



Delivering a brighter, greener future for all

***Welcome to the Warminster Town Council newsletter:
December 2023***

News in brief:

- Civic Award [winners celebrated at reception](#)
- Draft [budget recommendations](#)
- 'Best ever' [Christmas event unites town](#)
- Winner of [Christmas Window 2023 Competition](#)



Tony & Kim Nicklin, The Mayor of Warminster (centre), Amelia ap Ellis and Posi Olofin at the 2023 Warminster Town Council Civic Awards on Tuesday 12th December

Warminster Town Council Civic Award winners 2023 **celebrated at reception**

Community heroes from across Warminster were celebrated at the annual [Warminster Town Council Civic Awards](#) on Tuesday 12th December. Invited guests watched on as Warminster Town Mayor, Councillor Phil Keeble presented the Junior Civic, Green Civic, and Civic Award.

The 2023 winners celebrated were: **Posi Olofin, Amelia ap Ellis and Tony & Kim Nicklin**, who were each presented with framed certificates at the annual reception. The Civic Award winners are nominated by the public and voted for by [Warminster Town Councillors](#).

The awards are given to highlight examples of community spirit, those who have 'gone the extra mile', those motivating of others to act positively as well as for individual efforts.

Posi Olofin, winner of the Junior Civic Award, was presented with the award as part of her volunteer work with the Tech Support Club. Posi and the team provide a much-needed support network for the residents of Warminster with their IT queries.

Posi said: "I'm very honoured to be given the award. It is nice to be appreciated. I look forward to every Wednesday, it is wonderful to be growing confidence and meeting new people."

The Mayor of Warminster, Councillor Phil Keeble also expressed his pride and was delighted to celebrate the success among invited guests and councillors. There was also a

special mention for Mike Coleman for his devoted work with the CCTV team, as he takes retirement from the role:

Councillor Keeble said: "On behalf of the whole of Warminster Town Council, I would like to thank you for the endless hours of time you have devoted to monitoring CCTV. You have helped make Warminster a safer place. This was recognised when you won the Civic Award in a previous year. On behalf of the council, I want to thank you very much for your hard work and I hope that you have a happy retirement from CCTV."

Speaking after the event, Councillor Keeble added: "I would like to congratulate all the winners and thank them on behalf of the people of Warminster for the contribution they make to our town. It is an inspiration to meet with this year's winners and celebrate in their success. Events such as this one gives a real insight into the community and highlight that community spirit is alive and well across Warminster."

The full citations for the winners and additional images [can be seen here](#).

Join the Warminster Business Network

The Town Council continues to encourage local business to become members of the [Warminster Business Network](#).

The network, which was reformed in March 2023, is a modern version of the Chamber of Commerce and is designed to support growth, share knowledge, and increase local prosperity.

The group was set-up after initial discussions between a group of local businesses and Warminster Town Council.

The network hopes to support growth, tackle key issues and drive forward, with a focus on economic sustainability in the wider town as well as helping the town centre thrive.

For more information and to join visit: [WarminsterBusinessNetwork](#) or email:

info@warminsterbusinessnetwork.co.uk

Warminster Town Council recommends low increase in Council Tax for 2024/2025

The draft budget for Warminster Town Council recommends [a well below inflation increase in Council Tax for the 2024/2025 financial year](#).

Based on figures presented to the council's Finance and Audit Committee in November, Warminster Town Council's share of the Council Tax per Band D equivalent property would rise from £212.82 to £216.50, an increase of £3.68.

This represents a change of only 1.73% compared with the current year. As typical properties in Warminster are Band C or below and some households receive discounts, the actual increase for most households would be slightly less.

The exact figures will be confirmed when the final budget goes to Full Council for approval in January 2024, but it is expected that it will be in line with the draft budget.

Councillor Andrew Cooper, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee said: "People have been through a tough financial time these last few years. I am delighted that we are able to recommend a well below inflation rise for the Town Council's share of Wiltshire Council's council tax bill for 2024/2025.

"The Town Council has delivered some major projects at minimal cost to the council

taxpayer. This year, for example, has seen a huge upgrade to the CCTV system and the Tennis Courts.

"We are fortunate that the council has been protected by securing long term fixed rates deals on its energy supplies. We will continue to seek out value for money and provide quality services in the year ahead."

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.

Your councillors

- Stacie Allensby
- Denis Brett
- Andrew Cooper
- Andrew Davis
- Sue Fraser
- Steve Jeffries
- Jack Jones
- Phil Keeble
- Paul Macfarlane
- Bill Parks
- Chris Robbins
- John Syme
- **For full contact details [click here.](#)**



Huge crowds watched the lights switch-on during the Warminster Christmas Celebrations 2023

'Best ever' Warminster Christmas Celebrations event lights up town with record attendance – with even more being planned for next year

[The 'best ever' Warminster Christmas Celebrations lit up the town](#) with record breaking footfall recorded on Saturday 25th November. The biggest ever event, a collaboration between the town council, Warminster Business Network, Wiltshire Council, Three Horseshoe Walk and all who took part, has been hailed as the best lights switch-on event in years with planning under way for an even bigger event next year.

Huge footfall was recorded at multiple locations across the town, at the Three Horseshoes Walk footfall on Saturday was 12,725, +57.3% on last year's Christmas Event and +114.2% up on the previous week.

Peter Ruscoe, Three Horseshoes Walk, Centre Manager, said: "The Warminster Christmas Lights Switch-On event arranged by Warminster Council was a great success driving footfall to the town, spend in the retail outlets and providing a well appreciated community event. The footfall on the day was the highest in the Centre since we started recording footfall data back in 2015. Retailers within the scheme have also reported very strong sales. Due the success of this year's event we are already planning how we can add more attractions for next year."

Christmas stalls lined the High Street for the first time with the roads closed from 12pm – Sticky Toffee Jazz kick started the entertainment, singing from the steps of the Athenaeum Centre launching a day of festive fun for all which featured a huge variety of stalls, entertainment, and demonstrations.

Closing the road in the town centre created a relaxed and enjoyable experience as the Warminster community came out and supported the Warminster Independent Christmas Market with shops and stall holders reporting excellent sales and a buzzing atmosphere.

A Warminster Independent Market spokesperson added: "What a first event, streets buzzing and bustling. Friends and family out and about and visitors from all over making the trip to our lovely town."

Businesses across the town in Chinns Court, East Street, George Steet and many more also extended opening hours and had special offers as hundreds of excited visitors arrived in Warminster throughout the day.

The Warminster Civic Centre Christmas Market in Samborne Road, was also incredibly popular, running from 10am to 4pm. Visitors were greeted with a fantastic atmosphere as multiple local stallholders filled the Centre, Santa arrived in his grotto and large crowds were entertained by the Sambourne School choir.

Lucy Guy, Civic Centre Manager, said: "It was the best Christmas Market since I've been Civic Centre Manager, it topped last year. The atmosphere was great, lots of excitement and a really good start to the festivities. Santa's Grotto was a major success, along with Sambourne Primary School choir and having the food vendors (Simply Delicious Catering and Posh Crepes) outside was a huge lure for people.

"I have already got stallholders asking to book in for next year's Christmas and Seasonal (Spring, Summer, and Autumn) Markets. The Spring Market will be in March 2024; this will also tie in with Mother's Day, so an excellent opportunity to support local businesses and get something unique for Mother's Day!"

Entertainment kick started at 2pm in the Market Place, with a popular mini-fairground ride for visitors to enjoy as well as brilliant live music on stage – A Sackful of Sovereigns, Warminster Rock Choir and the Vocal Works Gospel Choir, who stole the show – ahead of the Market Place Lights Switch-On at 5.30pm. Warminster Community Radio were also in attendance broadcasting live for those who could not make it in person.

Huge crowds gathered for the all-important switch-on as the lights were turned on by The Mayor of Warminster, Councillor Phil Keeble, the Town Crier and Father Christmas, as the impressive lights lit up Warminster in front of a record attendance.

The Mayor of Warminster, Councillor Phil Keeble said: “The whole day was incredible and a great day for Warminster and local businesses. The Civic Centre Christmas Market had record attendance and the new Warminster Independent Market was fantastic with stalls from local traders and beyond also attracting large crowds into the town. It was wonderful to see so many people out enjoying the town and supporting local businesses. The highlight of course was the switching on of the Christmas lights and for me personally it was a great honour to press the button.”

A Warminster Town Council spokesperson added: “There were so many positive aspects of the day – all under one event the Warminster Christmas Celebrations 2023 – a packed Civic Centre market, brilliant atmosphere at the Warminster Independent Market and brilliant live music ahead of the switch-on. It was a collaboration between the town council, Warminster Business Network, Wiltshire Council, Three Horseshoe Walk. Particular mention must go to Iris and Olive and Cornhülle for the success of the Warminster Independent Market.”

Planning for next year’s event has already begun, there will also be more big events in 2024 such as 100 years of the Lake Pleasure Grounds. Warminster Town Council wants to work with the whole of the town and with the Warminster community to put on super events that benefit all.



The Warminster Rock Choir performing at the Warminster Christmas Celebrations
2023



Wessex MS Therapy charity shop wins Christmas Window 2023 Competition

After more than 1,200 votes in the Warminster Town Council Christmas Window 2023 Competition - [Wessex MS Therapy charity shop has been crowned the winner.](#)

A fabulous festive feel was created as 24 local businesses showed off their skills with residents encouraged to explore the many beautifully decorated windows and then vote for their favourite.

After the votes were calculated and the top five most popular window displays shortlisted, the Mayor of Warminster, Councillor Phil Keeble and Deputy Mayor Councillor Stacie Allensby choose their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places on Monday 18th December.

Flood advice

Below is 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 WTC 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 if you are interested in more information.

Some of the things Warminster Town Council is responsible for:

- The Lake Pleasure Grounds
- The Pavilion Café
- 9 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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
Warminster Town Council

Find us...

Please see our website for councillor
contact details:

warminster-tc.gov.uk/administration/

Warminster Lake Pleasure Grounds

Facebook page:

facebook.com/warminsterpark

Warminster Town Council and Civic
Centre Facebook page:

facebook.com/warminstertowncouncil

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/warminstertowncouncil/

Web: www.warminster-tc.gov.uk

Tel: 01985 21487

Email: 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/

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