projects include Town Clock Improvements, Conduit cleaning and repairs, Energy Efficiency Measures at the Gainsborough Pavilion Terraces, vehicles and attachments and a New Storage Building again at the Terraces. New cycle racks have also been recently introduced to the Terraces funded via Dorset Council. The Lambsfield Play Area is soon to be enhanced with other play areas to follow.

Town Council Forward Plan

Green Sherborne

- Road Sweeper Employed
- Solar Panels, Air Source Heat Pumps/LED Lighting/Insulation approved and awaiting installation at the Gainsborough Pavilion Terrace Playing Fields
- External Funding amounting to £51,746.58 received from Low Carbon Dorset towards this work
- Environmentally Friendly Planting Policy Introduced
- Electric Road Sweeper introduced into the town
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points introduced into Car Park in the town by Dorset Council
- New Recycling Bin for Pageant Gardens
- New Water Bottle Filling Station introduced into Pageant Gardens

Communicating Sherborne

- Communications Officer appointed
- Refreshed Social Media Policy approved
- New Town Council Website published
- New Town Council Facebook and Twitter Accounts published
- Regular articles featured in the Sherborne Times
- Budget Consultations held in recent years
- Town Council Annual Report now produced
- Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Level application submitted to Society of Local Council Clerks for consideration

Innovating Sherborne

- Manor House soon to be marketed as the Town Council move towards a relocation to the Digby Hall and Library site in Hound Street
- External Transitional Funding amounting to £20,000 received from Dorset Council to promote tourism in the town
- Low Carbon Dorset 40% Project Funding confirmed for Gainsborough Pavilion Energy Efficiency Works
- Various External funding received from Dorset Council from the Reopening of High Streets Fund
- ShopAppy piloted in Sherborne funded by Dorset Council
- Additional bollards for Abbey Road and Hound Street to be funded by Dorset Council
- Feasibility Study undertaken for potential Town CCTV but not pursued at this time owing to cost of installation and ongoing maintenance charges
- Community Orchard at McCreery Road Allotment Site now established
- External Funding amounting to £4,000 received to implement a Community Fridge at St Pauls Church

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2022

A Public Forum is held at the start of every Town Council Meeting.
Please refer to relevant agendas for meeting timings and locations.

Month	Plans Committee Monday	Town Council Monday	Environment Committee Monday
January	10th	17th	
February	7th	21st	
March	7th	21st	28th
April	4th	19th (Tuesday) Town Council Meeting 25th Annual Parish Meeting	
May	3rd (Tuesday)	9th Statutory Annual Meeting and Mayor Making	
June	6th	20th	27th
July	4th	18th	
August	1st	No meeting	
September	5th	19th	26th
October	3rd	24th (owing to Pack Monday)	
November	7th	21st	
December	5th	12th	