



www.warminster-tc.gov.uk

T: 01985 214847 or E: admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk

Warminster Civic Centre Sambourne Road BA12 8LB

Vision and strategy – a new year for WTC

For many, the new year symbolises a fresh start. A time of resolutions, commitments and enthusiasm - this year more than most. This is an exciting time for our future, and we are proud to announce our new vision and strategy, which will guide us over the next five years.

Our vision is *Community and council in partnership, building a vibrant and flourishing town, proud of its heritage, delivering quality services today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow. Actively embracing a brighter, greener future for all in Warminster.*

It means we will ensure all our services, now and in the future, continue to be delivered effectively and efficiently. Acting with integrity and openness in all we do. Minimising our impact on the environment, locally and globally, doing the right thing to create a world for our children. To be a learning council, building on Warminster's history, to be flexible and ready with fresh thinking whatever tomorrow brings. Working closely together with our community and whoever can help us make Warminster a town with energy and a positive future.

Put simply we want to be a council delivering the best we can for you, our community. To support our vision we have four strategic priorities - the key things we want to focus on:

- Taking on new services, assets and responsibilities
- Reducing our environmental impact
- Enabling the new normal
- Building a strong, healthy community

Words can be powerful but meaningless unless backed up by actions. We are making a start. Just one example, everyone loves our road sweeper Basil Brushes, and from April we are taking on more services with our own team providing the town's hanging baskets, cleansing the town's public conveniences and caring for the Lake Pleasure Grounds. Wherever possible we will be using all-electric tools to reduce our environmental impact.

If you want to know more, our strategic plan is on our website. Why not have a read and let us know how you'd like to get involved.

Budget and precept 2021-22

The council continues to grow. Year on year delivering more services to the town and enhancing more assets, such as the skatepark, play areas and the Lake Pleasure Grounds. Following the success of Basil Brushes, decisions have been made by councillors to bring more work in house rather than using contractors. More is to come as Wiltshire Council devolves further assets and services to Warminster. COVID-19 has delayed this, and members had to make a judgement about how much to budget, given uncertain timescales.

Mindful of all this, councillors held a keen budget and precept debate. They were acutely aware of the financial impact of the pandemic. The effect this was having on the Warminster community was acknowledged by all members and they wanted to balance this with the desire to keep improving our services. The town council finally approved a 2021-22 budget and precept of £1,275,599, this added 31p per week or about £16 a year to the Council Tax of an 'average' band D property in Warminster.

Ann Hedges – a fond farewell from all



Ann worked for the council for nearly 25 years and retired towards the end of last year. A stalwart of the Assembly Rooms and the Civic Centre, a vintage tea party was planned as her farewell event, but COVID-19 sadly put those plans on hold.

Choosing a retirement gift can be difficult. We knew Ann loved a vintage tea theme, and that she also loved hedgehogs, so we wondered could the two come together in a painting? And the answer was yes! With generous contributions from her friends and colleagues, we were able to buy Ann an original oil painting, her delight at receiving this from Mayor Cllr Robbins is more than apparent. Ann, have a happy and long retirement.

Your town council needs you

With the resignation of WTC's long serving member, Paul Batchelor, there is a vacancy for a new town councillor. With elections on 6 May 2021, the council is able to co-opt in the meanwhile. If you are interested in applying for this civic office making a real difference to the Warminster community, contact Fiona Fox, Town Clerk on 01985 214847 for an information pack. The closing date is 4pm on Tuesday 16 February 2021.

Volunteer for your town and help keep it safe

Warminster and Westbury Town Councils' CCTV is part run by volunteers and we need more. Based in Warminster, we offer excellent professional training and it's an opportunity to join a friendly team all dedicated and willing to go the extra mile for Warminster and Westbury and to help keep it safe. Days and hours to suit over a 7-day week. For more information or if you're interested in joining the team, please contact Stuart Legg, Park and Open Spaces Manager on 01985 214847.

The National Census is on its way – Census day is Sunday 21 March 2021

Households across Wiltshire, and the rest of England and Wales, will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. A 10-yearly survey, it produces the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in the country. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It is the first to be run mainly online, with households receiving a unique access code allowing them to complete the questionnaire digitally. Residents unable to complete the Census online will be supported by a helpline, Census Support Centres or by completing a paper Census.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” said Jonny Corbett, the Census Engagement Manager for Wiltshire. “This could lead to

things like new doctors' surgeries, schools and transport routes. It is so important everyone takes part. We have made it easier for people to do so online, on any device, with help, and paper questionnaires for those that need them,” he added.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations. Residents can be assured that the Census form is completely confidential and personal data is not shared until the Census is opened in 2121.

For more information visit census.gov.uk, or follow @CensusWiltshire on Twitter, or email Jonny Corbett on jonathan.corbett70@field.census.gov.uk

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

One of the few things many of us have been able to take solace in during the last 12 months is the natural world. And many of you have captured these moments and shared them on our Facebook pages. Send in your photos and choose your favourite to be our Photo of the Week. admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk or www.facebook.com/warminsterpark

