



**OUNDLE**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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## New mayor - Looking forward

In our 50th year, it's apt that we reflect on where we're going. Oundle is a renowned market town, of which the residents are rightly proud. We want a culturally inclusive, vibrant and thriving community, and we hope we can -

- **serve the diverse needs of residents**
- **support local businesses and markets**
- **attract visitors**
- **foster and facilitate collaboration.**



We have significant responsibilities (especially in relation to our estate) and limited powers BUT hope this year we can use the "levers" we have at our disposal to enhance and improve the town over the next 12 months and beyond.

We'll do our best to find effective methods to get your views on our future "vision" over the summer, and hope to engage with as many of you as we can. Do look us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, register your email to get news sent straight to your email accounts, or look at our website, the electronic noticeboards around town and the Advertiser each month - or come and talk to us, in Fletton House, or to one of the Councillors directly (you'll often see me whizzing around on my bike!).

On a personal note, I hope to keep encouraging Oundle Town Council to take a sustainable position whenever we can.



**Check out the NEW Oundle Town Council Newsletter -  
read it online or pick up a copy at Fletton House**

**[tinyurl.com/OTCNewsSpring24](http://tinyurl.com/OTCNewsSpring24)**

## Future of Oundle Cemetery on Stoke Doyle Road

The present cemetery has limited space for traditional "full body" burials in the newly cleared area, and will run out of space in around 4-5 years, so we will soon need alternatives to the present arrangements. We anticipate a cemetery extension coming at the Stoke Doyle end of the cemetery from the new housing development which we suggest may be used for woodland burials/cremation only. Beyond that there are a few options we could consider such as reusing graves once the 99 year lease has ended, buy new land, change the conditions of the lease including the price or accept that we can no longer offer traditional "full body" burials.

## Drill Hall Car Park on Benefield Road

Oundle Town Council (OTC) has had difficulty in managing the Drill Hall car park and any potential misuse, as there are currently no regulations in place - so it is easy for some to abuse the space available. OTC are looking to trial a system to manage issues with drivers leaving vehicles in the Drill Hall Car Park for long periods of time. The 12 month trial will start when new parking signs are installed in the car park. OTC are happy for vehicles to stay for a duration of 1 week, we hope this will be sufficient to accommodate most residents and other visitors, but we will monitor vehicles parked for more than one week issuing warning notices where applicable.

We'd love to hear from as many residents as possible on both issues.

Fill in this quick 2 minute survey [tinyurl.com/OTCSurvey2024](https://tinyurl.com/OTCSurvey2024) or scan the QR code.



## Finance

Oundle Town Council (OTC) manages significant amounts of ratepayer money: the Finance & General Purposes committee (F&GP) takes its responsibility for financial management and policy and strategic matters very seriously.

We have one of the highest local rates in the county, for two main reasons: firstly, because we own one of the largest property portfolios in the county, including the QVH, the Courthouse, Fletton House, and the Joan Strong centre; and secondly because we have wider responsibilities for local amenities such as the cemetery, compared to other local councils.

**To understand how each pound is spent in Oundle, read the OTC Spring Newsletter.**

[tinyurl.com/OTCNewsSpring24](https://tinyurl.com/OTCNewsSpring24)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Oundle was the birthplace, in the reign of Elizabeth I, of a fierce enthusiast named William Hacket, who attempted to play the part of John of Leyden and proclaimed himself the Messiah. He had two attendants, who he called his prophets of mercy and judgement. All three were apprehended in London, and Hacket was hanged in Cheapside in 1591.

**Fact provided by Oundle Museum, open 10-4pm every Saturday and Sunday up to the end of October.**