

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2022-23

Daventry Town Council
3 New Street, Daventry, NN11 4BT
Tel: 01327 301246
Web: www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Facebook: @DavTC
Twitter: @Daventry_TC
Instagram: @daventrytowncouncil

Welcome to the Annual Report 2022/23

THE COUNCIL

We are the parish authority for the town of Daventry. We are committed to make Daventry Town a better place to live, work and visit.

Daventry Town Council consists of 16 councillors representing four wards (areas) who are elected every four years. Councillors and officers of the council work together to

- Provide a democratic and representational voice of the community.
- Support and contribute towards the economic and social growth of the local community.
- Provide quality services at the most effective cost.
- Work in partnership with other agencies providing public services for the Town.
- Striving to improve quality of life in the Town.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Council Committee meetings are held at the Town Council offices 3 New Street and open to everyone. Details, together with copies of Agendas, Minutes and reports can be found on the Town Council website [Daventry Town Council](https://www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk). If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the office on 01327 301246 or pop into the office on 3 New Street and we will provide you with the information you are seeking.

At the beginning of every meeting, there is an Open Forum, this provides members of the public with an opportunity to speak on any item on the Agenda or raise concerns and ask questions on community matters. If your concerns and/or questions cannot be answered at the meeting it will be referred to either the Chief Officer to investigate and respond or be deferred, as an Agenda item for discussion on the next Town Council or relevant committee meeting.

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

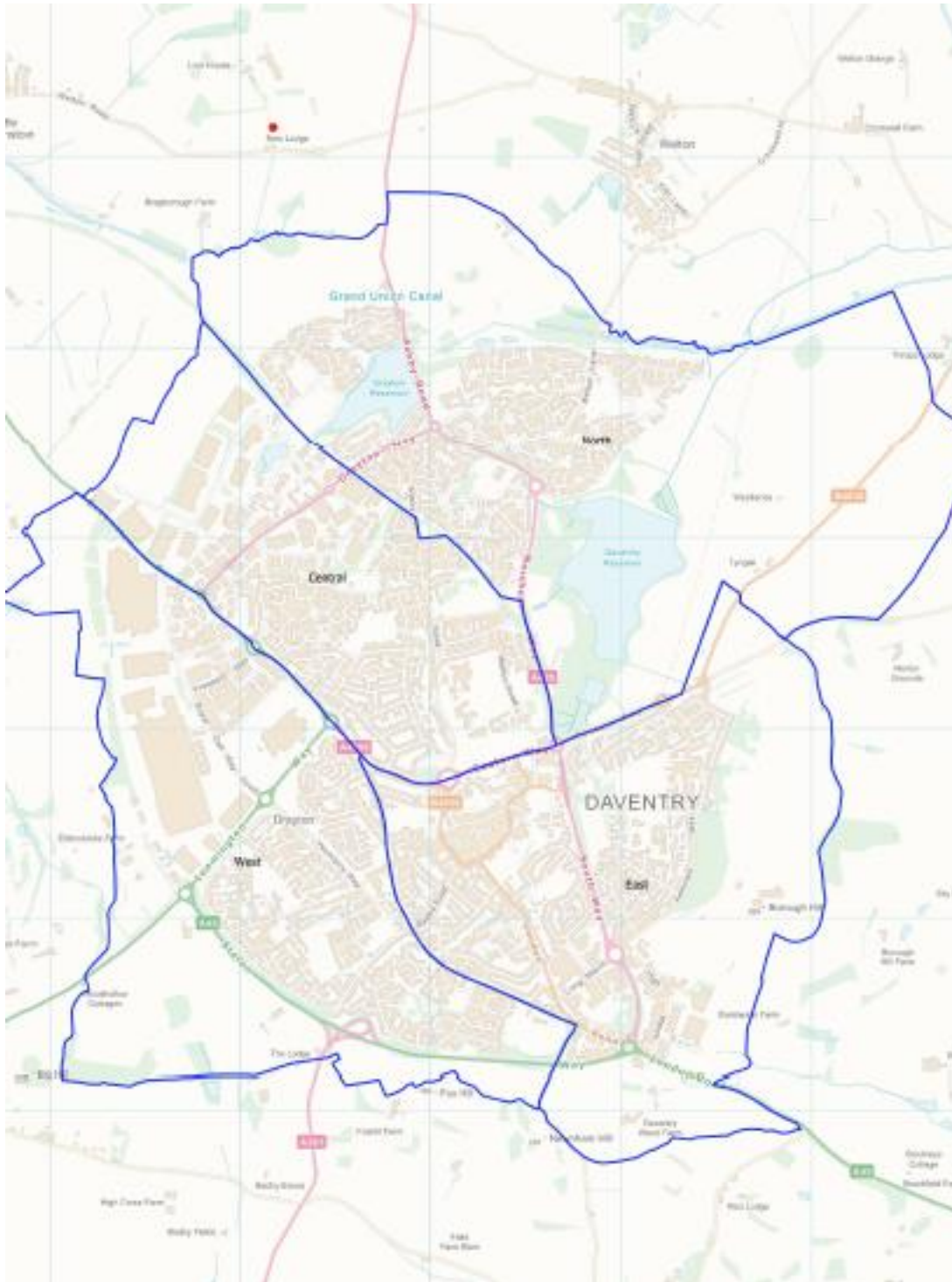
The Annual Town Meeting is an informal meeting, that must be held between 1st March and 1st June (inclusive each year). The meeting is to enable residents to ask questions of the Council and/or give their views on matters relating to the parish of Daventry for members to consider when making decisions on behalf of the community.

The Council submits its Annual Report to this meeting, to give a summary of the Council's activities over the previous financial year.

The Town Mayor presides over the meeting and everyone is welcome to speak but not all questions can be answered, some may need to be deferred to the Chief Officer or put on the Agenda of another meeting of the Council, for discussion.

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCILLORS AND WARDS

Town Ward Map



Town Council elections were held on 6th May 2021. The next election is scheduled for May 2025.

Details of your Town Councillors can be found below and, on the Town Council website, www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

DAVENTRY NORTH WARD	
Scott Cameron	cllr.cameron@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Alan Knape	cllr.knape@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Katie Thurston	Cllr.Thurston@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Karen Tweedale	cllr.tweedale@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
DAVENTRY CENTRAL WARD	
Dawn Branigan	cllr.branigan@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Stephen Dabbs	cllr.dabbs@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Ted Nicholl	cllr.nicholl@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Phillip Silk-Neilsen	Cllr.silk-neilsen@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
DAVENTRY EAST WARD	
Mike Arnold	cllr.arnold@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Malcolm Ogle	cllr.ogle@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Janet Matthews	cllr.matthews@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Holly Steenson	cllr.steenson@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
DAVENTRY WEST WARD	
Lynn Jones	cllr.jones@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Wendy Randall	cllr.randall@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Lynne Taylor	cllr.taylor@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk
Glenda Simmonds	cllr.simmonds@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

Daventry Town Council voted against awarding allowances to its Members (Daventry Town Councillors), however any expenditure incurred whilst on Council business is reimbursed.

An annual allowance of £3000 is awarded to the Mayor/Chair of Council to facilitate Mayoral/Civic duties.

COUNCIL SERVICES

It can be confusing knowing which council to contact for the many services that both Town and Unitary Councils provide, as a rough guide for

Services provided by Daventry Town Council (list of services below):

Tel: 01327 301246

Email: Customerservices@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

- Allotments (Daneholme, Drayton East and West, Staverton Rd, Welton Rd)
- CCTV
- Children's Play Areas & Skate Park
- Civic & Mayoral Functions
- Community Transport (Town Dial-A-Ride)
- Community Ranger
- Community Representation
- Council Meetings
- Events & Community Engagement
- Funding (Community grants)
- Hanging Baskets & Christmas lights
- Holy Cross Closed Churchyard
- Management & maintenance of tree stock & highway verges
- Management & Maintenance of Parks, Open Spaces, Lakes, Ponds & Ditches
- Markets
- Museum
- Open Spaces
- Sheaf Street Gazebo & Town Sculptures
- Street Furniture (seating, bins)
- Town Management
- War Memorial & Remembrance Day Parade
- Welton Road Cemetery & Burials

Services provided by the West Northamptonshire Council

Tel: 0300 126 7000

Email: contactus@westnorthants.gov.uk

Adult social care

Children's services

Council tax

Environmental Health

Garden waste collection

Highways

Housing

Household waste and recycling (bins)

Parking

MAYOR/CHAIR OF COUNCIL

The Mayor/ Chair of Council for 2022/23 is Councillor Malcolm Ogle.

The Mayor's role is to chair the council and engage with the community to raise awareness of local charities and organisations. The Mayor/Chair is elected by members of the Town Council, at the Annual Town Meeting, held every year in May.

If you would like the Mayor to learn more about your organisation or charity, or attend an event please

Email mayor@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk or download a mayoral engagement form <https://www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk/the-mayor.html>

REPORT FROM THE MAYOR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2022/23

It has been another busy year for the Town Council, and as Mayor I have attended 60 events, meeting many different organisations and people seeking to make a difference in their environment or the lives of others.

The Town Council had a busy year organising events to celebrate the BBC's 100th Anniversary, Dr Who, Speciality Markets, Summer Activities in the Parks, Halloween, Fireworks, Christmas, Bark in the Park, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Happily, our dear Queen was able to enjoy the Jubilee celebrations but sadly, in September of the same year, we said a fond farewell to a great Queen, who came to the throne to serve the nation and the commonwealth, and I think we can all agree she did that with dignity and grace through some very challenging times. I also had the immeasurable honour to read the Proclamation of the new Sovereign, King Charles III, an historic moment and tradition which was the only method of communicating to the people that they had a new Monarch. Today, modern methods of communication conveyed the news around the world in and instant.

My Mayoral year is coming to an end, and I look back with fondness for the role of Mayor. I'm delighted to report that I, with a lot of help from my friends and Town Council officers, raised more than £5,900 for Maire Curie, my chosen charity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Anne, for the support and help she has given me throughout my Mayoral year, I couldn't have done it without her, especially our biggest and most successful event, Bark in the Park. Thank you, Anne.

So, having been Mayor through a Platinum Jubilee, the passing of our Queen and the Coronation of our King I feel I have had a memorable term of office but most of all it has been an honour to represent Daventry and its residents.

Cllr Malcolm Ogle
Mayor and Chair of the Council

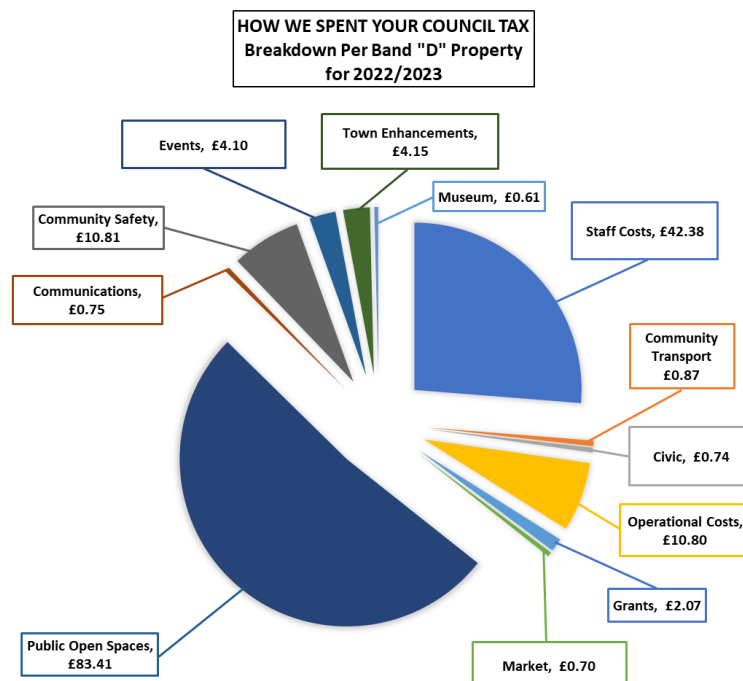
REPORT FROM FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

In the financial year 22/23 the Town Council spent the majority of its budget on the management and maintenance of the open spaces, which included fund allocated to implement improvements to the functionality, safety and biodiversity of its ponds and ditches.

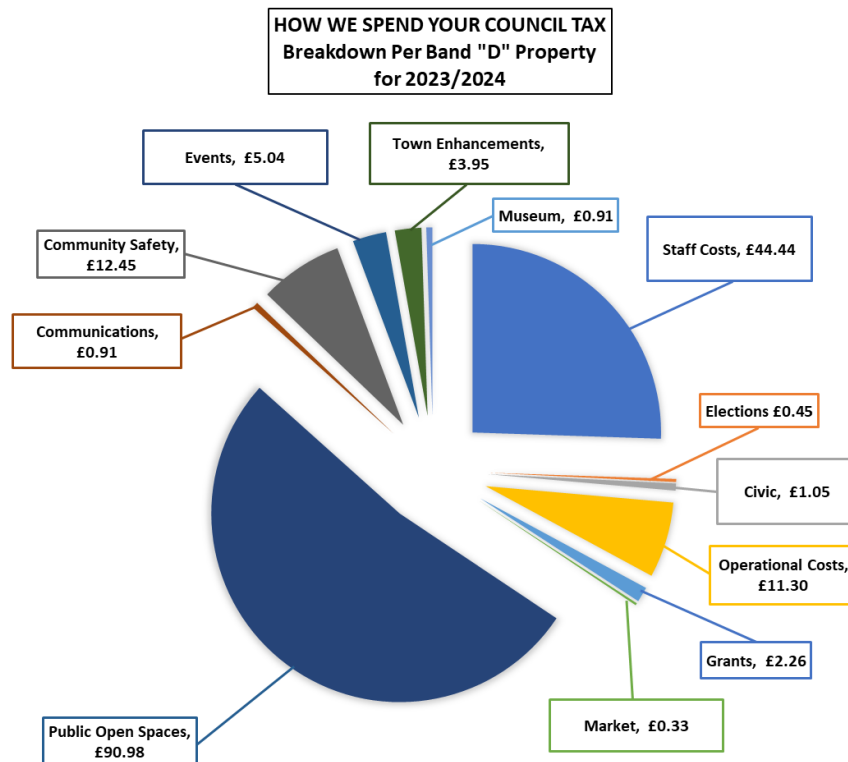
Each year the Town Council makes financial contributions to local organisations which provide valuable services that bring benefit to the local community, in 22/23 the Town Council awarded the following grants:

- £10,000 to Citizens Advice Daventry & District to support the work of Citizens Advice in Daventry Town for residents of Daventry Town.
- £7,500 to Daventry Area Community Transport, to provide a Dial-a-Ride service for over 65's living in Daventry Town.
- £3,000 to support Daventry Motorcycle Festival.
- £1,000 to support Northampton Transport Heritage to provide historical bus ride journeys for Heritage Open Days 2022.
- £1,000 to Food for Thought Daventry towards operational equipment for a community larder.
- £925 to Daventry Town Bowling Club towards equipment to reduce the club's environmental impact.
- £900 to support the Daventry Allotment and Garden Association (DAGA) to hold the Daventry Flower & Vegetable Show.
- £760 to Daventry Food Bank towards equipment to establish a community allotment garden.
- £659 to support the Daventry Christmas Tree Yarn Project 2022.

Town Council Expenditure 22/23 Town Council Budgeted Expenditure 23/24



Daventry Town Council seeks to improve our services and facilities in the town and is aware that the cost of providing these will have an impact on the precept for our residents, as fuel and other costs have continued to rise over the last year, it is more challenging to invest in the town and its community without having to make difficult budgetary decisions. Subsequently, for the financial year 23/24, the increases in the budget are predominantly due to increases in charges from our service providers.



Daventry Town Council's accounts are audited annually, in compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The accounts for 2021/22 have been duly audited and certified by the external auditor with no matters arising. The accounts for 2022/23 have yet to be finalised and will be available for public inspection from 5th June until 14th July 2023.

Further information is available on the Town Council website
[Finance | Daventry Town Council](https://www.daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk/finance)

or email the Responsible Finance Officer to make an appointment
rf@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Lynne Taylor
Chair Finance and Policy Committee

REPORT FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Planning & Development Committee usually meets every 3 weeks on a Wednesday evening, and continually reviews any new or amended planning applications as required by the consultations relating to the Parish of Daventry. Large-scale, strategic applications are considered by Full Council.

In 2022/23 Daventry Town Council submitted comments on 123 planning applications, is a key consultee in relation to the ongoing developments of 1200 homes on land between the A45 and A425 (Malabar and Bellway), 480 homes on land opposite Middlemore on the A361 (Micklewell), and proposed developments for 3400 homes on land adjoining the Country Park and B4036 (Daventry northeast sustainable urban extension) and a specialist retirement community consisting of 47 homes on Warwick Street.

The Town Council has objected to several planning applications, one being the proposal for a change of use of a town centre retail premises to an adult gaming centre, a proposed change of use of a residential property to an HMO and overdevelopment of sites within residential areas.

The Town Council continues to work in collaboration with West Northamptonshire on the Daventry Town Centre Vision 2035. The purpose of the vision is to set out the direction of growth for Daventry Town Centre for the next 13 years, attracting the types of investment that will meet the future needs and aspirations of the local community.

The Town Council consistently submits requests on planning applications that the Local Planning Authority (LPA) considers parking provision and suitable areas for waste/recycle bins on new developments in the Town centre, as when approved they often create environmental issues and have a negative impact on the appearance of the town, residential and commercial areas.

Daventry Town Council considers applications for tree works and is supportive of any works that promote the health and sustainability of any tree but objects to the felling of healthy trees.

If you have a planning application you wish to support or one that causes you concern, then please contact your ward councillor or the town council office, to be guided on the best way for your comments to be considered in the planning process.

Further information is available on the Town Council website:

Cllr Karen Tweedale
Chair Planning & Development Committee

REPORT FROM PARKS, OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Parks, Open Spaces and Environment Committee oversees the management, maintenance and development of the cemetery, Holy Cross churchyard, street furniture, bus shelters, parks, trees, play areas, open green spaces, ponds, lakes and ditches, owned or leased by Daventry Town Council.

The budget covers the cost of the ground's maintenance contract, Norse, have a dedicated team of over 8 operatives, who carry out tree inspections, playground inspections, litter picking, grass, hedge, and verge cutting, installing and maintaining the hanging baskets, maintaining the gardens at the war memorial, twinning area, Holy Cross Churchyard, Welton Road Cemetery, maintenance of our ponds, lakes and ditches. They are also working in partnership with the Town Council to care for the environment, seeking ways to encourage wildlife and planting trees to combat climate change.

Recent projects include:

Caring for the Environment - To expand our knowledge and engage with our communities, officers have met with residents, partners and a local climate group (U3A) to create a strategy and forward plan to further enhance nature and take actions to help counter the impact of climate change, within the Town and our open spaces.

Waterways. Daventry Town Council recognised the need to rejuvenate the council's lake and ponds, and commissioned an external contractor this year, who carried out a body of professional works to create a suitable habitat for local wildlife, promote biodiversity improving the condition of our lakes, ponds and ditches and the aesthetics of the areas surrounding them. The result of this investment has been extremely rewarding as we receive reports of wildlife making a home in these once murky waters.

Saplings project – In March, in partnership with a Zoology student, U3A Climate Change Group and Norse, our grounds maintenance service provider, we planted 12 Oak, 4 sycamore, 4 chestnut and 4 willows, a total of 24 trees within our open spaces at Stefen Hill. We are confident this project will prove to be successful, and discussions are already taking place to identify further land within our open spaces that may be suitable for re-wilding and/or planting a small woodland.

Trees – The Town's trees are regularly inspected to identify any trees that may need to be felled, which was sadly the case with the copper beech tree on the Jubilee Recreation Ground. Residents are encouraged to report any trees they may be concerned about, but the Town Council emphasises that it will only carry out works to trees that are proven to be unhealthy and present a risk to members of the public.

No Mow May - Daventry Town Council remains committed to making its grounds maintenance practices more sustainable and wildlife friendly. As we organically grow our environmental sustainability programme, we realise it is not possible to leave all our grass areas uncut in the month of May, we can and are identifying areas to leave just for the month of May and some areas we will leave uncut for longer/permanently, to allow wildlife to flourish.

Cemetery - Norse, have been working closely with the Town Council to ensure the grass areas and flower beds are well-tended making visits to the cemetery a more pleasurable and peaceful experience.

The Cemeteries Officer is managing a memorial testing programme, as required by law, for safety reasons. This is a lengthy process that involves identifying headstones that present a risk, contacting the owners requesting them to resolve any issues. You will see some headstones with straps and yellow notices as we work through the process.

To date 690 graves have been tested, 36 have been banded, 10 have been repaired, 19 are awaiting families to advise their actions and 7 graves will be sunk as we have no contact details of living family members, and we are duty bound to sink them for health and safety reasons.

Recreation – Norse regularly inspect all the play areas and carry out routine maintenance, replacing worn/broken parts and making good, damaged surfaces to ensure these areas are safe for children and young people to play.

Allotments – Daventry Town Allotments are a popular facility, we have over 200 allotment plots over five different sites, and we are currently awaiting the transfer of a new allotment site located adjacent to Monksmoor.

Cllr Karen Tweedale
Chair Parks, Open Spaces and Environment Committee

REPORT FROM MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Over the last year, Daventry Museum has continued to strengthen its engagement with the community through its free, family-friendly events and exhibitions, as well as through tailored school and group visits within the locality. Visitor figures have increased hugely since the pandemic and feedback about the museum experience is positive.

The virtual tours of the museum exhibitions that were introduced during lockdown continue to be created and added to the revitalised museum website, which attracts a growing online audience.

Following on from the museum's digital engagement success, which contributed to winning the 'Best Response to the Covid pandemic' award at the Northamptonshire Heritage Forum Awards (NHF) 2021, the museum was asked to demonstrate best practice for online outreach to NHF members, highlighting the museum's digital engagement strategies and has been described as a pioneer in the field.

The museum is supported by an invaluable team of dedicated volunteers, who are the lifeblood of the museum. Volunteers give their time to steward and carry out research as well as support exhibition open days, events, school and group visits, Town and Borough Hill guided walks and British Science Week, without them none of these events could take place.

Below is a list of some of the fascinating exhibitions and community engagements Daventry Museum has held over the past year.

Exhibitions

- Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Exhibition
- BBC – A Centenary of Sights and Sounds
- Doctor Who Exhibition
- Heritage Open Days - Astounding Inventions: The Daventry Experiment & the Birth of Radar
- Borough Hill and its History

Events & Outreach

- Summer Solstice guided walk of Borough Hill
- Heritage Open Days guided walks of the town and Borough Hill
- Finds Days (metal detectorists bring their finds for inspection by the Northamptonshire Finds Liaison Officer).
- Halloween half term crafts
- British Science Week event
- Work experience placements
- Pen Pals scheme with local nursery
- School & group visits to museum

Cllr Dawn Branigan
Chair Museum Committee

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Community Services Committee meets to consider provision of community focused services, events and activities.

All Town Council activities are free community focused, family-friendly, and free for all to attend and promoted widely via the Town Council website and social media.

In 2022-23

- From March to October monthly litter picks in various locations throughout the Town.
- Provision of litter picking kits
- Easter Market
- Picnic in our Parks
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee Crown Making
- Bees Needs Week
- Time Capsule Competition (in partnership with Mickewell Park)
- Presentation in retirement homes on independent living and use of mobility scooters.
- Community Art – Tree of Hands installed at Southbrook Community Centre
- Summer Activities for children in various locations throughout the Town
- Heritage Open Day with Heritage Buses, provided by Northamptonshire Heritage Transport
- Farmers Market
- Bike Marking (in partnership with Northamptonshire Police)
- Queen's Jubilee Blanket (in partnership with Northampton Museum)
- Crochet Christmas Tree and Christmas Tree Town Trail
- Halloween Activities in the Museum
- Crochet, knitting and pom-pom workshops
- Fireworks
- Christmas lights
- Christmas Market
- Bark in the Park

Investment in Children and Young People

It is widely acknowledged that there has been a lack of investment in the provision of facilities and services for youth. Daventry Town Council has recognised that this is one area in the community that it can focus on. With the sad departure of the Town's sponsored PCSO monies were channelled into services for the youth of the Town. A youth hub has been established at the Southbrook Community Centre and a youth bus, run by Guiding Young Minds has been appointed to engage with youth on a weekly basis by basing itself by the skate park to provide a counselling service through engagement and activities for young people.

This is a drop in an ocean of need, but working with partners it is hoped that these are initial steps to identify need and increase provision across the Town.

CLlr Karen Tweedale Vice-Chair Community Services Committee

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Daventry Town Council seeks to work with all Daventry organisations to create a lively and vibrant town, promoting civic pride and improving the quality of life for those who live, work and visit Daventry.

Daventry Town Council works in partnership with the following key local organisations to support some key community services:

- Teen Clinic Daventry – This is a project, led by Dr Sarah Tudor (Abbey House Practice) supported by Daventry Town Council, to create a clinic working with young people to help them shape a service for young people. The aim of the clinic is to appoint service providers who can provide health advice and access to specialist practitioners in a welcoming environment and attend within their own working day/remit (making the service more cost effective and focus access to the different practitioners in one location). The project started as a pilot for six months in October 2023 and has received much acclaim from the local Public Care Network and Integrated Care Board, attracting further funding to enable it to continue for a further 12 months and hopefully lead to a permanent fully funded service. In the meantime, Daventry Town Council supports through project management and the cost of the venue.
- Norse – Norse is Daventry Town Council's grounds maintenance service provider, but they also support the Town Council in their litter picks by providing bags and collecting any litter collected. They also help maintain the Reflection Garden, Twinning Area and War Memorial and hanging baskets.
- West Northamptonshire Council – The Town Council works in partnership with West Northamptonshire providing feedback on planning consultations and working with their planning team on Daventry Town Vision 2035.
- Northamptonshire Highways – maintenance of the verges, investigation into lighting and speed restrictions on Welton Road.
- West Northamptonshire Council Community Safety Partnership – support and provision of graphics, staff resource and event advice for Knife Angel event and Op Unite Fun Day.
- Citizens' Advice, Daventry and District - the Town Council provides funding to train volunteers and ensure the retention of this much needed service in Daventry Town.
- Daventry Danetre Rotary Club – creation and maintenance of a reflection garden within the Jubilee Recreation Ground, to commemorate those who lost their lives to Covid19.
- Daventry Area Community Transport – provision of a dial-a-ride bus service, every Friday morning, for members of the community over the age of 65 who can't easily access public transport into Town.
- Daventry Motorcycle Festival – provision of financial support for this community group to organise this free event for the community.
- The Royal British Legion – organisation of Armistice and Remembrance Day Parade.
- Northamptonshire Police - sadly the sponsorship of a PCSO for the Town drew to a close in September, as PCSO Ball was successful in her application to become a Police Officer and there were no available PCSOs to fill the vacancy.

The Town Council continues to work in partnership with the Police via the provision of a monitored CCTV system and regular meetings to address the issues with anti-social behaviour in the Town and residential areas. Sadly, there are no quick fixes but by working with partners to identify key areas of concern, focus on core elements and look at sustainable solutions we are hopeful these concerns can be addressed.

COMMUNITY SAFETY: CCTV – DTC RANGER

Daventry Town Council manages CCTV provision in Daventry Town. These have been used in partnership with Daventry Police and the DTC Ranger and have proved pivotal in assisting and preventing various crimes, including retail crime.

The DTC Ranger position was implemented in April 2018 with the view of working in line with DTC's CCTV Control Room and the sponsored Town PCSO in order to make Daventry Town a safer place to live, work and visit.

Working directly for Daventry Town Council, the Ranger assists the Police teams in Daventry Town, and although they are not a police officer (and therefore do not have the same powers) they have been instrumental in reducing the number of anti-social behaviour incidents reported in the Town over the past 12 months.

The Ranger's duties include (but are not limited to) attending community meetings; reporting and preventing dog fouling; reporting and preventing fly-tipping, littering and canvassing; as well as acting as a welcoming host for both residents and visitors to the Town.

The Ranger is also responsible for youth engagement and acting as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour.



FEEDBACK

Please use this page to submit any questions or comments on any of the Town Council facilities or services:

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Email:

DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT

Your details will be kept securely by Daventry Town Council under the terms of the Data Protection Act and Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) Daventry Town Council are collecting this data to enable us to manage your enquiry. We will only use it for that purpose and will not pass your information on to third parties.