

# OUNDLE

## TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



OUNDLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

[OUNDLE.GOV.UK](http://OUNDLE.GOV.UK)

## IMMEDIATE PAST MAYOR - REFLECTING ON THE PAST

There are many highlights but the one that will have the biggest impact on the town is closing the deal with NNC to acquire Fletton Field. Although the legal transfer of the land has yet to be completed it is now a question of when and not if it joins the council's property portfolio. Alongside this we decided to bring our Open Space team and their equipment to our Fletton House complex thereby ending their dependence on rented facilities.



The council was delighted to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D Day by hosting the Yarn Bombers' extraordinary contribution to this at the Hub. Their Pegasus Bridge replete with piper was appreciated by his son as guest of honour, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, members of the British Legion and other visitors, viewers of Look East and listeners to Radio Northampton. Thanks too to the British Legion for Remembrance Day at the War Memorial and thereafter at St Peters. Laying the wreath on behalf of the town is always a great honour. Another event hosted at the Hub was the county Young Enterprise awards. Congratulation to the worthy winners, Northampton Girls School.

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

## TOWN CLERK

Hi my name is Emma Baker and I have been the Town Clerk for Oundle Town Council since January 2017. The role as Clerk or Proper Officer as it is known is a very responsible role. All employees, including the clerk, are accountable to the council as a whole and therefore it is important that all councillors have a broad understanding of what that management and administration involves. It is my job to provide the council with impartial professional advice and administrative support. The Council has seen some changes since I have been in post and now I believe that we are a forward thinking, dynamic team which cares for the town and the people in it.



Oundle Town Council - Fletton House - Fletton Way - Oundle - PE8 4JA


T: 01832 272055 - Mondays to Fridays - 9am to 2pm

W: [oundle.gov.uk](http://oundle.gov.uk) - E: [admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk)

# OUNBLE TOWN COUNCIL

Oundle Town Council has 12 Councillors representing the town. They meet monthly as a Full Council and also meet in Committees and Working Parties to progress initiatives, resolve issues and to make recommendation's to the Council as a whole on the best way forward. Councillors are all volunteers and are elected for a four year term. Oundle Town Council is non-political and is dedicated to serving only the best interests of the town.



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

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE - VOLUNTEER AS A CLLR

Oundle is a market town rich in history and broad in cultural activities. It's a privilege for many to live here, and for some to work here. And the town needs people to help create the future of the town, ensuring local decisions - where they can be - are made for the benefit of our residents, our businesses, and the cultural activities which make us unique. A few have already taken the chance to make a difference to the town, by becoming councillors.

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and get involved in making real change happen. Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public that they serve, are at the heart of the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. More importantly, and frankly most appealingly in these frenetic political climes, your local town council is apolitical - no party politics are allowed. As a councillor in Oundle, you can make a real difference to your community and local neighbourhood, especially by helping the current council to draft a vision for the town right now.

You can be part of that process - we have two vacancies at the moment - or get more involved next year. In May 2025, you have the chance to make your voice heard, whether by becoming a councillor yourself, or by voting for those who want to make a difference.



Are you concerned about Oundle?

---

Do you want to represent the views of local people?

---

Do you want to contribute your business or personal skills?

---

Are you passionate about services provided to Oundle?



# Oundle Needs You

We have an opportunity for two individuals to volunteer as a councillor for Oundle Town Council. Use your skills and new ideas to help make Oundle a great place to live, work and visit. Interested? Email [admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk)

## THIS IS WHAT NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DOES FOR YOU

Oundle is part of the East Northants area of the North Northamptonshire Council (NNC). NNC is a unitary council and the first tier of local Government; and is responsible for providing all the following services across the whole area.

- Bins, dog poo bins, recycling, & street cleaning
- Parking & parking fines
- Roads, road signs & traffic issues
- Public rights of way & verge cutting
- Transport & street lighting
- Planning & building control
- Schools & Education, Adult Social Services
- Council Tax & benefits, Housing & homelessness
- Births, Marriages & Deaths
- Businesses & licensing, Community safety & emergencies
- Health, leisure, parks & open spaces, Libraries
- Environmental Health; flood & water management, fly tipping, pollution, pest control & noise

**CONTACT NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
ON 0300 126 3000**

## 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.

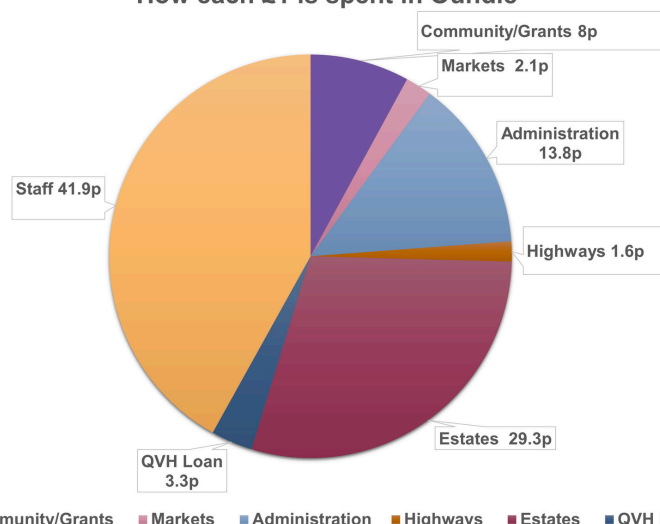
## THIS IS WHAT OUNDLE TOWN COUNCIL DOES FOR YOU

Oundle Town Council (OTC) operates under North Northamptonshire Council. OTC represents the local community, and aims to improve the quality of life and community wellbeing by offering these services to meet local needs.

- Manages open spaces & some grass verges
- manages Snipe Meadow, Recreation Ground & Pocket Parks
- Leases OTC land to local sport organisations including tennis, bowling & rugby clubs
- Owns buildings such as Fletton House, Courthouse & Joan Strong Centre
- Acts as Trustees for Queen Victoria Hall
- Owns the rights to hold (markets) & manages weekly Thursday, Farmers, Food Festival & Christmas markets
- Owns short stay & long stay car parks
- Maintains the public toilet
- Manages the war memorial & Oundle Cemetery
- Maintains St Peters Churchyard
- Provides bunting & Christmas lights
- Awards grants to help local organisations
- Consults on planning applications

**CONTACT OUNDLE TOWN COUNCIL  
ON 01832 272055**

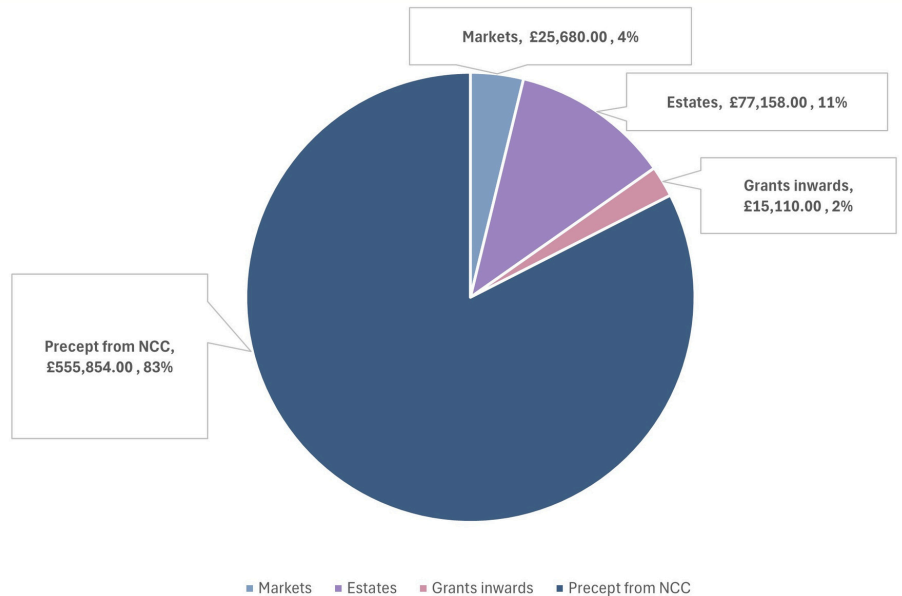
How each £1 is spent in Oundle



# INCOME



As well as the precept from North Northants Council, Oundle Town Council also receives income from the markets, estates and grants.



## HEAD OF ESTATES

Oundle Town Council is responsible for a diverse and extensive property portfolio, including a number of buildings (comprising the QVH, Fletton House, free toilets and the Courthouse) and open spaces (including Snipe Meadow, the Rec, three free car parks and the cemetery) important to the fabric of our town. Our maintenance budget not only covers our team of two in the Estates department and regular maintenance (from grass cutting and safety checks on playgrounds, to work on the offices we rent out to small businesses), but also significant planned and unplanned repair work - the recent work on the walls of the St Peters churchyard is a case in point, costing over £50,000. We hope to adopt environmentally appropriate practices where we can - from a broad adoption of recycled plastics for outdoor furniture, to grazing Snipe Meadow with local cattle – and to enhance how we manage our estate – upgrading the toilets, extending the use of the cemetery as effectively as we can (something that is very unusual for a council of our size), and adapting our car parks to greater demand.

## HEAD OF PLANNING

### PLANNING REVIEW 2023/4

The planning committee considered 74 applications from May last year to April this year of which 12 were for listed building consent. We had presentations from (amongst others) the applicants seeking outline permission for 14 dwellings on Miller's Field, Benefield Road; McCarthy Stone seeking permission for 42 retirement living apartments on Herne Road and Oundle School in connection with its application for a 60 bed girls' boarding house on the site of the former primary school in Milton Road. Amongst the other applications considered were those in respect of the new Sports Hall at Prince William School, the residential re-development of Dairy Farm Stoke Doyle Road for 9 dwellings and new retail units on land off West Street (formerly Seven Wells/Johnsons).

We also considered the Local Plan Part 2 proposed modifications consultation and the consultation on the North Northamptonshire Gypsy and Travellers Local Plan.



## OUNDLE MARKETS - A VIBRANT HUB OF LOCAL COMMERCE

Since before 927 AD, Oundle has had an open-air market providing a place for farmers and traders to exchange goods and evolving into a vibrant showcase of artisanal crafts, fresh produce, delectable treats, and unique finds. Situated in the heart of the town, the market is ideally positioned to meet the needs of all shoppers. Oundle Town Council holds the market rights and manages the weekly Thursday market, the monthly Farmers' Market, the Christmas Market, and, more recently, the Food Festival.



In an era of mass production and impersonal shopping experiences, the markets stand as a shining example of the enduring appeal of local commerce. With their diverse offerings, vibrant atmosphere, and commitment to community and sustainability, the markets are more than just a place to buy and sell goods – they are a celebration of everything that makes Oundle unique. So next market day, why not take a stroll through the bustling stalls, chat with the traders, and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and flavours of this beloved community tradition. For more information about our market traders visit [oundle.gov.uk/markets](http://oundle.gov.uk/markets)

### Oundle Food Festival

Saturday 22 June 2024  
9.00am to 4.00pm

- Artisan Food & Drink
- Independent Local Producers
- Fresh Local Produce
- Handmade Kitchen Homeware
- Entertainment & Live Music
- and so much more....



Market Place, Oundle

## THURSDAY MARKET

Weekly - 8.00am to 2.15pm

[www.oundle.gov.uk/markets](http://www.oundle.gov.uk/markets)

 [Oundlemarkets](https://www.facebook.com/Oundlemarkets)



**EXPLORING SNIPE MEADOW:  
A HIDDEN GEM IN OUNDLE**

Snipe Meadow Pocket Park, situated on the banks of the River Nene north of Oundle Wharf, is a very important site for protecting endangered Snipe and Redshank. Snipe Meadow has County Wildlife Site Status and contains true mire. Special Wildlife Snipe, Redshank and other wading birds. Barn Owl, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Reed Bunting. Tufted Sedge (*Carex elata*), Marsh Marigold, Meadow Rue, Meadowsweet and a wide range of dragonflies and damselflies also call it home.



In the summer months local Dexter Cows stay on Snipe Meadow grazing on the lush vegetation providing an alternative to mowing which creates a variety of vegetation at different heights, with small areas of bare ground. This is beneficial for a wide range of wildlife in different habitats, and it allows wildflowers to grow, flower and set seed each year.



Snipe Meadow is not just for the wildlife enthusiast. It offers a range of activities that allow visitors to immerse themselves in nature. Well-marked trails make it easy for hikers and walkers to explore the area. These paths meander through different parts of the meadow, providing scenic views and opportunities to observe wildlife up close.



**OUNDLE COMMUNITY BUS TRIAL:  
ENHANCING LOCAL CONNECTIVITY**

This year we welcomed North Northamptonshire Council's (NNC) bus trial in Oundle with regular trips organised to Rushden Lakes picking up in Oundle, Warmington and Barnwell. Trips are free with your bus pass or £4 for a round trip offering locals an affordable day trip they wouldn't normally take.

Oundle Town Council Hub Manager, Morag Horsnail, has worked with bus contractor Ka from Commibus to promote new trips and take bookings, and so far the feedback has been very positive.

Those who have taken the trip have said it's a welcome addition to the town and would be interested in trips elsewhere, such as Stamford. We will continue to work with NNC promoting and booking the bus trips and forwarding your feedback to them.

**WE WANT  
YOUR FEEDBACK**



- How is your overall experience with the bus service?
- Are there specific places you think the bus should include in its route?

**Email: [admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk)**

**Tel: 01832 272055**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## THE HUB AT FLETTON HOUSE: A COMMUNITY BEACON

The Hub at Fletton House is a bustling centre that caters to a wide range of community needs. It provides a welcoming space where residents of all ages can engage in various activities, access essential services, and foster connections. We continue to welcome local services such as Citizen Advice, North Northants Customer Service team, Social Inclusion team, Food Bank, and more recently the NAB Mobile Sight Centre. There is a well-being walk, organised by the Lakeside Doctors Surgery, which starts and ends at The Hub. **Details of when these services will be in the Hub are advertised in Fletton House and on our social media pages.**

Last autumn the Hub hosted one-off events such as the 'Older Persons Fair' and free electric blanket testing at our 'Keep Safe this Winter' event, which we plan to repeat this winter, and a more regular artisan fair on Saturday's.

We were proud to host the Oundle Yarn Bombers contribution to the 'The Longest Yarn for D-Day 2024' project commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, in the Hub at Fletton House on 21 March 2024.

What services or events would you like in The Hub?

Email your ideas to

[admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk) or call 01832 272055



**22 June 2024**

**Oundle Food Festival**



**12 November 2024**

**Remembrance Sunday**



**7 December 2024**

**Oundle Christmas Market**



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

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	Finance & General Purposes Meeting

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

