

# OUNDLE

AUTUMN 2024

## TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



## MAYOR IAN CLARK

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The summer's highlight was of course completing the purchase of Fletton Field. We've looked hard at our Estate - a large and costly part of what we do - with continued renovation of our heritage stone walls, this year focused on the cemetery walls on Stoke Doyle Road. We've consulted, on the back of the Annual Town Meeting in May, on the possible changes we'll have to make in the cemetery once space runs out in a few years' time. We also aim to deliver new ways in helping us manage our car parks more effectively following a period of consultation.



Cllr Ian Clark

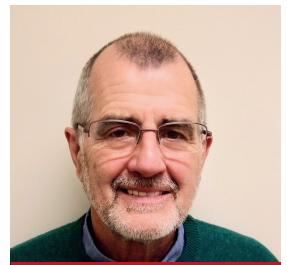
On a green theme we've worked on solar and EV technologies at Fletton House but need to make sure everything is in order before we take the next step - and I hope to use the new (and fledgling!) bus services serving sites between here and Rushden, and our surrounding villages soon. Our next few weeks will be spent setting the 2025-26 budget, and we will do our best to keep as an aim a minimal precept rise - a tough ask with so many costs outside of our control, but given we managed to keep our increase to only 2.5% last year, when the national average was 8.5%, we can be optimistic.

## DEPUTY MAYOR JOHN WADE

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As well as the successes and initiatives Ian has highlighted above, we've worked on two matters which lie at the beating heart of Oundle. Firstly, we've invested in the Queen Victoria Hall, using a grant to improve lighting, and secondly, used ratepayer money to improve health and safety, for example by repairing the steps outside the hall.

We've also been looking at the Thursday and Farmers' markets, which in common with so many have seen a fall in popularity over the last decade, particularly since COVID. As a market town since 972, the council wants to do all it can for ours. So, we've talked to stallholders and customers about how we might improve the markets for them both.



Cllr John Wade

Read our next newsletters to see what we plan over the coming months in each area.

## TOWN CLERK

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The monthly community bus trips to Rushden Lakes have been a great success with a new timetable launched in November by CommMiniBus offering more trips during the week. We made space for Barclays to temporarily re-locate to Fletton House, following the fire in the Library, and we secured Citizens Advice to offer advice in the Hub on Thursdays. Hearing the news in August that we had completed the transfer of Fletton Field from North Northants Council to Oundle Town Council has been a great achievement for all involved. It seems like such a long time since we started the negotiations but has been totally worth it. I look forward to working with the Fletton Field Association to make the space somewhere for the people of Oundle to enjoy.




Emma Baker



# OUNDLE TOWN COUNCIL

Oundle Town Council has thirteen Councillors representing the town, although it should have fourteen councillors in all. They meet monthly as a Full Council and also meet in Committees and Working Parties to progress initiatives, resolve issues and to make recommendations to the Council as a whole on the best way forward. Councillors are all volunteers and are elected for a four year term.



 Watch council meetings live or re-watch again on Oundle Town Council YouTube account

## LOCAL ELECTIONS MAY 2025 BECOME A COUNCILLOR AND SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

### What is a Town Councillor?

Councillors are community leaders representing the aspirations of the public that they serve. Oundle Town Council is apolitical - no party politics are allowed. Oundle Councillors represent the interests and concerns of the whole community they serve, by: identifying community concerns and where possible solving them locally; by being accountable to the local community; by supporting the democratic process; by working to improve the quality of life and the local environment; and by reporting back to residents on the issues affecting the town.

### Oundle needs fresh faces & new ideas

Oundle Town Council is looking for new Councillors to represent groups currently underrepresented in our Council. We especially encourage women and individuals under 50 to join us in providing a more balanced representation of Oundle. Could this be you? Your perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge are valuable and will help shape Oundle's future for everyone.

### How much time?

Oundle Town Council Councillors are not paid, spending on average around 3 hours a week of their own time on council work. This includes attending meetings, reading materials/reports for meetings, engaging with residents and speaking to local groups and bodies on behalf of the council.

Read more about how to Become a Councillor [tinyurl.com/OTCelections2025](https://tinyurl.com/OTCelections2025)



Represent the views of local people

Help make long lasting improvements to Oundle

Use your skills & knowledge to make a difference

Help shape the future of Oundle

 Oundle Town Council | Fletton House | Fletton Way | Oundle | PE8 4JA  
T: 01832 272055 | Mondays to Fridays - 9am to 2pm  
W: [oundle.gov.uk](https://oundle.gov.uk) | E: [admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk)

# OUNDLE TOWN COUNCIL VISION

## Looking forward

Imagine a town shaped by the ideas, opinions and voices of those who know it best – you!

**Oundle Town Council invites you to join them in creating a vision that will help create and maintain a thriving, vibrant, and welcoming town for generations. We want to work with residents to make our town a great place to live in, work in and enjoy being in. And we need your help in making it work for you.**

We're not unique in wanting to create a picture of the future of our town. Many organisations have their own vision of their future. Ours will help us look forward as we head into elections next year, and hopefully attract more councillors who will help us achieve. **Could that be you?**

### Our draft version is...

**Oundle is a renowned historic market town of which the residents can be proud. Oundle Town Council will serve the diverse needs of residents, support local businesses and markets, attract visitors, and through collaboration, develop our culturally inclusive and thriving community.**

Yet a vision by itself is not enough. By itself, it's just words. So, we have drafted specific aims to make our vision more likely to happen.

### Our aims are:

**To serve the residents of Oundle over the next five years by utilising our property and income to:**

- **Foster inclusivity by catering for the diverse needs of residents, and ensuring the town feels welcoming to all.**
- **Proactively support those who contribute to the growth of our local economy.**
- **Promote our heritage by investing in initiatives to boost the town's attractiveness.**
- **Work in partnership with all organisations, community groups and schools for the benefit of Oundle.**

Once we have agreed our vision and aims, we will make plans and identify the resources we need to reach those goals. In doing so, we still have to meet our statutory obligations in providing services and being financially prudent – and so will be somewhat restricted in our ambitions as we do not have unfettered access to cash or authority for some decisions which affect you. For example, whilst we would love to fix potholes, replace paving slabs, and make planning decisions, we can't.

So, we will focus on what we can change for the better. For you. After all, it's your money we're spending, and the town we want to improve.

Before we make more detailed plans, though, we want your opinion on whether you think we're heading in the right direction. Please let us know what you think by emailing us at [vision@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:vision@oundle.gov.uk), or by writing to us at Fletton House, Glapthorn Road, Oundle PE8 4JA.

We're keen to move ahead, so please let us have your views by the end of November. We'll work on those and share our action plans with you at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2025.

**And thank you. John Wade - Deputy Mayor**



# QUEEN VICTORIA HALL

## A COMMUNITY ASSET FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Queen Victoria Hall (QVH), on West Street in Oundle has been serving the local population for over a century and is a valued community asset. QVH is a registered charity administered in Trust since 29 July 1904 by the trustees, Oundle Town Council. It's a versatile community hall that has hosted a wide range of events, from town meetings and exercise and dance classes to social gatherings like birthday parties and wedding receptions. The hall has also been the venue for theatrical performances, including those by Oundle Gilbert and Sullivan, as well as cinema nights organised by Creative Oundle.



### IMPROVING QVH FOR ALL

This year work commenced on improving QVH with exterior paintwork carried out to refresh the appearance of the building and ensure it remains aesthetically pleasing and well-maintained for years to come. Oundle Town Council was delighted when their recent application to North Northamptonshire Council's Community Funding for upgrading the lighting at



QVH was successful, with our request met in full. This 'levelling up' grant was used to install more energy-efficient LED lighting, significantly improving the current system, including providing greater flexibility for all who use the hall. Additionally, the grant will help reduce costs, and thus should help the Town Council manage the level of subsidy provided for the hall. The work was carried out in late August and September with minimal disruption to our regular hirers.

### FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Repairs to the steps near the bar area and the replacement of the gents' toilet flat roof were completed in October. Plans are also in place to improve the hall curtains, and paint the gents toilets, railings and gate.



**We Want  
Your  
Feedback**



We are planning to consult with our current users to find out how we might improve the usage and satisfaction with Queen Victoria Hall (QVH), and we are interested in your views too.

**Have  
Your  
Say**



We're interested to know what you think of QVH. Are there any improvements you feel would enhance your experience? Are there any events you would like to see at QVH? Is there anything in QVH that prevents you from going to or booking an event?

Email your views to:  
[admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk)



## *Join us for Oundle's Christmas Market*

Oundle Town Council will hold its annual traditional Christmas Market on Saturday 7 December 2024 from 10am to 5pm.

With over 100 stalls filling the Market Place, Queen Victoria Hall, and West Street with a fabulous array of food, gifts, and goodies - you're sure to find that perfect gift or something extra special just for you.

Santa will be in his Grotto outside The Talbot Hotel surrounded by his reindeer, sleigh, and elves, with the Fun Fair close by to entertain the kids. There will be lots of festive cheer to enjoy with a Brass Band and carol singing by the Christmas Tree on Market Place and the wonderful Herbie Lamb Quartet will return for a live performance in Queen Victoria Hall.

Get ready for some Christmas magic! Gather by the Christmas tree at 3:30 PM for the switch-on and see our dazzling Christmas light display. You won't want to miss this festive moment!

**There will be lots of FREE parking with disabled parking areas close to the town.**

A map of the stalls and details about the free parking will be posted on Oundle Town Council's website [Oundle.gov.uk](http://Oundle.gov.uk) and Facebook page [@www.oundle.gov.uk](https://www.facebook.com/www.oundle.gov.uk) at the end of November.







## FLETTON FIELD - VALUABLE COMMUNITY ASSET

After much hard work from Fletton Field Association and Oundle Town Council, Fletton Field ownership transferred to Oundle Town Council this summer ensuring this green space will remain a valuable asset to the Oundle community for generations to come.

*Ian Clark, Mayor of Oundle, said: "We will continue to work with the Fletton Field Association to ensure the open space keeps benefitting the health and wellbeing of Oundle residents, including a community orchard, and will make sure we grasp the opportunity to improve local biodiversity."*

Work now begins on how to develop and manage Fletton Field so it can be enjoyed by all with plans for benches, picnic areas, biodiversity planting, sensory area, green canopy, raised beds, booking events and so much more.



Become a friend of  
Fletton Field  
[www.flettonfield.org.uk/](http://www.flettonfield.org.uk/)



## EMPOWERING COMMUNITY THROUGH GRANTS

Over the years, Oundle Town Council (OTC) has supported local groups and organisations, providing grants which have helped foster community spirit, support local initiatives, and enhance the overall quality of life in Oundle. Each year OTC sets a small budget with applications considered at the Finance & General Purposes Meeting. OTC is committed to providing grants and warmly welcome community groups, charities, and businesses to apply and see how they can benefit from an OTC grant.

OTC GRANTS  
APPLY NOW



Read about how other organisations have benefited from an OTC grant, and find the application form and policy on our website.


[oundle.gov.uk/community-grants](http://oundle.gov.uk/community-grants)

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



 **10 November 2024**  
**Remembrance Sunday**

 **7 December 2024**  
**Oundle Christmas Market**

 **29 May 2025**  
**Annual Town Meeting**

 For all the council meeting agendas and minutes visit [oundle.gov.uk/council-meetings](http://oundle.gov.uk/council-meetings)

## Oundle Christmas MARKET

**FREE PARKING** Saturday 7 December 2024 10.00am - 5.00pm

3.30PM CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH-ON

100+ Stalls - Santa's Grotto - Reindeers - Hot & Cold Food  
Gifts - Goodies - Brass Band - Fun Fair - Carols

 **Herbie Lamb Quartet live in Queen Victoria Hall**  

OUNDLE.GOV.UK 

### "What's on?"

IN THE HUB AT FLETTON HOUSE

Citizen Advice	Thursdays	10am - 3pm
Wellbeing Walk	Tuesdays Fletton Field	10.50am start
Social Inclusion	Friday 8 Nov & 6 Dec	1pm - 3pm
Knit & Natter	Fridays	2pm - 3.30pm
NAB Sight Centre	Thursday 21 November	11am - 1pm

### FARMERS MARKET

BUY DIRECT FROM THE FARMER, GROWER OR PRODUCER  
2nd Saturday of the month



8.00am to 2.15pm - Market Place - Oundle

### THURSDAY MARKET

TRADITIONAL MARKET  
SHOP LOCAL - BRING YOUR OWN BAG  
Every Thursday



# Welcome

Our Warm Welcome Space in The Hub in Fletton House is a free, warm, welcoming & safe place for people to go this winter.



Our warm space will be open:

- Mondays to Fridays
- 9.00am to 2.00pm

Closed weekends & bank holidays

Oundle Town Council Meetings	
1st Tuesday of the month	Estate Management Committee
3rd Tuesday of the month	Full Council Meeting
4th Tuesday of the month	Planning Meeting
Bi-monthly on 2nd Tuesday of the month	Finance & General Purposes Meeting

Advertise your event, business, vacancy, organisation, **FREE** on [loveoundle.org](http://loveoundle.org)

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