



Godalming

Town Council

**Annual Report
2021-22**



MAYORAL REVIEW



It was an honour to have been Town Mayor in 1993/94, but it was an even greater honour to have again been elected Town Mayor of Godalming for the civic year 2021 to 2022 in May last year.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and in particular my predecessor, Councillor Penny Rivers, for her advice as well as my deputy, Councillor Shirley Faraday. One person I must remember to thank is my wife Jane, the Mayoress, for her unwavering support. I would also like to thank the team at the Town Council office for their excellent support.

2021/22 has been a difficult period as a result of the Covid issues. The civic year started quietly with a low-key mayor making ceremony and with some events being cancelled or postponed.

The Staycation week started on the 7 August. It went well but with a reduced level of activity compared with some earlier years and unfortunately without live music. We are hoping this popular event will be back to normal this summer.

The annual Civic Service took place in the Parish Church on the 22 August with the Reverend Canon John Harkin officiating.

The Godalming Museum celebrated its 100th anniversary on the 12 September with an excellent event at Rake Meadow.

The Round Table Town Show & Carnival took place on the 18 September. It was very good weather and was enjoyed by a large crowd. This was followed by the Godalming Trust's Heritage Weekend which had a full programme of activities.

The Surrey Pride Festival took place on the 25 September in good weather with approximately 7,000 people in attendance.

The annual Service of Remembrance took place on the 14 November and was well attended.

The Christmas lights switch-on was able to take place this year in Godalming on the 27 November with Farncombe's switch-on event on the 3 December.

Thanks are due to the very many volunteers who promoted and organised the above and many other events.

I wish my fellow Councillors and Mayor Elect, Councillor Shirley Faraday, well for the new civic year 2022 to 2023.

Councillor Michael Steel
Mayor of Godalming 2021/22

Introduction

This Annual Report provides a flavour of the many activities, events, work and actions organised or undertaken by Godalming Town Council during the 2021 civic year, full details of the Town Council's services, its meetings, policies, procedures and financial arrangements can be found at www.godalming-tc.gov.uk

Godalming Town Council was established in 1974 and is run by an elected body of 20 councillors representing the five electoral wards of the town. Details of the electoral wards and individual members can be found at the [end of this document](#). Elected Members of Godalming Town Council represent the community on a voluntary basis. Members are not paid a salary nor do they receive any allowances for being a councillor or for the work they undertake.

Since its creation Godalming Town Council has developed into one of the largest town councils in the county, and nationally is in the upper quartile of Local Councils by income. The Council is completely independent of both Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council and is responsible for delivering a range of quality of life services and community activities that include its flagship town centre venue the Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Broadwater Park Community Centre in Farncombe (whose primary function has now changed to being the base for Godalming Town Council's Youth Services) and the town's iconic Pepperpot. The Town Council also funds the Godalming Museum, public toilets in Godalming and Farncombe, two cemeteries, sixteen acres of allotment sites, Floral Godalming flower displays, Christmas Lights in Farncombe and Godalming retail centres and a range of festivals and markets held in the town, including a new event for 2021; the Godalming Green Gala. In collaboration with the County and Borough Council's, 2021 also saw Godalming welcome Pride in Surrey to the town.

The Council also runs the Staycation holiday programme, the town's annual Remembrance Parade and assists in the management of the monthly Farmers' Markets. As well as supporting the Godalming Dementia Action Alliance, the Town Council also supports a number of events run by community organisations such as Sport Godalming's Community Run and the Round Table's Town Show, all of which help make Godalming such a vibrant community.

Having spent the majority of 2020 in either lockdown or with other Covid restrictions, the Council looked forward to a more normal operational year for 2021. Unfortunately, this proved not to be the case and the Council, like everyone else, was required to operate within the Covid rules and guidelines for England set by the Government.

Despite the restrictions, Godalming Town Council worked to deliver as many services as possible for residents. 2021 saw the re-opening of the Wilfrid Noyce Centre for use by community groups and organisations, which involved the relocation of the Godalming Community Store from the Wyatt Room to the Oglethorpe Hall. This enabled as much of the Wilfrid Noyce to be made available to the community as possible, whilst also allowing the Community Store to continue to provide an important and invaluable service.

Throughout the pandemic, not only did Godalming Town Council work to support residents and the business community through what were undoubtedly difficult and challenging times, it also continued to take steps towards the provision of a new youth centre and drop-in facility

for the young people of the town, as well as making progress on a number of the Council's other aims and objectives.

On the 9 April, the Town Council was informed by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey of the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and made immediate actions to lower the Union Flag at the Pepperpot and the War Memorial to half-mast.

On a happier note for The Pepperpot, after the virtual event of 2020, in November 2021 it once again became the focal point for the switching on of the Godalming Christmas lights.

The start of the new civic year in May 2021 also coincided with the expiry of temporary regulations that allowed council meetings to be held virtually. As such, despite the need to continue maintaining social distancing and abide with Covid safe workplace requirements, all meetings of the Town Council had to be held in a physical location. The Council Chamber just about proved acceptable for use for the Council Members and support staff, however, due to the Covid restrictions it did not lend itself to public access.

The right of residents to attend and speak at a council meeting is a fundamental tenet of local democracy, therefore in order to provide continued access, Godalming Town Council livestreamed its meetings and where residents wished to speak, provided them with the opportunity to do so via zoom (it is only councillors who have to physically attend a council meeting, residents can attend virtually). Evidence from the livestream indicated that a greater number of people than ever before now attend council meetings, even if it is virtual attendance. Likewise, the recording of the livestream also allows those who were not able to join during the meeting to view it at their convenience. In recognising the benefits these changes have brought about, Godalming Town Council's intention is not only to welcome residents back into the chamber as soon as possible, but to continue to provide online access to meetings.

An unfortunate consequence of the requirement for physical attendance at council meetings was the decision of Cllr Jo Purvis of the Green Party, a Member representing the Binscombe ward, to stand down from the Council. The resignation of Cllr Purvis triggered a by-election in the Binscombe Ward, which was held on 18 November 2021. Clare Weightman representing the Green Party was elected to the Council. The outcome of the by-election maintained the existing political make-up of Godalming Town Council.

Godalming Town Council is operating on a collaborative basis between the Liberal Democrats (10), Green Party (4), Labour (2) and Independent (1) members making up an administrative group of 17. Cllr Follows (LibDem) as Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy & Management Committee (P&M) with Cllr Williams (Green Party) elected as Deputy Chair of P&M.

Members elected as a Chair/Vice Chair of Council Committees are:

Policy & Management:

Chair: Cllr Paul Follows (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Williams (Grn)



Environment & Planning:

Chair: Cllr Crooks (Grn)



Vice Chair: Cllr Heagin (LD)



Staffing:

Chair: Cllr Hullah (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Duce (LD)



Audit:

Chair: Cllr Heagin (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Crooks (Grn)



Joint Burial Committee:

Chair: Cllr Steel (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Martin (C)



Godalming Town Council - Full Council

Much of the work of the council is undertaken in committees, which then, where required, either make a report to the Full Council on activities managed under delegated authority of the Full Council or they make recommendations to the Full Council where a decision must be made by the Council as a whole.

Shortly after the 2020 annual report, the Full Council approved the adoption of a strategic document relating to a range of issues surrounding GTC activities in the Godalming Town Centre area

[Godalming Town Centre Area – Preserving the Past, Protecting the Present, Planning the Future](#)

May 2021 saw the Annual Meeting of the Council, often called ‘Mayor Making’ when Cllr Michael Steel was elected as the Town Mayor for 2021/22 and Cllr Faraday was elected as the Deputy Mayor. The Annual Meeting is also responsible for confirming the Council’s committee structure and in 2021 agreed to the dissolution of the Mayoralty Committee. As such the functions previously exercised by that committee now fall to the Policy & Management Committee.

A significant milestone for Godalming Town Council was achieved on 15 July 2021 when after two years’ of research and consultation the Town Council resolved that:

Godalming Town Council aims to instigate the provision of a universal, free to access, youth drop-in facility operated and funded by Godalming

Town Council, managed by professionally qualified youth workers providing support and activities for young people in the Godalming area of secondary school age.

Much of the work of the Policy & Management Committee and the Staffing Committee over the following months flowed from that decision.

The Full Council is responsible for authorising the use of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. In September 2021 The Council agreed, subject to additional project funding being gained to undertake the project, to approve £100,000 of Neighbourhood CIL funding to renovate the Broadwater Park sports changing rooms.

It is also the responsibility of the Full Council to approve the budget and set the Parish Precept (the amount of money it raises from council tax payers living within the parish of Godalming). The Parish precept of £928,755 for 2022/23 was approved by the Council on 13 January 2022.

Following a request by Godalming Town Council, it has, for the first time, been agreed that an insert into the council tax bill envelopes sent to households in the Town Council area can be included that sets out to explain what the Parish Precept householders see on their Council Tax bill is for.



What Your Parish Precept Supports

The Parish Precept element of your Council Tax supports the work of Godalming Town Council, who deliver services that support the residents of Godalming and Farncombe.

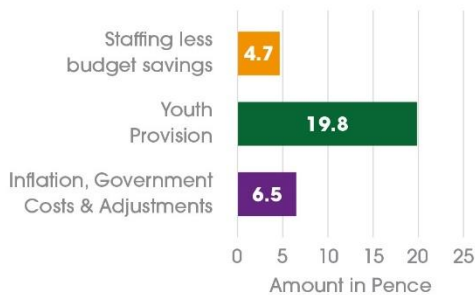
Godalming Town Council provides a range of services to support residents, some of which are shown on this page. Each year the Council publishes an Annual Report that details the work of the Council, the 2021/22 report can be found at godalming-tc.gov.uk/annual-reports

Supporting Young People Allotments Cemeteries **Youth Centre** Public Realm Staycation **Supporting the Elderly** Public Toilets **Community Buildings** Christmas Lights **Climate Emergency** **Community Store** Pandemic **Business Improvement** **Carbon Reduction** Grants **Floral Godalming** Remembrance Day

Information about the 2022 Godalming Parish Precept is shown on overleaf.

The increase in the Godalming Parish Precept of 31p a week for the Band D Council Tax Payer is broken down as follows.

HOW YOUR INCREASE OF 31P PER WEEK IS BROKEN DOWN



The Godalming Parish precept has seen a Band D increase of 31p a week (4.3p a day) this year.

The precept is needed in order to cover rises in inflation and government-imposed staffing costs but it will also support new services, including improvements to green spaces, public and community facilities.

HOWEVER the biggest proportion of the increase is to support **the opening of a new youth club and drop in centre for the young people of Godalming.**

Godalming Town Council needs this money to deal with the concerns raised by so many residents over the last 13 years at the lack of a youth club and safe space for young people of secondary school age.

With the last 2 years highlighting how much the pandemic has impacted on the well-being of our young people, residents overwhelmingly showed their support during public consultation for the Council to take this important step so that the young people of the town will in future have a place of their own to meet friends and socialise in a safe way.

Godalming Town Council - Supporting Our Community

For further information visit: godalming-tc.gov.uk

In January 2022 the Full Council approved a submission to Waverley Borough Council regarding a Community Governance Review that will look at the size of the Council and the make-up of the electoral wards of the Godalming Town Council area. It is expected that further work on the review will take place during 2022 with the aim that any changes that come out of the process are instigated before the 2023 local council elections

Full Council also authorises the sealing of documents, signing of leases and the purchase of land and properties. During the current civic year Godalming Town Council has been negotiating with the National Trust in order to secure the continuance of youth canoeing activities by the Godalming and Surrey Scouts canoe clubs at The Wharf. It is hoped that by the time this report is published the final agreements will have been signed, sealed and registered.

One of the pleasures of the Council is to be able mark national occasions, and whilst the details of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemorations are dealt with by committees, the Full Council was able to send a message of congratulations to Her Majesty on the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne on 6 February 1952.

Environment & Planning Committee

The role of the Environment & Planning Committee is to address and, where appropriate, formulate policy for consideration by the Council and to discharge the Council's functions relating to the local environment and infrastructure. This includes identifying key environment and planning issues whilst taking into account the natural and built environment. The Environment & Planning Committee also considers issues relating to local and regional plans or other planning and highway matters brought to the Town Council's attention.

Members make decisions on applications made to the Council by local organisations for funding from the Council's Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity Grant Scheme, which aims to encourage and enable carbon reduction within Godalming. [Grant awards](#) are shown later in the report.

Since April 2021 the Environment & Planning Committee has considered 415 planning applications, listed building consent applications, Tree Preservation Orders, Permitted Development Prior Notification Notices and Certificates of Lawfulness. When considering planning applications the committee seeks to ensure compliance with policies set out in the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan.

In June 2021, the Environment & Planning Committee received a presentation from a young, school-aged resident, who explained his vision for a bike and skateboard park in Farncombe. Whilst acknowledging that Godalming Town Council does not have appropriate land assets to be able to develop a bike and skateboard park, the Committee wished to



A vision for a Godalming Bike and Skateboard Park

acknowledge its support to such provision and has written to Waverley Borough Council to express the Town Council's support for a bike and skateboard park in Farncombe and its willingness to work with Waverley Borough Council to explore opportunities to deliver on the aspirations set out in the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan.

Throughout the year the Environment & Planning Committee has been engaged with Waverley Borough and Surrey County Councils to identify suitable locations for the provision of on-street electric vehicle charging facilities.

The committee not only considers the move from internal combustion to electric vehicles to be beneficial for future sustainability but also believes good public transport to be a vital ingredient to reducing the volume of traffic on the roads and reducing the carbon footprint of travel. It was with this in mind that the committee felt the unannounced reduction in the number of trains stopping at Farncombe station was unacceptable. As such, Godalming Town Council, along with a number of community and business groups, wrote directly to the CEO of South West Rail to have the service re-introduced. Whilst there seemed to have been an initial success with the service having been reinstated to its pre-pandemic Monday-Friday service, this has appeared to be short-lived with the service once again reduced to only one off-peak service per hour. It is hoped that, as indicated in the December 2022 railway schedule consultation, the two per hour off-peak service will be resumed when the new December 22 timetable is introduced.

Carbon Reduction

Why we need to reduce Carbon Emissions (CO₂)

Carbon emissions are dangerous in that they threaten the livelihood of our planet, animals, humans, and ultimately, life as we know it.

The amount of carbon emissions trapped in our atmosphere causes global warming, which causes climate change, symptoms of which include;

- melting of the polar ice caps
- the rising of sea levels
- the disturbance of animals' natural habitats
- extreme weather events
- and so many more negative side effects that are dangerous to the planet, to human and animal life, and to our future.



An average of **18.7 tonnes CO₂e** is consumed per household **each year in Godalming**.

(www.impact-tool.org/footprint/search)



- 2.6 tonnes from mains gas
- 1 tonnes from electricity
- 7 tonnes for consumption of good and services (leisure, entertainment, sport and social activities)
- 2.3 tonnes from meat and fish
- 2 tonnes from other food and drink
- 1.7 tonnes from private transport
- 1.6 tonnes from flights
- 0.5 tonnes from public transport

Working together
we can make a difference



Responsible  Godalming

In September 2020 the Council reported its first carbon emissions audit since adopting its climate motion commitments. The Council achieved a 21% year on year reduction of KgCO₂e. The Council calculated its carbon footprint using the [Carbon Trust Carbon Footprint Calculator](#), designed for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's). The reductions achieved resulted from simple, but effective changes including the replacement of old light fittings to modern LED lighting and also replacing the old hot water and heating system in The Pepperpot. By June 2021, the second year of the Council's carbon reduction action plan, the Council had achieved a 36.8% reduction in KgCO₂e from the baseline date of 31 March 2019.

There is no doubt that the Council has made a good start in its ambition to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 with an earlier target for carbon neutrality in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2025. However, there is also no doubt that the closer its gets to net zero the more challenging the target becomes. It is hoped that the technology to support the switch from gas fired heating systems, currently used for the Council's community buildings, will quickly evolve to provide alternative, affordable solutions that the Council can adopt.

Policy & Management Committee

The Policy & Management Committee is the main business committee of the Council, chaired by the Leader of the Council.

During 2021 it:

- resolved that Godalming Town Council would act as guarantor of food security however caused, within the Parish of Godalming for as long as necessary and as far as the resources of Godalming Town Council allow;
- resolved to support organisations and groups deemed to be providing relief of food insecurity within the Godalming area;
- resolved to authorise expenditure of up to £10,000 to carry out the immediate alterations required to re-house the Community Store;
- resolved to support the Pride in Surrey festival event being held in Godalming;
- provided evidence submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England relating to the electoral warding arrangements for Godalming;
- awarded grants to support local organisations and community groups [\[see grants\]](#);
- scrutinised accounts paid and schedule of payments and monitored the approved budget throughout the year;
- set up a Task & Finish Group to:
 - provide the context and raise awareness of some of the issues affecting the Farncombe and Binscombe area and how they relate to Community well-being;
 - identify current activity being delivered by Godalming Town Council (GTC) to support the general well-being of residents and economic viability of the Farncombe retail area; and
 - identify ways in which GTC can provide direct action, influence or support further improvements within the Farncombe and Binscombe area.
- Reviewed Council documents and policies;
- reviewed and revised the Council's Programme 2019-2023;
- set Terms of Reference for the Council's Youth Services Management Group;
- approved the Youth Services Budget for 2022/23;
- approved the Recruitment of the Council's Youth Services Officer;
- approved a transparent, democratic process for the nomination of the Mayor;
- agreed to support the Godalming and Surrey Scout canoe clubs to be able to continue activities at the Godalming Wharf;
- requested that Waverley Borough Council undertake a Community Governance Review for the electoral wards within the Godalming Town Council area;
- endorsed the continuation of twinning arrangements with Mayen and Joigny;
- agreed and authorised funding for the Town Council to be the lead organisation for arrangements in Godalming to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen;
- approved funding to support the development of a Business Improvement District within Godalming;
- worked with the Park Run Group and Waverley Borough Council to facilitate the creation of the Godalming Park Run at Broadwater Park;
- authorised improvement works to the public toilet facilities in Godalming and Farncombe;
- approved the draft Farncombe & Binscombe Community Vision For a Greener Cleaner Future Strategy Document for publication and public consultation; and
- agreed support for the Staycation Live Music Festival as it 'bounces back' after a two year absence due to Covid restrictions.

Staffing Committee & Audit Committee

Although the smaller committees of the Council, the roles of these committees, whilst not glamorous, is extremely important to the good governance of the Council and instrumental in Godalming Town Council being a “Quality Council”.

The work of the Staffing Committee ensures that Godalming Town Council remains a good employer, which meets its obligations to staff, whilst also ensuring that the correct policies and procedures are in place for staff to provide the best service they can for the Council and the community. The Staffing Committee also works to ensure that the staffing structure of the Council is as efficient and effective as possible for the delivery of services. As part of this process the committee recommended and Council agreed the appointment of a part time Grounds Maintenance Assistant and Clerical Assistant & Receptionist to the staffing establishment of Godalming Town Council.

The Audit Committee ensures that good financial governance and risk management are always to the fore of the Council’s work.

The work of both committees can be seen through their agenda and minute papers, which can be found on the [Town Council’s website](#).

Godalming Joint Burial Committee

Although Godalming’s public cemeteries date back to 1857, the Godalming Joint Burial Committee (GJBC) is committed to developing its cemeteries to meet the needs of a 21st century town. The ability for the residents of Godalming to select from a choice of burial options is key to the Committee’s development plans. Significant recent developments for the future of burials in Godalming has been the research and planning works to allow for the renewal of grave spaces within Nightingale Cemetery and the allocation of a dedicated area of 500 plots for the Ahmadiyya Muslim community whose world headquarters is based in Waverley.

For many years there were no plots available for purchase at Nightingale Cemetery; although burials continued in grave spaces that had been previously purchased. However, following alterations to the grounds completed in 2010, a limited number of new grave spaces were made available for burials. These spaces have now all been used or reserved. In order to continue to provide Nightingale Cemetery as an option for residents of Godalming and Busbridge civic parishes, an additional 20 spaces had been identified, however of these only 5 remain available.

With limited availability for full body burial in Nightingale Cemetery, the Joint Burial Committee is pushing forward with its plans to seek the renewal of nearly 200 grave spaces within the cemetery which should meet a 25-year requirement.

In October 2019, Godalming Town Council introduced a direct Grounds Maintenance Team which, as well as maintaining GTC’s open grounds and buildings, also supports the GJBC in the maintenance and development of Godalming’s cemeteries. The results of having a dedicated, professional direct workforce is clear to see in the improved biodiversity and ecosystem within the cemeteries.

2021 has seen a number of improvements to the cemeteries which are described within the report from the [Grounds Team](#).

Community Orchard & Garden Projects

Whilst always bearing in mind the primary role of Eashing Cemetery as the main burial ground for Godalming, Busbridge and surrounding areas, the GJBC is engaged with the Ockford Ridge Community Benefit Programme that is aimed at providing a greater sense of ownership to the local community of Eashing Cemetery.

As part of a project funded by Waverley Housing Service via the Community Benefit Programme with Thakeham there are plans to plant the perimeter of the award-winning Eashing Cemetery site with an Orchard Trail of 60 fruit trees in a five-year project managed by Community Orchard Project South East (COPSE). The Trail will be planted over time with valuable input from residents and community groups and sets out to highlight wildlife, points of interest and the history of the burial site. The first trees of this new orchard trail were planted on Saturday, 20 November; over 40 residents from across the local community spanning all age groups attended this first Community Orchard Planting Day and are looking forward to a rich array of fruits for future autumn harvests as well as vivid springtime blossom displays. Stone fruits, apples, pears and nuts will be among those that will be grown, helping to further enhance what is already a haven for wildlife, and complemented by the tranquil Community Garden in the former Garden of Remembrance. The first phase of planting included 12 stone fruit varieties.

To increase and consolidate interest in, knowledge and appreciation of both Eashing Cemetery and this community project a follow-up event was organised for Saturday, 5 February 2022 and took the form of a walk-and-talk led by Godalming Town Council grounds staff with input from officers of the Waverley Housing Team who outlined plans for the Community Garden; representatives from COPSE spoke about the community orchard elements of the 5-year plan.



Proposed Design for Eashing Cemetery Community Garden

Also amongst the aims of the Community Benefit Programme is to further enhance the biodiversity of Eashing Cemetery by adding to the environmental improvement work already undertaken or planned for the future by the GJBC. It is hoped through the existing and future work of the GJBC and the engagement of the local community, greater biodiversity net gain can be achieved within the cemetery grounds and the inspiration and knowledge that the community engagement programme will provide will give confidence and experience to residents to seek other opportunities to support biodiversity gains within their own gardens and immediate surroundings.

The next phase of the Community Engagement Programme is for the Community Garden to be established within the area of land that has been cleared around the former Garden of Remembrance. In considering the plans for this area, the criteria has been to establish a community garden that, with appropriate support, the local community is capable of creating and maintaining into the future.

The garden design is intended to be implemented over the next few seasons, funded from within the existing grounds maintenance budget and has been produced following a number of consultation events held at St Marks Community Centre and Eashing Cemetery along with feedback from GTC grounds staff.

Electric Vehicle

As part of the GJBC's commitment to safeguard the environment, not only are the majority of powered maintenance tools, such as strimmers, hedge trimmers and pedestrian lawnmowers electric battery powered, so also, following the purchase of an electric van in October 2021, is the Grounds Team vehicle that allows them to travel between cemetery sites.



Youth Centre – Why Now?

Although there are many superb youth organisations such as Scouting, Girl Guiding and Cadet Forces in Godalming, there was no universal, free to access youth club in Farncombe or Godalming. This meant that our young people, predominantly those of secondary school age, had nowhere other than the streets and parks to be able to meet their friends.



Parents, carers and many others have highlighted this lack of provision for the young people of the town. It was for this reason that Godalming Town Council looked at ways it could provide a safe space, managed and run by professional youth workers, that the young people of Farncombe and Godalming could call their own. A space where they can meet with their friends, arrange activities that interest them, or just have a safe space to go to when things get too much.

As part of its work to find ways to support the young people of the town, Godalming Town Council conducted a public consultation as to whether it should provide a universal, free to access youth facility for secondary school aged children. The consultation came back with 89% of respondents being in favour of the Council doing so. This then led to the Council unanimously agreeing to provide a universal, free to access, youth drop-in facility operated and funded by Godalming Town Council. The new Youth Centre, which the Council hopes to open in April 2022 will be managed by professionally qualified youth workers providing support and activities for young people of secondary school age.



Having decided that the Council were going to open a youth centre, the next decision to determine was where it should be located. The Council chose Broadwater Park Community Centre, located as it is close to the Godalming Leisure Centre and the only secondary school within the Parish of Godalming, as the most suitable option.

The use of Broadwater Park for youth activities is not something new; there have been many paid for clubs and groups for young people based at the centre. However, the significant difference between those and the new youth centre will be the presence of qualified youth workers whose role will be to support the young citizens of Godalming and Farncombe. The young are an important part of the community and it is their future needs that the Council feels is of paramount importance and that by supporting our young people the whole community will benefit.



Having identified a location and agreed the funding, the Council needed to recruit a qualified youth worker to lead on its youth provision. After all the work of job descriptions, recruitment campaigns and shortlisting etc. that goes into finding the right person, the most important part is often the face-to-face interview. This was especially true of the interviews for the Town Council's Youth Services Officer. For this role not only did we make the candidates jump through all the normal interview hoops such as presentations and exercises, we also put them in front of students from Broadwater School. The Town Council wishes to thank

those pupils who took part in the interview process. Their insightfulness and perceptive comments were much appreciated, as was the seriousness with which that they accepted their responsibilities in the recruiting process. They know who they are and they are a credit to the amazingly brilliant pupil body of Broadwater School.

Godalming Youth Service - The Way Forward

Report from Godalming Town Council's Youth Services Officer

As the Council recognised, there has long been a need for youth provision in Godalming, and the creation of the Godalming Youth Service is proceeding swiftly to fill that gap. The youth service will support young people's personal, social, and emotional development primarily through group-work projects. The aim is to begin providing an open-access youth centre from April onwards, delivered by a team of employed youth workers.

To be successful, recruiting suitable people is of the utmost importance. We are currently recruiting Youth Support Workers, where applicants can bring transferable skills from other youth support contexts.

Broadwater Park Community Centre, which will be the home of the Godalming youth centre and drop-in is undergoing significant renovations to transform it from a plain empty box type community centre into a vibrant welcoming space for young people. The toilets will become gender-neutral facilities, eliminating barriers and maximising the use of space.

There is a lot of equipment needed for the new youth centre. In keeping with the social education it seeks to provide, the Youth Service is striving to procure through ethical means, eliciting donations of underused equipment, seeking to buy locally, and minimising our carbon footprint.

Regarding the youth programmes offered, the needs presented by young people will direct these. There has been a deep need for a universal youth drop-in for several years, and establishing this service in response to previous consultation work is a priority. However, this is not the only service Godalming Youth Service will seek to provide. There are plans to have further sessions in the evenings that meet young people's specific needs, providing them with the support they need.

A thorough needs analysis is integral to understanding how best to support young people. A needs analysis must be completed over time, with young people at the centre of this process. It will be under continual revision and reform because youth culture and community needs are ever-evolving.

Within our conversations to date, specific needs emerging include the need for young women's work, Young Carers provision, responses to Digital Gaming, and the safe use of digital communications in general. When the Youth Service is up and running with staff in place, we anticipate an increased awareness of young people's needs that will inform the nature of our evening programmes, along with the content of the drop-in.

The Youth Service will implement a participatory action research approach, keeping young people central to all aspects of designing our youth work offer. This approach essentially uses a cycle of continual reflection and evaluation, learning through action to inform future decisions. Young people are integral to this process; they are the primary stakeholders and true 'experts' regarding young people's needs. With their help, we will create a service that genuinely meets the needs of Godalming's young people.

Community Events

Report from Godalming Town Council's Community Officer

Godalming Staycation

Godalming Town Council is one of the few local councils in the UK to organise an extensive Staycation programme for its residents to enjoy. First launched in 2010, the Staycation week has been held every year since with the notable exception of 2020. In August 2021, between the first and second lockdowns local groups and businesses came together to support the 2021 Staycation programme so that the community was able to enjoy another week long holiday programme of events in Godalming. Amongst the many free activities on offer for residents to try were canoeing, fishing, bowls, tennis, swimming, drumming workshops, dance and musical theatre workshops for all ages, brass instrument tasters, ukulele lessons, mountain biking, guided tree walks and more.



Staycation Canoeing

Thanks to the following groups and businesses who gave their time and resources for this year's Staycation: Charterhouse Club, Churches Together, Go Godalming Youth Canoe Club, Godalming & Farncombe Bowling Club, Godalming Angling Society, Godalming Cycle Campaign, Godalming Lawn Tennis Club, Godalming Leisure Centre, Godalming Town Football Club, Godalming Youth Band, Kickstart Coaching, King Ramps, Milford & Brook School of Dance, Premier Karate-Do-Wado-Kai, Roots for the Future, Silver Swans, The DomDom's Drum Workshop, The

Music Works, Waverley Borough Council, West Surrey Tennis Club. Godalming Town Council's Staycation will take place this year from Saturday, 6 to Sunday, 14 August and details can be found on the [Staycation](#) page on the Town Council website.

Godalming Green Gala

Godalming Town Council introduced its first Green Gala to the town on Saturday, 14 August, 2021. The Godalming Green Gala supports the Town Council's Programme 2019-2023 and is in line with the Town Council's aim of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. The event was curated to encourage and engage the community with help and advice about living sustainably, protecting the environment and to help the community learn how to make a difference to the environment by discovering how to take simple steps to bring about positive change.



Held on The Bury's Field at the end of the Staycation week, the Godalming Green Gala was supported by local businesses and community groups.



The Green Gala included vegetarian and vegan concessions offering a range of healthy foods as well as music and entertainment with a sustainable message. A variety of stalls offering advice on how to make switches to help reduce carbon footprint and offering sustainably sourced products participated.

Thank you to the community groups and businesses who helped make the event a great success: Buy Nothing Godalming, Music Works, Permaculture Team, Roots for the Future, Rotary in Godalming, Sewing for Good, Surrey Hills 2 South Downs Community Rail Partnership, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Take the Jump Climate Forum, The Cycologist, Thyme for Tea, What Next!, Wild Learning, Yard Market and You Ukes.

Chef Jhenn, Citizens' Advice Waverley, Godalming & District Allotment Association, Godalming Cycle Forum, Godalming Delights, Godalming Nappy Library, Music Works, Permaculture Team, Roots for the Future, Rotary in Godalming, Sewing for Good, Surrey Hills 2 South Downs Community Rail Partnership, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Take the Jump Climate Forum, The Cycologist, Thyme for Tea, What Next!, Wild Learning, Yard Market and You Ukes.

The next Green Gala will take place on Saturday, 13, August on The Bury's Field.

Remembrance in Godalming

Following the virtual Remembrance Sunday event held in 2020, Sunday 14, November 2021 saw one of the most important events organised by Godalming Town Council in the Civic year return in person to the war memorial at the Philips Memorial Ground. A Service of Remembrance was held at the Godalming Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, attended by the Mayor of Godalming's civic party and representatives from community groups and organisations. Following the service in the Parish Church, an Act of Remembrance including a two-minute silence took place at the War Memorial. Invitees included representation from the town's civic and political leaders, faith groups and other community organisations who were invited take part in the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial. As always, service personnel and service veterans from the armed forces along with the emergency services, as well as the town's youth organisations were invited to parade at the event.



Godalming War Memorial

This year's event will be on held on Sunday, 13 November 2022.

Godalming Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-On

The Town Council's Christmas Festival took place on Saturday, 27 November 2021. The Council was delighted that Santa was able to visit Godalming Museum where families were encouraged to write letters to him that were then posted to the North Pole.





Festive stalls with artisan food and drink, crafts and gifts were situated in the High Street and Church Street. A packed programme of festive frolics took place throughout the day with seasonal entertainment at The Pepperpot from Godalming's own Rock Choir led by Tom George. Moss Lane School Choir delighted the crowd with their festive singing to open the event and the Milford & Brook School of Dance gave sterling performances in extremely cold weather.

You Ukes, Kissing Frogs and the Godalming Band contributed to the festivities with some rousing tunes before the stars of Godalming Panto's Cinderella helped Father Christmas switch on the dazzling lights at 5pm.

This year's festival will take place on Saturday, 26 November 2022



Images courtesy of Phil Kemp

Pride In Surrey

Godalming Town Council was delighted to help facilitate the Pride team to be able to bring the main Pride event in Surrey to Godalming on 25 September. The whole day was a colourful celebration of inclusion with the LGBTQ+ community at its centre.

The day started with the unveiling of the first rainbow crossing on the public highway in Surrey over Flambards Way, putting a smile on the faces of the hundreds of people coming into town.

A full day of music and entertainment was held on The Bury's Field and the Phillips Memorial Park, with the Pride Parade taking over the High Street and Church Street in the morning. Hundreds of people took part in the parade with even more spectators cheering them on.



Pride in Surrey increased the footfall in the town by 34% and provided an important economic boost to the area, but more importantly it showed the wider world what a great, welcoming and inclusive town we are.



Godalming Pop-Up Events and Farmers' Markets

The Town Council has worked with the South West Surrey Farmers' Market Co-operative for over 8 years to offer a monthly Farmers' Market within the Town Centre. The Farmers' Markets offer residents and visitors the opportunity to



shop sustainably by supporting local businesses, growers and producers. By making use of the Crown Court area, the Council has been able to increase the monthly Farmers' Markets from 8 to 10 times a year and to bring all the stalls together into one area.

The Council knows that it is not just the Farmers' Markets



that residents enjoy, which is why it also manages the weekly Godalming Friday Pop-Up that allows traders to operate in Crown Court. The Council is delighted that 'Phil the Flower' with his plants and shrubs and Household Heaven are the 'anchors' of the Friday Pop-up.

Grounds Maintenance

Through the seasons in the Grounds Department – Report of the work of Godalming Town Council's Grounds Team

2020 was extremely busy for the Grounds Maintenance Team, which consists of one full time and one part time employee. With the horrid wet winter in 2020/21 delaying a number of the planned outdoor maintenance activities focus shifted to the repair and preservation of Eashing Cemetery benches and grave row markers. When weather did allow outdoor works to continue activities included the scheduled tree maintenance works identified in the biennial Arboriculture Health & Safety survey for all Godalming Town Council owned and managed land. Tree works are undertaken in 3 stages over a two-year period depending upon the severity of risk and minimising disruption to wildlife.

Green waste woodchip generated from the tree works is used to mulch a number of the GTC maintained garden beds, at Woolsack Way, Broadwater Youth Centre, Boarden Bridge, Eashing and Nightingale cemetery gardens.

A new hedge was planted at Eashing Cemetery, which in years to come will improve the wildlife corridor around the cemetery.



Floral Godalming High Street Planters

With spring on the horizon, preparations for the upcoming Floral Godalming displays took place. These were installed in early May after the last frost. Water for the displays is abstracted from the river at Old Drift Way - near the town bridge. Watering of the displays continued twice weekly until early October. When the floral displays were removed in October a number of the plants used were replanted out in GTC maintained gardens. Broadwater Youth Centre garden had a spruce up after the installation of the new fire escape paths and two new garden beds were planted up with bee and butterfly friendly plants.

The team installed a number of hand operated water pumps, sourced from a Cornish water pump manufacturer, at Catteshall allotments. This was to allow the allotment holders to safely abstract water from Hell Ditch without the need to carry water over the flood defence wall.



Wigwam created from coppiced materials from GTC managed lands installed at Wharf Street garden



Care of all the GTC maintained lawns became the focus for the spring and summer period. A carefully planned mowing schedule was put into place which took into account the season's growing conditions and wildflowers.

In early spring a number of flower-rich lawns were left to grow up, this was to allow feeding insects to capitalise on flower availability until later spring and summer blooms were available. Those areas were carefully selected and public walking routes were maintained for safety.



After bird nesting season, GTC and JBC hedges were trimmed to ensure that pathways were kept clear.

A programme of invasive weed species management continued all through the year, which included bracken crushing and mowing at Eashing Cemetery, Himalayan Balsam trashing along Hell Ditch and Mares Tail control along the Nightingale fence line.



Mowing of the long meadow swards and wildflower meadows at Eashing took place at the end of summer. These were cut and left for a few dry days for seeds to disperse into the existing sward and thereafter collected for composting. All green waste generated from GTC grounds maintenance activities are stored at Eashing Cemetery and recycled into a growing medium for amenity planting by a local contractor.



The Grounds Team also undertook a number of reactive grounds maintenance tasks on behalf of Surrey County Council. These were mainly overgrown pathways and clearance of unsafe steps around the town. Staff also cleaned a number of the Godalming Town road signs at the entrances to the town.

In August six new benches were installed at Eashing Cemetery. New bases were also installed under two existing refurbished benches. The 2020 wildflower trial at Eashing Cemetery was expanded to include another 1000m² of UK native wildflowers. A mix of annual and perennial seeds were planted in the autumn. Careful monitoring of the wildflower trials to establish the best method of wildflower enhancement will continue over the coming year.



During the autumn months the Grounds Team prepared the area identified for the Community Orchard Project South East's (COPSE) first 12 fruit trees out of a planned 60, which were planted in Eashing Cemetery. Large sections of self-seeded scrub trees were tamed and areas created for the fruit trees to grow into. A bee bank and stumpery were installed along the route to increase the habitat for insects.

The first phase of traditional hedge laying was also completed at Eashing Cemetery. This hedgerow defines the cemetery boundary and provides many environmental services. They are also vitally important for wildlife as a refuge, a source of food, and as corridors along which they can move through the landscape.

The correct management of the cemetery's hedgerows is therefore vital if they are to survive and be healthy enough to provide a good habitat. Over-management by hard trimming to the same height each year will ultimately degrade the hedge so it is hollow at the base and provide little shelter for wildlife. At the other extreme neglecting a hedge will allow it to become tall and overgrown, eventually even to collapse.



Sympathetic management allows blossom and berries to form, allows the hedge to slowly and incrementally increase in size and keeps the hedge in a healthy condition. Eventually though every hedge needs to be rejuvenated from the base and hedge laying is one of the best and most traditional ways of doing this. A laid hedge provides a secure barrier and a dense habitat for wildlife but most importantly it encourages new growth that starts a new life cycle of the hedge.

Litter picking on all GTC managed land and on Surrey County Council reactive works projects took place throughout the year and on average a bin bag full of litter was collected every week.

On top of this GTC grounds and maintenance staff have also supported 68 burials so far this civic year.

South & South East in Bloom

South & South East in Bloom is part of Britain in Bloom and runs annual competitions across the counties of Kent, Surrey, East & West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, East & North Dorset and East Wiltshire. The award system recognises entrants' efforts in improving their local environment and awards are based on the standard achieved.

Each year entries participate from Villages, Parishes, Towns, Cities, Coastal Towns, Town & City Centres, Urban Communities and Business Improvement Districts. Judges/ assessors visit communities and awards are presented to recognise the entries achievements. Following the 2019 success for Nightingale Cemetery in receiving a Gold award, both Nightingale and Eashing Cemeteries were entered into the 2021 competition (the competition was not held in 2020).

Bloom judges visited Nightingale Cemetery in July 2021 and in the Assessors' Commendations the judges said:

“This is an outstanding Cemetery. A beautiful place to visit. Extremely well managed and maintained by the entire team to the highest standards. The Cemetery design manages to combine the historic features with modern design. The Godalming Remembers Garden and interpretation board is absolutely stunning, beautiful, and very emotionally moving. One of the best Cemeteries that I have visited. It is as close to perfection that I have seen.”



Nightingale Cemetery Memorial Garden

Nightingale Cemetery was awarded 186 points out of a possible 200 winning Gold and was declared the overall winner in the Small Cemetery Category (up to 5 acres) for the whole of the South & South East region.

Godalming Town Council and Busbridge Parish Council, who jointly run the cemeteries, were absolutely delighted with this result, and the awards day got even better when , as a first time entrant, Eashing Cemetery was awarded a Gold award in the Large Cemetery category (over 10 acres) with the Judge saying:

“I was particularly impressed by the knowledge and skills of the grounds team who are carrying out on-site wildflower trials to share the findings with others professionally. It was also very pleasing to see that a horticultural training and development programme was provided to develop a young member of staff.”



Eashing Cemetery Wild Flower Trial Growing Area 2021

Godalming Cemeteries are not only places of peace and tranquillity for residents and visitors, but they are also havens for wildlife, flora and pollinating insects.

GTC Buildings & Public Realm Repair & Maintenance

The nuts, bolts and unpleasant jobs of maintaining GTC-owned properties – Report of the work of Godalming Town Council's Maintenance Department

Maintenance Department may be too grand a statement for a building's maintenance team consisting of one full time person, although on occasions supported by the Grounds Team and vice-versa.



2021 started with the completion of the Godalming Town Council's new office development which had occupied much of the previous 12 months. This was followed in May by the rejuvenation of the high street furniture, bollards and metal railings along with sign posts to bring a sparkle into the town.

The street furniture in the town centre falls into one of those many gaps, who is actually responsible for looking after it is not always as clear as it should be. Whilst the Town Council

could strive for many years for others to do something, the decision was taken that it's our town and if we want it to be smartened up and we are able to do it, then we had better get it done. With help from the Grounds Team this was achieved quickly and efficiently and when completed the hanging baskets and flower troughs were installed that brought colour and a new lease of life to the town after the long lockdown periods.

With the Council having agreed to continue to support the Community Store and having found it a new home, albeit one that needed renovation, plans started to evolve on how to make best use of the available space and bring it up to a standard suitable for locating and operating the Community Store.

September and October saw the list of those just jobs being whittled down and supporting the Grounds Team prepare for the autumn.

Having agreed how the new home for the Community Store would be developed, November saw the start of the work to get it ready. As an unplanned and emerging project that was borne out of necessity to keep the Community Store going, work on its future new home has had to be fitted around planned and higher priority maintenance works.

December was a month with some planned and a lot of unplanned maintenance having to be done with work on the new Community Store put on hold to insulate the Godalming Museum's loft space. As with many peoples own lofts, there was a lot of emptying to be done before any work could begin. This was certainly a challenge not expected by our work experience pupil, but one that was met with vigour. Once the loft was clear it soon became apparent that time had wreaked some damage on the iron fixtures that form part of the ceiling structure of what is Godalming's oldest habitable building ([1400](#)).

Unplanned and immediate work had to be undertaken to support the ceiling and install new fixtures before any further work could take place. This is, of course, one of the many challenges of looking after historic buildings. By the end of the first week of January the job was back on track, loft insulated and boarded and everything put back safely ready for the Museum to re-open.

Having finished at the Museum, the rest of January saw the continuation of the Community Store build with floor preparation for levelling, insulation of external walls, and drylining of both ceiling and walls in preparation for plastering.

Alongside this project a new one has started at Broadwater Park Community Centre to make internal changes to the building in preparation of it opening as the new Youth Centre for Godalming and Farncombe. Part of these works include changing the toilets to gender neutral facilities, creating a gaming room and a new music recording studio.

As well as responding to what are exciting new projects such as those above the day-to-day maintenance of the Council's properties has to continue. Over the last 10 months 145 maintenance tasks have been logged, which prior to October 2019 would have had to have been contracted out.



Certainly, one of the least pleasant, but vitally important jobs that has to be frequently done is the unblocking of the drains serving the public toilets due to a mix of inappropriate material being flushed and an old drainage system.

Buildings maintenance also support the Council's Facilities Supervisor by building the stage and setting out seating for concerts and other events. Although the number of such events has declined due to Covid restrictions.

In supporting the community during Covid, it was the Buildings Maintenance staff who set out and continually refreshed the rainbow coloured social distance markers in the town centre along with the advisory posters and signs.

Another job that the Council has been able to bring in-house is Portable Appliance Testing (PAT). Whilst the Council does have a lot of equipment requiring PAT testing, in-house testing has made it a more efficient and economically efficient operation.

As with most Council staff the Maintenance Team, both Buildings and Grounds, also assists at the main town centre events and festivals. Whilst covering different disciplines the maintenance staff support each other's roles, especially when it comes to supporting the Town Council's bereavement service including preparing for and attending burials.

Localism – Working with Surrey County Council

Godalming Town Council continues to work with Surrey Highways to identify issues relating to footpaths, alleyways, culverts and land drainage, which have concerned local residents. Being more local and utilising its own workforce, Godalming Town Council has been able to undertake some of this work more effectively and at a lower cost, which, in turn, has meant that more areas of concern have been addressed.

Town Centre Traffic

Godalming Town Council has requested that Surrey County Council consults upon the establishing of a 20mph zone within the Godalming Primary Shopping Area as defined in Waverley Local Plan Part 2 and the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan that would:

- Create a safe environment for both pedestrians and vehicle drivers within the Godalming Primary Shopping Area.
- Create a safer environment on the approach to the prohibited traffic area on Godalming High Street located west of its junction with Pound Lane to its Junction with Church Street by managing traffic speeds thereby enabling greater opportunity of understanding of the approaching restricted area and the diversion route for non-permitted traffic.
- Be identified by the installation of 20mph speed zone area signs at Wharf Street at its Junction with Flambard Way, Church Street at its junction with Station Road and The Bury at its junction with Bridge Street.



The Town Council has also requested that Surrey County Council considers creating a Prohibition of Entry into High Street, Godalming from its junction with Pound Lane to its junction with Church Street 10.00am to 4.00pm, except for buses, taxis and loading and unloading by goods vehicles or access only to Harts Yard or Moss Lane. As well as creating designated loading and unloading bay(s) and Blue Badge holder disabled bays within Godalming town centre, allowing for contra-

flow cycling along the length of Godalming High Street, Church Street and Bridge Street and the provision of appropriate information signage and the painting of double yellow lines with provision for loading by way of kerb markings on the south side of Godalming High Street between its junction with Wharf Street and Queen Street and in the layby on the north side of High Street outside No 6.

Godalming & Villages Community Store

The Community Store was originally established in April 2020 by the Godalming & Farncombe Coronavirus Assistance Group, a Facebook community group, to support those from our community who, due to the Coronavirus restrictions suddenly found themselves redundant, furloughed or waiting for Universal Credit. However, as the Coronavirus



restrictions eased, it was clear that with the rising number of people facing food anxiety and insecurity because of the 'Cost of Living Crisis' there would need to be a wider strategy to support the Food Bank and provide solutions for those facing, probably for the first time ever, food insecurity.

The Community Store is all about the community supporting its friends and neighbours during challenging and difficult times. As the Community Store has evolved, the volunteers who operate the store are always looking to the future and have established fixed donation

points in the main supermarkets and created links with other organisations such as the Citizens Advice. Using social media to seek donations from the community, including monetary gifts, has ensured that the Community Store is able to continue to support those who find themselves in need. Residents who wish to help the Community Store or who may find themselves in need of its support can find further information on the [Store's website](#).

Rotary in Godalming also continues to support the Community Store and manages a fundraising '[Just Giving](#)' page where people can make financial donations that help support the work of the Store.

In May 2021 the Town Council agreed to continue to support the Community Store and passed a motion that the Council:

“commits to acting as guarantor of food security however caused, within the Parish of Godalming for as long as necessary and as far as the resources of Godalming Town Council allow”

An important part of this commitment was confirmed when the Town Council entered into an agreement with Waverley Borough Council to secure new premises for the Community Store at Broadwater Park in Farncombe. Having secured the premises and with funding secured from both GTC and WBC, along with the generous support of The Peter Caudle Memorial Trust, the Town Council has been undertaking renovation works at the Store's future new home and hopes to have everything ready for them to move in just before the 2nd anniversary of the creation of the Store in April 2022.

The Community Store records its support to the community by the number of days' worth of food and hygiene products it has provided to the community. **Between April 2020 and 25 February 2022 the Community Store has provided a total 53,669 days' worth of support to members of our community.** These figures do not include 'light' support provided by the community basket (help-yourself trolley) located outside the Community Store during operating hours, nor the support provided by others within the community to alleviate food poverty.

Grants

As stated earlier in the report, Godalming Town Council has supported a wide range of organisations in the town with a grant aid totalling £60,864 in 2021/22. This is an important part of the Town Council's work recognising the huge contribution that these organisations make to the quality of life in our community.

The largest of these grants was to the Citizens Advice Waverley (CAW) to ensure the continued provision of a CAW service in Godalming. This Council has provided a significant grant to the CAW for more than decade. Other organisations that are supported by Service Level Agreements where funding is linked to the provision of a service that benefits residents of Godalming are The Hoppa Community Transport and the Farncombe Day Centre receiving £38,000 between them.

At a lower, but equally important level, the Council also awarded grants to many other local organisations through its General Grants Fund or its Community Grants Fund. As well as monetary grants, a number of organisations were also given grant aid in the form of free use of one of the Town Council's buildings for meetings or to facilitate an event (those grants have a cash value put on the grant so that the support is properly accounted for).

Below is a full list of all grants awarded by Godalming Town Council in the financial year 2021/22 including Grant Aid in Kind (GAiK) for use of venues.

2021/22	£
Service Level Agreements	
Citizens' Advice Waverley	28,000.00
Farncombe Day Centre	5,000.00
Waverley Hoppa Community Transport	5,000.00
General & Community Grants	
Farncombe & District Allotment Association (GAiK)	28.00
Godalming & District Community First Responders (GAiK)	126.00
Go Godalming Association (GAiK)	42.00
Go Godalming Association (GAiK)	90.00
Godalming Round Table (GAiK)	80.00
Pride in Surrey	192.00
The Brigitte Trust	500.00
Godalming Town Football Club	1,500.00
The Green Hub Project for Teens	5,000.00
Godalming Climate Forum	500.00
Godalming Town Show	500.00
Farncombe Cricket Club	500.00
1254 (Godalming) Air Training Corps	3,100.00
1254 (Godalming) Air Training Corps	1,920.00
Sight For Surrey	150.00
Wharf Nursery School	3,500.00
St Marks Community Centre	700.00
Repair Café (GAiK)	336.00
Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity Fund	
What Next - The Planetarian Food Project	4,100.00
	<hr/>
	4,100.00
TOTAL GRANT FUNDING	<hr/>
	£60,864.00

THANK YOU

Godalming Town Council wishes to thank the many wonderful organisations, individuals and volunteers who give freely of their resources to the Council and their community.



Music in the Park
Godalming



With thanks to the Peter Caudle Memorial Trust



COUNCIL PROGRAMME 2019-2023



Completed	Completed
No known problems hindering progress	No known problems hindering progress
Minor concerns or known issues which may impede progress	Minor concerns or known issues which may impede progress
Major problems putting completion at significant risk	Major problems putting completion at significant risk
Abandoned / failed	Abandoned / failed
No accountability yet assigned	No accountability yet assigned

GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Environment and Planning (encompassing Neighbourhood Plan Objectives for Environment, Housing and Transport)			
Activities			
Establish GTC Environment & Planning Committee.	Complete	Action complete	Agreed by FC 26 Sept
Commit to becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, to cover scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions, including an earlier target of 2025 for all scope 1 and 2 emissions.	Complete	Action complete	Commitment made by GTC 25 July 2019.
Conduct annual carbon audits to establish and subsequently monitor the Council's carbon footprint.	Ongoing	Annual	Next Audit due May 2022 for period 2020/21
Establish a budget for environmental grants to encourage and enable carbon-reduction and mitigation schemes to improve bio-diversity within Godalming.	Complete	Action complete	Established in 2019/20 funded from Emerging projects fund 2020 onwards as base budget item
Establish criteria for the award of environmental grants.	Complete	Action complete	Adopted by FC 23 April 2020
Establish the protocols for reporting environmental implications of recommendations in Officer reports alongside legal, financial and equality implications. Where appropriate these will include the impact of recommendations on CO ² emissions as well as any other relevant environmental factors.	Minor concerns or known issues which may impede progress	TBC	No action taken by GTC as yet. Framework to be agreed and brought to E&P committee

GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Seek ways to facilitate and encourage our community to reduce direct and indirect CO ² emissions, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to become resilient to changes caused by the changing climate.	Ongoing	Ongoing actions	Throughout 2020 GTC displayed public information boards at 107-109 High Street, versions of the information has been transferred to information board below the Pepperpot. GTC has set up and is supporting the Godalming Climate Forum and held Godalming's first sustainability fair on 14 August 2021 Conducted Biodiversity Net Gain Audit for Eashing Cemetery
Take active steps where possible to encourage: a) increased use of sustainable transport; b) reductions in energy use in homes, shops, businesses and elsewhere and a public education campaign in order to facilitate this; c) organisations undertaking construction and building works to adopt sustainable building practices and to provide sustainable developments that minimise carbon emissions; d) development and use of renewable energy sources; e) production, sale and consumption of locally sourced and sustainably produced food; f) adoption of wildlife friendly land and water management practices; g) any other sustainable methods and steps for achieving the Neighbourhood Plan objectives.	Ongoing	Ongoing actions	GTC actively supporting the Godalming Cycle Forum to encourage active travel, and is also a lead member of the Community Rail partnership to promote rail travel with active travel options for onward journeys. GTC provided a grant to undertake the feasibility study which supported a successful CIL application for the Godalming Crossway section of the Guildford/Godalming Greenway. GTC is working with WBC & Surrey to develop the Greenway and also engaging with WBC, the Cycle forum and others to provide active travel infrastructure including new cycle shelters and EV charging points. GTC has transferred to 100% UK certified renewable electricity suppliers and is promoting sustainable living through its involvement with the Godalming Climate Forum and the Godalming Green Gala
Develop, adopt, maintain and review annually a Carbon Reduction Plan.	Ongoing	Annual	Next Audit due May 2022 for period 2020/21
Improve public participation in planning.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Formation of E&P committee. GTC promotes via its social media platforms public consultations including developer consultations, thus increasing the reach of those consultations.
Where practicable, work with WBC to develop, maintain and run social housing.	Cllr Boyle Cllr Rosoman	TBC	No action taken by GTC as yet.

GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Support Waverley Borough Council in improving the provision of affordable housing.	Ongoing	Ongoing actions	<p>Godalming Town Council Environment & Planning Committee welcomes the new Waverley Borough Council Affordable Housing Strategy document "Build More, Build Better, Build for Life 2022-2025.</p> <p>In recognition of Affordable Housing Strategy, Godalming Town Council's Environment & Planning Committee will support the provision of local high quality affordable and social housing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working closely with Waverley Borough Council; • identifying opportunities for land use, change of building use or other means to develop social housing, including on land and properties directly controlled by the Town Council; • supporting a housing needs survey in alliance with Waverley Borough Council to identify local affordable and social housing needs in detail; • highlighting significant planning applications in the town for opportunities to work with developers to provide affordable and social housing; • working with all parties to ensure that existing local residents and key workers have priority for affordable and social housing; • Supporting local self-build schemes.
Oppose development of fossil fuel mineral extraction.	Cllr Williams		No action taken by GTC as yet
Discourage single use plastics and promote deposit schemes for plastic bottles.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC resolved to support the Godalming Plastic Free Campaign
Protect natural habitats and biodiversity.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Management of green spaces, limited use of pesticides and herbicides. Working with WBC/Thackham and Surrey Wildlife on Community Orchard and gardening projects, creating wildlife corridors at Eashing Cemetery through hedgerow management, improving biodiversity at Nightingale Cemetery through tree planting programme to add bird friendly trees.
Where practicable provide support for rewilding projects.	Ongoing	Ongoing	JBC rewilding at Eashing Cemetery, rewilding of grass verges i.e Wharf Nursery/Flambards Way
Promote strategies for reducing and reusing materials as much as recycling.		TBC	Cllr to be nominated to devise strategy.

GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Provide an information hub to promote understanding of individuals' and communities' impacts on climate change.		TBC	GTC supports the Godalming-based independent charity What Next? Which amongst other things acts as an information hub to promote understanding of individuals and communities' impacts on climate change. Whilst not a permanent information hub GTC also provided information to promote understanding via the introduction of the Godalming Green Gala.
Work with community groups and statutory bodies to improve cycling environment, safety, infrastructure and facilities.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC work with Godalming Cycling Campaign, SCC and other partners regarding cycling environment
To provide, maintain and operate public drinking water fountains/bottle refill points.		TBC	Original location proved unfeasible, to seek alternative options
Work with local organisations to promote the transfer from incandescent lighting to LED lighting systems and where appropriate provide LED lamps for vulnerable members of the community.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Discussions with CAW and other Community Groups for volunteer base to promote. Information stand at Godalming Green Gala and at 'Take the Jump' events
Where appropriate, utilise Council maintenance staff in support of the Council's environmental objectives.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC staff are utilised where appropriate and within resource
Community Safety			
Liaise with police and community groups and identify the resources required to promote schemes aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour and crime.	Ongoing	Ongoing	ASB meeting held at Farncombe, GTC working with Police and other agencies to identify issues and investigate preventative measures. GTC has employed a Youth Services Officer and is setting up a Youth Club and youth drop-in centre.
Promote traffic slowing schemes such as Twenty's Plenty and safer walking routes to school.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC agreed to support Twenty Plenty campaign and to lobby for introduction in Godalming. Additionally GTC has written to SCC to seek consultation on introduction of a 20mph zone within the Primary Retail Area
Seek to create a more pedestrian friendly environment through increased pedestrianisation and residential parking schemes.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Utilising experiences gained during the 2020/2021 lockdowns, GTC has agreed to submit proposals to SCC for permanent traffic control measures in the town centre.
Youth Provision			

GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Promote engagement with voluntary and statutory providers of youth services to determine how the Council can support increased provision and access to youth provision, support and services within Godalming.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC have employed a Youth Service Officer and are setting up a Youth Club and drop-in centre at Broadwater Park.
Develop and support youth engagement in the democratic process.	A Duce	TBC	Actions to be determined by consultation with young people once the Youth Centre is established.
Develop and support youth engagement programmes and activities aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues.	A Duce S Williams	TBC	Actions to be determined by consultation with young people once the Youth Centre is established.
Support Local Business			
Work with local business organisations, Waverley Borough Council, the Godalming & District Chamber of Commerce and other organisations to promote Godalming as a retail and business centre.	Ongoing	Established and ongoing	GTC works with the Chamber of Commerce and WBC Economic Development Team to promote Godalming and Farncombe.
Work with local stakeholders to organise, manage and promote community events including town festivals, national celebrations and commemorations, markets, Staycation and other activities that enhance and support the vitality and vibrancy of the town, its retail centres, businesses and community.	Ongoing	Established and ongoing	GTC supports a full programme of community events both annual and individual national celebratory events. Farmers' Markets, Friday Pop-Up, Saturday Pop-Up, Remembrance Day Parade, Godalming Christmas Festival & Lights Switch-on, Santa's Grotto, Farncombe Christmas Lights, Town Day, Spring Festival, Godalming Community Run, St John's Spring Fair, the Town Show, the Spring Festival, the Food Festival, Staycation and for 2021 the Godalming Green Gala
Use and support ethical, local, Fair Trade and Tax Mark compliant suppliers.	Complete	Complete	GTC is committed to using support ethical, local, Fair Trade and Tax Mark compliant suppliers and procurement procedures allow.
Support the protection of local sustainable office and work spaces via an Article 4 Direction Order(s) for key sites in the town.	Complete	Complete	Article 4 Direction Order Made April 2020
Work with local business organisations and other stakeholders; promote sustainable and regenerative business models.	Cllr Faraday	TBC	No action taken by GTC as yet
Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing			
The Council is fully committed to the elimination of unlawful and unfair discrimination and will endeavour to support all groups within our community.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC adopts and implements policies to ensure equality of access to its services and facilities and that all people within our community are treated equally.

GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Work with stakeholder groups to support the establishment of the Godalming Parkrun.	Complete	Complete	Godalming Park Run commences Summer 2021
Support groups, organisations and projects aimed at reducing loneliness and isolation within our community including specific support for those living with or supporting others with mental health issues.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC supports the work of the CAW and Farncombe Day Centre through the provision SLA's, provides Grant Aid in Kind for the Godalming Good Neighbours Scheme and supports mental health organisations, such as the Green Teen Grant Support, whilst other organisations are supported through use of community venues
Work with local organisations to support and promote events and activities that inform and engage residents in creating a sense of community, safe spaces, openness and accessibility for all residents and visitors.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC supports the work of local charities such as the Cellar Café, The Godalming Dementia Action Alliance and Day Centres
Community Engagement			
Relocation of Godalming Town Council administrative offices to more suitable premises that will enable full access to Council services by all members of our community.	Complete	Complete	GTC relocated on 1 April 2021
Support monthly Council Consultation & Listening Events.			Trial of regular events had little uptake, consultation to be focused on specific issues.
Use "listening exercises" to support consultation for key issues.			As above with additional of social media and direct comms utilised to understand key issues. However, listening events organised for specific issues such as those held at St John's Farncombe relating to ASB issues have been successful and led to further consultation and action by GTC.
Engagement with residents via traditional and social media.	Ongoing	Ongoing	As per GTC Press, Communications and Community Engagement Policies
Actively disseminate information on Councillor attendance, voting record etc.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Members attendance recorded and published on GTC Website GTC Standing Orders state voting is by show of hands unless a recorded vote is requested by a Member. Outcomes of votes and recorded votes are detailed in the official minutes of the Council

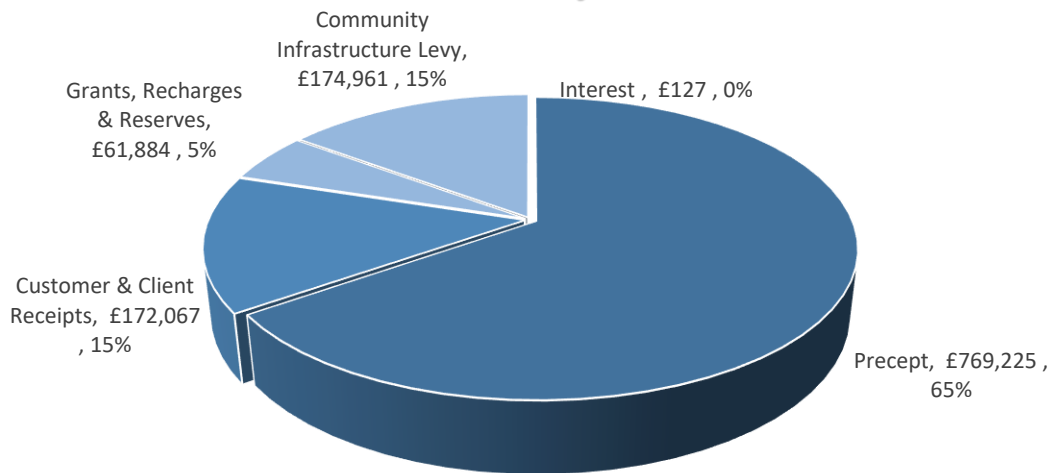
GTC Objective	Status	Plan Implementation Date	Notes
Establish a large Town Hall Meeting once a year.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC required by the LGA 1972 to hold an annual meeting of the parish. The LGA states restrictions on the timing of the meeting but not of its format.
Engage residents in developing priorities for how to spend Community Infrastructure Levy funds.	Chair, E&P Committee	TBC	GTC adopted CIL policy and welcomes proposals from residents regarding projects that could be supported via Neighbourhood CIL
Council Staffing			
Recruit Direct Work Force to reduce and eventually replace use of contractors.	Complete	Complete	GTC direct maintenance work force recruited, areas identified for specialist contractors, ie. gas safety inspections and electrical installations.
Provide appropriate staffing resource to meet the aims and objectives of the Council.	Ongoing	Ongoing	GTC currently resourced to requirement, requirement to be monitored and reviewed as necessary.
Provide appropriate training to support implementation of the Council's aims, objectives and delivery programme.	Ongoing	Ongoing	Training commitment set out in Council's Training Statement of Intent.

Annual Accounts 2021/22

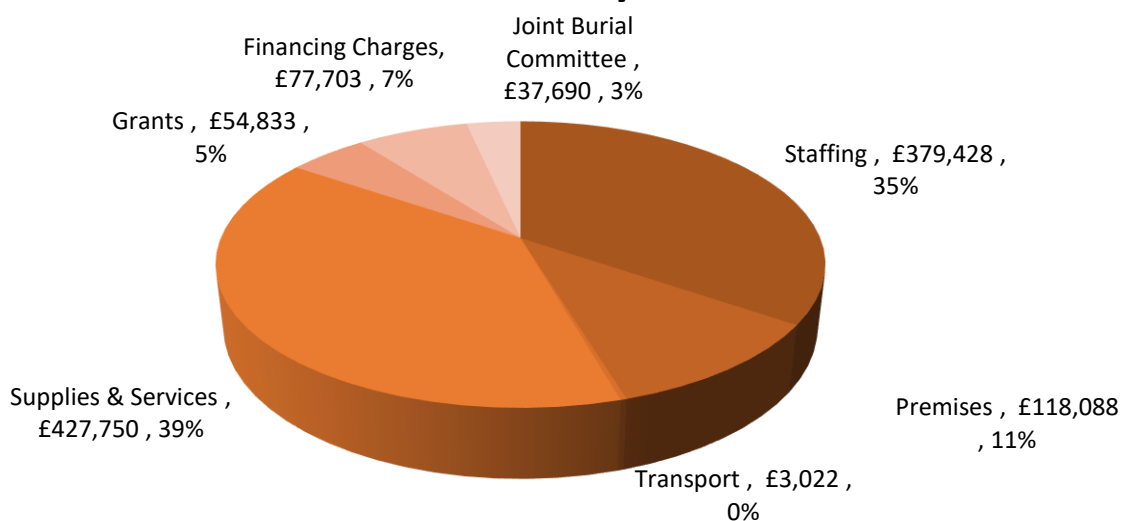
The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2015. They are subject to internal audit (by an independent auditor appointed by the Town Council) and to external audit (by a different auditor appointed by the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd). Every year local government electors are given an opportunity to examine the Council's accounts and financial records and the accounts will also be published on the Town Council's website.

Below is a summary (unaudited) of how the Council's budget (including overheads) was spent in 2021/22 up to February 2022.

Where the Money Came From



Where the Money Went



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Godalming Town Councillors

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Cllr H Hullah
Cllr C Weightman
*Cllr PS Rivers

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Cllr AW Duce
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*Cllr AM Rosoman

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Cllr C Neill
Cllr ML Steel
*Cllr S Williams

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⁰*Cllr PMA Rivers
Cllr SA Faraday
Cllr RA Welland

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*Cllr JC Heagin
*Cllr PJ Martin
Cllr MJ Stubbs

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*Waverley Members
⁰Surrey County Council Members

Town Council Staff

Andy Jeffery	Town Clerk
Rita Tong	Responsible Finance Officer
Suzie Gortler	Community & Communications Officer
Alison Pattison	Godalming Museum Curator
Tom Manning	Youth Services Officer
Lynne Purnell	Support Services Executive
Karen Warner	Facilities Supervisor
Jason Hunter	Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
Darren Jones	Buildings Maintenance Supervisor
Angela Terelak	Museum Volunteer Co-ordinator
Anita Cannings	Receptionist
Holly Harvey	Maintenance Assistant

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