



TOWN NEWS

A NEWSLETTER
PRODUCED BY
WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**Jim Sibbald, Councillor Major,
Town Mayor of Wantage**

It is a great honour that I have been asked to serve as your Mayor for a further year and I am especially proud to do so in this, Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Wantage and Grove Councils have ensured that our celebrations do not clash so that we can all enjoy the events.

In Wantage, the main event has been the Big Lunch on Sunday 5th June 2022 in the Market Place which I hope that you were able to attend.

In March and as part of the Jubilee and the Queen's Green Canopy project, I was delighted to escort the Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Marjorie Glasgow BEM, at the planting of 420 indigenous trees by Wantage Primary Academy and Fitzwaryn School Sixth Formers on the Kingsgrove Estate, hosted by St Modwens.



Photo by Caroline Field cffphoto@aol.com

MARKET PLACE WESTERN END PEDESTRIANISATION

In support of the Town Council's proposal to permanently pedestrianise the western end of the Market Place (the area that is currently temporarily closed,

west of Barclays), Oxfordshire County Council has commenced a consultation titled **Experimental Prohibition of Driving & Waiting – Wantage: Market Place area**. The consultation can be viewed via web page <https://wantagecouncil.gov.uk/occ-consultation/>.

Please read the detailed information and take the time to complete the survey as your views and opinions matter.

Your response should be completed and returned by Friday 01 July 2022.



Updated Draft Wantage Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Council has finalised updates to the draft Wantage

Neighbourhood Plan. The original Plan was rejected by an inspector in 2016 relating to the proposed town centre and greenspaces policies.

The updated Plan has been modified to amend or remove the policies that were deemed unacceptable. All other policies remain unchanged from the document published in 2016 and the updated version of the Plan published and informally consulted upon in November 2020. No new policies have been added.

More information on the role of the Plan in the planning processes, and a copy of the updated Plan, can be accessed on the Town Council's website www.wantagecouncil.gov.uk

The Town Council is now proceeding to formal

consultations under Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This commenced on 1 June 2022 and will end on 14 July 2022.

The Town Council would welcome your comments and views on the various proposed policies. Responses to the consultation should be sent to the Town Council at its offices at The Beacon or email them to clerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk.

The publication is also accompanied by an online survey that can be accessed through the Council's website. Paper copies of the Plan and the survey are available from Council Offices between the hours of 9.30am and 12.30pm on each weekday. If you are unable to visit the offices during these hours, please call 01235 763459 or email as above to make alternative arrangements. The deadline for responding to the survey is Thursday 14 July 2022.



TOWN EVENTS

Sunday 12 June

Wantage Silver Band, Market Place, 3pm

Sunday 19 June

Wantage Silver Band, Market Place, 3pm

Sunday 26 June

Wantage Carnival

Sunday 10 July

Wantage Artisan Market

1 July to 31 July

Wantage Summer Arts Festival

Monday 18 July to

Tuesday 19 July

French Market, 9am-5pm

Sunday 31 July

Wantage Silver Band, Market Place, 3pm

Sunday 14 August

Wantage Silver Band, Market Place, 3pm

Sunday 21 August

Wantage Silver Band, Market Place, 3pm

What is your Council doing for you?

The mission of Wantage Town Council is for our historic town and surrounding area to be a safe, accessible, attractive, sustainable and rewarding place to live, work and visit. We know that many of you wonder what we do beyond our obligations, so henceforth we will include some items in the Newsletter, with the full list on the Council website, and also available on request from the Council office:

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Wantage Council Mission Statement published in October 2021 – the full statement can be found on the website.
- Wantage Neighbourhood Plan 2021-2031 which has now been agreed by the Council. Currently the plan is at the pre-submission consultation stage – Regulation 14 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 which requires that the plan is publicised and particular stakeholders given the opportunity to comment on it.
- Climate Action Plan – agreed by the Climate Emergency Committee, and which is on the Council's website. It is a 'live' document that can be amended.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY YOUR COUNCIL

- Appointment of our excellent Town Centre Manager and Project co-ordinator who have both greatly enhanced our management of town events and markets as well as relationships with town centre businesses.
- Consultation on the 20 is Plenty speed limit proposal – Currently our proposal is with County Council, who, if they agree to the plan going ahead will need to invite further consultation. We consulted residents via a survey advertised in our newsletter, website and social media. There was a good level of response – just under 400 responses. From this it appears that there is strong support for reducing the speed limits in the town centre and outside schools.
- Pandemic precautions – when the pandemic hit, your council acted very swiftly to provide safe spaces and signage to support social distancing, as well as providing financial support to groups helping those in particular need.

- Pedestrianisation of the West End, with installation of planters and benches. This was initially during the lockdown period but has been extended as part of the process of making it permanent. It is proving a really successful venue for markets, music and al fresco dining, or just somewhere nice to sit, on our new benches.
- To show appreciation for their support of the town during the Covid lockdown, we waived fees for our fantastic market vendors.
- Grants to local organisations (covered in a separate item in the Newsletter this time).
- King Alfred's statue has been cleaned.
- We have started replacing Street name signs.
- We are replacing and supplying new seating where needed.
- We are involved on the town's behalf, with national and regional consultations that affect our area such as Oxfordshire 2050 and active transport.
- As well as working on a new extension for the Cemetery we are opening up spaces, uncovering headstones and old graves. New waste recycle bins will be installed with new tree planting scheduled for the autumn.





www.wantagesummerartsfestival.com

Local arts and musical organisations are invited to showcase their activities and concerts in this year's Summer Arts Festival from July 1st to July 31st.

For more information email Jim Mitchell at:

***jim@wantage
summerarts
festival.com***

Programme available soon.



© Lynn Christer

Whoosya! performing in the Market Place in 2021

AEDs/Defibrillators in Wantage

What is an AED Defibrillator?

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is an emergency life-saving device for use in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. It is a portable device that analyses the heart rhythm and administers an electrical charge to the heart if needed (to establish a regular heartbeat in the event of a cardiac arrest).



There are several AEDs located in Wantage including:

- **The Beacon**, Portway (Mounted on wall outside)
- **Wantage Fire Station**, Ormond Road (Mounted on wall outside)
- **Phone box** off the **Post Office Vaults** end of the Market Place
- **Wantage Memorial Park**, Manor Road, Toilet Block (Mounted on wall outside)
- **Wantage Library**, Stirlings Road (located outside the library)
- **Wantage Leisure Centre**, Portway (available in reception during opening hours)
- **King Alfred's Academy, Centre Site**, Portway (available in reception during opening hours)
- **King Alfred's Academy, West Site**, Challow Road (available in reception during opening hours)
- **The Bear Hotel**, Market Place (available in reception during opening hours)

- **Rockwell House Day Nursery**, Wallingford Street (in reception during opening hours)
- **Wantage Silver Band**, Reading Road (Tugwell Field on side of building)
- **Wantage Support Services** (Charlton village road on wall by main entrance)
- **Stockham Primary School**, Stockham Park (wall mounted outside the school)
- **Fitzwaryn School**, Denchworth Road (right side of reception outside main door)

Locations of community defibrillators can be found on the two national mapping services:

- **The National Defibrillator database** (www.nddb.uk), and
- **DefibFinder** (www.defibfinder.uk)

Neither give a complete UK picture, but together they represent about 99% of all known defibrillators. Defibfinder only shows the 10 nearest locations to your position.

— ACT FAST —

Only within the first few minutes following cardiac arrest will a victim be in a 'shockable rhythm'; rapid defibrillation is therefore vital. Placing AEDs in the community can dramatically reduce the time from collapse to defibrillation and can greatly improve survival rates.

Always call 999 Ambulance in an emergency and they will advise you what to do and the location of your nearest available defibrillator if it is required.

Always call from the patient's location. If there is someone available, tell them to go and collect the defibrillator. Never leave the patient on their own.



GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY BODIES

The Town Council is extremely pleased to support key Wantage organisations such as Vale Community Impact (formerly the Independent Advice Centre), Sweatbox and Wantage Museum, with substantial regular grants.

We have also awarded one off grants to a variety of local community organisations including Sustainable Wantage, Be Free Young Carers, Wantage Lifesavers

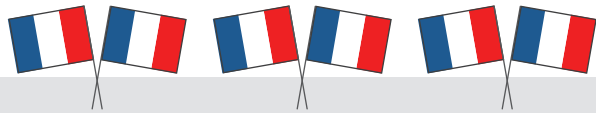
and various sports and arts groups. During the COVID pandemic we provided additional funding for children's laptops and free school meals to those in particular need. We supported the business community during lockdown by waiving tolls for the market traders who continued to provide for the town in difficult times.

Around 25% of our total budget is used to support these vital

activities many of which would not be able to operate otherwise.

Local community organisations, clubs, societies and local good causes that benefit the residents of Wantage and who would like to apply for a grant should please contact the Town Clerk for details of what to do. The application form is also available from the Wantage Town Council website –

<https://wantagecouncil.gov.uk/grants-and-donations-to-local-community-groups/>



FRENCH MARKET IN WANTAGE

Now for 2 days!

Monday, July 18 & Tuesday, July 19
9am - 5pm

Why not make a day of it and enjoy a delicious French breakfast, lunch and dinner?



There are a number of services and activities that take place in our town that are not the responsibility of the Town Council. We hope the following will be helpful in directing you to the right place.



01235 763459
clerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk
www.wantagecouncil.gov.uk



01865 792422
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
residents/contact-council
(for individual departments)



01235 422422
enquiries@whitehorsedc.gov.uk
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

YOUR FEEDBACK WELCOMED

We hope that you have enjoyed the articles in the Wantage Town Council Newsletters. Feedback and suggestions are welcome to:

The Town Clerk
Tel: 01235 763459
Email: clerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

Other useful contacts:

Andrea Yates,
Town Centre Manager
Email: andrea.yates@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

Sheryl Sanders,
Deputy Town Clerk
Email: deputyclerk@wantagecouncil.gov.uk

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