

*Delivering a brighter, greener future for all*

**Welcome to the Warminster Town Council newsletter:  
January 2024**

**News in brief:**

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- Dates for your diary
- [£15,000 investment in activities](#) for young people
- [New play park equipment](#) approved
- [Below inflation increase](#) to Council Tax
- [Tourism signs updated](#) and replaced
- [Significant investment](#) towards football club floodlights



Mayor of Warminster, Cllr Phil Keeble

**Message from the Mayor**

"As we move into 2024, I first wanted to reflect on the past year. 2023 was a great year for me personally as Mayor and full of achievements for Warminster Town Council. We completed the [upgrade of the CCTV system](#) to what is now a 'state of the art' system. I opened the [newly refurbished tennis courts](#) and MUGA in the Lake Pleasure Grounds, a joint project with the Lawn Tennis Association which has seen a great uptake in the sport. We [welcomed representatives from Warminster, PA, USA](#) with which we are twinned. I had the honour to lead the town's remembrance day service and lay a wreath on behalf of the town. We also had an amazing day for the [Christmas Lights Switch-On](#) with the street market organised jointly with the Warminster Business Network (WBN) and a market in the Civic Centre. I had great pleasure in [presenting the Civic Awards](#) to mark the achievements of local people and volunteers.

There is also much planned for 2024. Building on the success and such positive feedback of the Christmas Lights switch-on and markets, we are working with the WBN and planning to have four street markets this year in spring, summer, autumn and again for Christmas. There will be Spring in the Park in May which is always a success and in July there will also be the [special celebrations to commemorate 100 years of the Lake Pleasure Grounds](#) with live music, food, entertainment and closing with a display from the local Airborne Pyrotechnics.

Sadly, the past few months have also seen the passing of two Councillors, [Rob Fryer](#) and [John Syme](#). Both will be missed and our thoughts remain with their families and loved ones."

## 2024 dates for your diary.

- **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March:** Spring/Mother's Day Market – Civic Centre, 10am to 3pm
- **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March:** Spring/Easter Market - Civic Centre and Town Centre, 10am to 6pm
- **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May:** Spring in the Park – Lake Pleasure Grounds, 10.30am to 4pm
- **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May:** Skatepark Jam - Lake Pleasure Grounds
- **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** Summer Market – Civic Centre and Town Centre, 10am to 6pm
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July:** 100 years of the Lake Pleasure Grounds, Warminster Lake Pleasure Grounds, 4pm to 10pm
- **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August:** Ice Cream and Bubbles Festival – Warminster Lake Pleasure Grounds, 12pm to 5pm
- **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September:** Autumn Market – Civic Centre and Town Centre, 10am to 6pm
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October:** Pumpkins in the Park – Warminster Lake Pleasure Grounds
- **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November:** Remembrance Sunday – Town Centre
- **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November:** Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch-On – Civic Centre and Town Centre, 10am to 6pm



## Warminster Town Council approve £15,000 for activities for young people

Town councillors unanimously approved £10,000 for free activities for young people – set to include free canoeing, free tennis, youth outreach provision and a Youth Bus. Warminster Area Board have backed the move with a £5,000 grant, taking total funding to £15,000.

The town council have been working with Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police to look for ways to support the youth of Warminster. All hope that this multi-faceted approach will help the youth of Warminster by providing positive activities and a diversion from antisocial behaviour.

Working with the partner organisations, several avenues have been identified where provision can be provided by the investment. Exact details have yet to be finalised but it is expected that the following will be provided:

### **Canoeing on the lake**

Wiltshire Outdoor Learning Team will run free canoe sessions on the lake which will give young people an opportunity to try an activity they may not otherwise have access to. These sessions will be run during the school holidays with two sessions being run per day. Sessions will be for up to 20 young people.

### **Free tennis coaching**

As part of the agreement for the funding for the tennis court refurbishment, the council are required to provide free tennis sessions. Free court time and tennis coaching sessions will be on offer to young people, giving them an opportunity to try something new and perhaps leading to them taking up the sport. Initially, 100 hours of free coaching and court time would be available.

### **Youth Bus**

Open Blue based in Calne run the Blue Bus. It is a double decker bus which offers a safe environment for youths aged between 10 and 17 years old to spend their evenings. A two-hour slot provides hot chocolate and activities which include games, icebreakers, PS3, PS5, Xbox, Chill out and Chat, table football, skittles. Blue Bus have said that they expect they would be available for one night a week. They are happy to go to different locations in Warminster i.e. not just the centre of town.

### **Outreach Workers**

These specially trained individuals will engage with the youth around the town assisting them to access any resources they need, building relationships with them and hopefully channelling their energy into positive pursuits. 4 Youth who are based in Melksham are revising their current programme and would have availability to work in Warminster. Another potential provider has been identified who is working with the Wiltshire Football Association but also does mentoring for those excluded or in/very close to the youth justice system, who may provide some higher level 1:1 support if

needed.

It is planned that the project would run for at least three years. The projects can be modified and adapted during that period and tailored to meet need and demand.



## New play park equipment approved for Lake Pleasure Grounds

Warminster Town Council has strengthened its commitment to maintaining and investing in its assets, by [approving funding for new play park equipment](#). Following a decision at Full Council meeting on Monday 15th January the 30-year-old plus play park equipment in the Lake Pleasure Grounds will be replaced (as it is at the end of its life cycle) and improved with impressive new equipment in Spring 2024.

Council officers carried out a detailed review of all play areas and presented their findings to members of the Parks and Estate Committee along with budget costs. Members approved the tender application from Kompan with the cost of £34,999 to be funded from the Earmarked Reserves Capital Projects.

## Below inflation increase to Council Tax approved

Warminster Town Council has approved [a well below inflation increase to Council Tax for the 2024-2025 financial year](#).

The precept is the total amount the town council receives to provide services to the town. The budget was unanimously approved at a Full Council meeting on Monday 15th January, when members resolved to approve a precept of £1,382,830 for 2024-2025 financial year.

For a Band D property this is an increase of 1.73%, equal to £3.68 per annum – just one penny per day. As typical properties in Warminster are Band C or below and some households receive discounts, the actual increase for most households will be less.

The town council sets only a small part of Wiltshire's Council Tax; the majority of the Council Tax charged goes to Wiltshire Council, with other sums going to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Fire and Rescue Authority, and to support adult social care in the county.



## Tourism signs updated and replaced as town council strengthens commitment to attracting visitors to Warminster

[Five new brown tourism signs on the outskirts of Warminster have been installed](#) as the town council maintains its commitment to attracting visitors to the town. Existing signs have been improved and replaced as they were out of date; one sign also needed re-siting as a speed limit sign had been placed directly in front of it. Warminster Town Council has made these changes to encourage visitors to the town and bring businesses and commerce to the town through economic tourism. It has been demonstrated that this increases by 50% in the summer season. The new signs more accurately reflect the facilities on offer in the town, encouraging passing visitors to stop off and use facilities and services in the town centre. The updated signs represent another part of Warminster Town Council's wider commitment to maintaining pride and improving assets in the town. The new signs have been paid for by a grant from Wiltshire Council.

## Flood advice

Below is some key information to protect against the risk of flooding.

- Blocked drains are to be reported via [MyWilts](#)
- Residents and businesses at risk of flooding should sign up to the [flood warning service](#)

- If residents/businesses experience internal flooding a detailed account including photographs is to be sent to Warminster Town Council [admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk)
- Properties at risk of flooding should consider investing in defence measures and prepare a [personal flood plan](#)

Warminster Town Council is looking for additional flood wardens. Flood wardens can help by:

- Reporting blocked drains, ditches and streams
- Making notes when heavy rain occurs so better preventative measures can be put in place
- Supporting residents by directing them to where they can get advice

Full training is provided along with protective clothing, equipment and support. Please contact Warminster Town Council [admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk) if you are interested in more information.



## Town council contributes significant investment towards football club floodlights

[Warminster Town Councillors will give Warminster Town Football Club £30,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy \(CIL\)](#) to replace existing flood lighting at the Weymouth Street ground.

The decision was unanimously made by councillors at a Full Council meeting on Monday 15th January and will help grow youth projects at the popular club. The CIL Working Group carefully considered the proposal following discussions with Warminster Town Football Club. The existing floodlights are costly to run and not environmentally friendly. They are also difficult to repair and won't meet required standards shortly.

The money will be given on a condition that Warminster Town Football Club contributes a minimum of £10,000 towards the cost. The council also requires Warminster Town Football Club to report back to the town council about the completion of the project and going forward to submit annual reports about its activities to the town council, particularly with regard to community involvement and youth engagement in respect of use of the pitch and floodlights. The floodlighting

must also meet dark skies requirements.

Members recorded their thanks to Warminster Town Football Club for their work on the application and to the ten members who had agreed to loan the club £1,000 each on an interest free basis to fund the club's contribution.

## Some of the things Warminster Town Council is responsible for:

- The Lake Pleasure Grounds
- The Pavilion Café
- Nine Play Areas
- Hanging baskets
- Street sweeper – 'Basil Brushes'
- Public Toilets in Central Car Park
- The Obelisk and War Memorial
- Yeates Meadow
- CCTV for Warminster and Westbury

## Find us...

Please see our website for councillor contact details:

[warminster-tc.gov.uk/administration/](http://warminster-tc.gov.uk/administration/)

Warminster Lake Pleasure Grounds

Facebook page:

[facebook.com/warminsterpark](https://facebook.com/warminsterpark)

Warminster Town Council and Civic Centre Facebook page:

[facebook.com/warminstertowncouncil](https://facebook.com/warminstertowncouncil)

Instagram:

[www.instagram.com/warminstertowncouncil/](https://www.instagram.com/warminstertowncouncil/)

Web: [www.warminster-tc.gov.uk](http://www.warminster-tc.gov.uk)

Tel: 01985 21487

Email: [admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@warminster-tc.gov.uk)

Warminster Civic Centre, Sambourne Road, BA12 8LB



For more information about events in Warminster and the surrounding areas please visit the Upcoming Events page on our website [warminster-tc.gov.uk/events/](http://warminster-tc.gov.uk/events/)

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