



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

Dursley Town Council

The Annual Report

2023/24



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Town Mayor's Overview

Before going in to some of the detail of the wonderful things going on in Dursley and the amazing people making them happen, I would like to say a more general thank you to the wonderful community we have in and around Dursley. When I took over as Mayor last year I thought I knew what I was letting myself in for as I had been a Town Councillor for nearly 16 years. What a surprise I was in for!

In this past year I have talked to so many people at events or just while out and about and, despite the issues we all face in these difficult times, it is clear that the Dursley community spirit is still alive and kicking. For that I would like to offer my most heartfelt thanks to you all and to share my hope that our community will continue to thrive in the future.

After my predecessor, Symon Ackroyd, presided over the events around the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II it was my honour to do the same for the Coronation of King Charles III. It was such a well attended event featuring music, dance and competitions as well as so many activities and stalls from local community groups.

Other notable events include "Dursley After Hours", the monthly free live music events in the Market Place over the Summer months which restart Friday 26th April. We saw a "Shakespeare Summer" Festival where we explored the town's links to the Bard and which included the creation of a trail on the "Discover Stroud Trails" app which people can enjoy. I was delighted to support both the Flower and Produce show and Dursley Pride events at the Chantry Centre.

We had fantastic Halloween and Christmas Lights Switch on events. We saw successful Dursley Walking Festival and Tyndale Arts events in October. In April this year we welcomed Pedersen cyclists from the Veteran Cycle Club, taking the opportunity to celebrate the town's unique heritage links to the inventor Mikael Pedersen and his distinctive bicycle. All of these events are annual and I am so very thankful to all the volunteers who are already giving their time in preparation for this year's events.

Our Council staff, Councillors and key partners have also been working together throughout the year to help deliver services to the community. The day-to-day management of the Council, supporting all of the committees, working groups and external groups is not an easy task and we are very lucky to have the staff that we do. We were very proud to hear that Ann Lyon was one of only four people to receive a new SLCC award for her exemplary work in her CiLCA portfolio submission. We have been joined by a new street cleaner, Richard Mellerup, who is helping to keep our town centre tidy. Our three man team of ground staff continue to work in maintaining our grounds and facilities such as green spaces and street furniture. Dursley in Bloom continues to ensure our town's planters stay beautiful whilst the Dursley Tabernacle continues to provide a food cart for those in need. Our staff have worked with local and regional groups to ensure we achieve all we can for our local businesses and to attract tourists.

GL11 continues its work with the community which saw its CEO, Indigo Redfern, receive an MBE from His Majesty the King in 2023. Consultations have been carried out for improvements on the Rec to provide better pavilion facilities including public toilets, working with Rednock School students to select an artist to provide public art in our bus shelters and with a local group to develop a local heritage list to protect significant buildings and assets for the town. The Town Council has taken over the duties previously performed by the Town Trust so now also has responsibility for running and maintaining the Market Place, Town Hall, Jacob's House and Heritage Centre.

We have seen some turnover in Councillors this year. Councillors Symon Ackroyd, Danae Savvidou and Doina Cornell left the Council during the year and we were joined by Councillors Ken Eales and Matt Patrick. Councillors Theresa Kinnison, Wendy Thomas and Mandy Woodward decided not to stand for re-election and we will be joined in May 2024 by Brigid Schoombie, Colin Sweet and Suzi Abraham (who rejoins us after a short break). My grateful thanks to those who are leaving us and have provided so much to the Council and local community. Though it is sad to see Councillors leave it is always exciting to see what fresh people bring to the Council and I look forward to working with them.



*Town Mayor
Councillor Alex Stennett*

For anyone who is interested in knowing more, volunteering or indeed becoming a councillor, the Town Council office in Jacob's House is open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Friday. We hold a wide range of service information and residents can visit us to report potholes, faulty street lights etc. We also post regular updates on our Facebook page and website www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk. Visitors to the town can get information from our Visitor Information Centre based at Dursley Library.

Town Mayor
Councillor Alex Stennett
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Town Mayor's Civic Engagements 2023/24:

Summer Festival	King's Coronation	Leslie D Gale Award Presentations 2023
Flower & Produce Show	Dementia Workshop at the Library	Pancake Race
Cotswold & Tyndale Rotary Event	Dursley Pride Event	GL11 MBA Celebration
Festive Dursley Christmas Lights Switch on	Remembrance Day Parade	Stroud District Strategic Forum
Reopening Event for Cambridge Avenue Play Area	The Pedersen Gathering	Dursley Annual Assembly



Photo from left to right: Deputy Town Mayor Councillor Matt Nicholson, Town Mayor, Councillor Alex Stennett & a member of the Veteran Cycle Club at the Pedersen Gathering April 2024.

Policy & Finance Committee Report

The Policy and Finance Committee meets 6 times a year to deal with the Council's financial matters; most notably to draft the Council's budget which we do in consultation with the other committees.

We try to plan the budget with a view to a stable future with a 3 year forward plan and we work with the other committees to carefully consider work programmes. Planning in this way, allows us to consider the impact of reduced funding from government and local needs. We also regularly monitor investments.

Income and expenditure for the 2023-2024 budget is outlined in the charts on page 5.

At the beginning of 2024, the Council agreed not to increase its share of the Council Tax for the coming year. Please see the budget press release below, issued online and in the Dursley Matters newsletter Winter/January 2024 edition:

Dursley Town Councillors have set the Dursley Town Council budget for the year ahead.

At the meeting on 23rd January 2024, Councillors unanimously agreed not to increase the precept paid by Dursley residents to fund the Council for the year 2024/25.

The Mayor, Councillor Alex Stennett said "Not raising our share of the council tax has been a challenge this year with increasing costs all round. Recognising the cost-of-living pressures faced by all of our residents, councillors and staff have worked exceptionally hard to create a strong budget that does not cause pain to council services or residents' pockets".

The budget agreed will keep the Council tax cost for Dursley Town Council at £216.66 per year which equates to £4.17 per week on an average Band D household.

Prudent financial management and investment into reserve funds in previous years is enabling the Council to continue to deliver services, projects and improvement works for the town.

The Town Council will continue to manage, maintain and improve facilities at the Kingshill Cemetery and Allotments, St Mark's burial ground, the War Memorial Recreation Ground, Kingshill Play Park, Highfields Play Area and Long Street Car Park.

A planning application to upgrade the Pavilion on the War Memorial Recreation Ground, which will include a new public toilet and additional garage/storage space, has been submitted and, subject to obtaining the necessary permission, the Council will actively seek additional grant funding to help deliver the project.

The Council will continue to provide Youth sessions at the Vibe Youth Centre and support a number of local tourism projects including the continuation of the Visitor Information Centre based at the Library.

The Council's grant programme will continue to run with an increased budget of £50,000 for 2024/25. Support will continue for local volunteer run groups and organisations including Dursley in Bloom, Dursley Welcomes Walkers and Festive Dursley.

The agreed budget also includes a new admin position to help the Council to increase capacity.

The 2024/25 Budget Summary

Council budgets at a glance for the forthcoming financial year.

Expenditure:		Income:	
Green Spaces Maintenance	£276,889	Use of Reserves	£170,000
Town Improvements and Amenities	£63,078	Other Income	£32,159
Youth Services	£62,500	Council Tax/Precept	£537,000
Community Grants	£50,000	TOTAL	£739,159
Council Administration*	£284,482		
Other Services*	£2,210		
TOTAL	£739,159		

(*e.g. staffing, insurance and overheads)

If you have any questions about the Council budget, or any of the services we provide, please contact the Town Clerk, John Kay on 01453 547758 or email - clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

We continually look at new and existing policies and the way Council works.

In 2023/24 we carried out a review of the following plans and policies –

Climate Change & Environmental Issues Mission Statement
Issuing Electronic Agenda practices
Complaints Policy
Media Policy
Social Media & Electronic Communications Policy
Administration Practices
Logins for Members Website Area
Signing the Armed Forces Covenant
Investment Policy
Starting a Risk Management Review
Criteria for Recognition of Service by Councillors.

We hold Quality Gold status under the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS). The Gold award is the highest that a Council can receive, it gives us the opportunity to show that we meet the standards set by the sector and it demonstrates that as a council we are at the forefront of best practice and achieves excellence.



We continue to run a grants programme. Each year we allocate a sum of money to support local organisations who specifically provide services to the residents of Dursley.

In 2023/24 we approved grant awards totalling £28,893 to the following local voluntary & community organisations

£250	Dursley TAB Community Food Hub	£1450	Dursley After Hours
£1500	Dursley Pride	£2500	Dursley TAB Community Food Hub
£5500	Citizens Advice Stroud & Cotswold	£500	Parent & Carer Alliance CIC
£1200	The Dods	£200	Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper
£3293	GL11 Community Project	£500	Dursley in Bloom
£500	Dursley & District Good Neighbours	£1500	Dursley After Hours
£1000	Stepping Stones	£2000	Dursley Male Voice Choir
£4000	Great Western Air Ambulance	£1000	Dursley Town AFC (Men & Ladies)
£400	Dursley Town AFC (Youth)	£1600	Kingshill House

Requests and applications for funding are welcome from all organisations who operate in the town. Applications for the next round of funding must be received before **31st August 2024**.

We require all those who are successfully awarded a grant to submit an evaluation form so that we can review how the money has benefited Dursley.

For more detailed information on our grants process and the allocation of recent awards, please visit our website <https://www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk/grant-information-201617.html> .

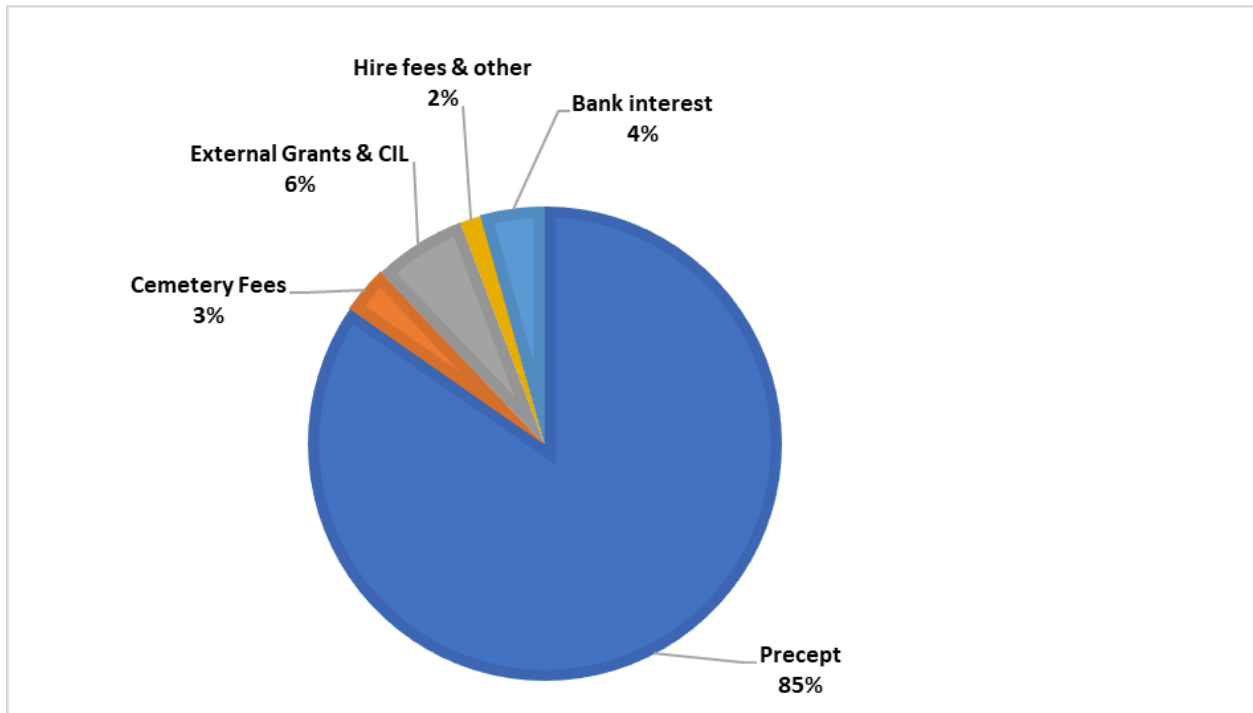
Finally, following the March 2023 agreement of a Terms of Reference, we successfully oversaw the transfer of the Dursley Town Trust's assets and management of the Town Hall, Jacob's House and Heritage Centre to a new Town Trust Committee which continues to meet as necessary.



**Councillor S Creswick,
 Chair of Policy & Finance Committee 2023/24**

(The charts below are based upon pre-audit figures which were correct as at 31/03/24)

Actual Income 2023/24



2% Hire Fees & Other Income includes –Allotment rents, War Memorial Recreation Ground fees, Festive Dursley lighting donations, refunds.

Actual Expenditure (£) Against Agreed Budget 2023/24



Green Spaces Maintenance budget – The majority of the original £150,000 allocated to Pavilion redevelopment was not spent in 2023/24 due to the requirement for longer project timescales, planning process etc.

Community Grants - the 'approved' figure on page 4 for community grants is higher than 'actual' expenditure figures stated above, due to the decision-making process & the payment timescales involved in administering the approved grants.

Green Spaces Committee Report

The Green Spaces Committee meets 6 times a year to deal with matters relating to Council owned and managed green spaces; this includes the War Memorial Recreation Ground (Rec), Kingshill House Play Park, Highfields Play Area, Kingshill Cemetery, Kingshill Allotments and St Mark's Burial Ground.

In 2023/24 we continued to carry out improvements to our green spaces and play areas.

The War Memorial Recreation Ground (Rec), Kingshill House Play Park and Highfields Play Area all continue to be well used. Our Groundstaff team carry out playground maintenance and repair work on a routine basis, working alongside specialist playground contractors when required. The wooden steps in the Rec playgroup were refurbished by contractors in February.

The tennis courts have regular players that make the most of free access and usage, and the Dursley football clubs are also very active with growing teams for all ages, making full use of the facilities.

In 2023, the Rec was hired out to a visiting fair and a football summer camp. The space was also used by Stroud District Council for their HAF youth activities, an orienteering group for their local event and the Dursley Rotary Club's sponsored walk.

We permitted Stroud District Council access to the Rec to allow them the temporary use of space to upgrade the heating system at The Pulse, improving this facility for the community. We also gave a U3A group permission to carry out some ground radar survey work on the Rec to explore the position of the archaeological footprint of Dursley Castle remains, thought to be located on the site.

In 2023 we embarked on a big project to redevelop the pavilion on the Rec to create a new accessible public toilet as well as extend our garage storage space. We carried out a public consultation before submitting a planning application which was approved in March 2024. We are now in a position to proceed with grant applications and take the next stages in this redevelopment project over the coming year.

Following the survey work we undertook in 2022/23, we started a programme of tree planting in 2023/24. We have three new trees at Kingshill Cemetery, two cherry (pink blossom) and one crab apple (white blossom) and we will continue with this work.

We continue to review green space policy and practice on a regular basis, undertaking regular inspections.

In 2023, we carried out a wooden cross survey at Kingshill Cemetery, reviewing and updating Cemetery Regulations as a result. We also adopted a new Allotment Eviction and Appeals Policy in April 2023.

All Councillors now have access to the completed monthly inspection sheets that can be reviewed via the member area on the Council's website.

We established an Environmental Sub Committee to help advise on the implementation of the Council's Environmental Mission Statement and the creation of suitable green management plans for Council sites, such as the one in place for St Mark's Burial Ground.

We continue to hold an annual meeting for allotment holders and regular users of the play areas. The meeting in March 2024 was attended by representatives from Dursley Town AFC where we discussed maintenance issues and planned redevelopment works to the pavilion.

We also continue to issue regular updates to allotment tenants and provided use of a skip over the Easter break.



***Councillor T Stride,
Chair of Green Spaces Committee 2023/24***

Town Improvements Committee Report

The Town Improvements Committee meets 4 times a year to deal with matters relating to Council owned and managed street furniture (including benches, bus shelters and notice boards), the Broadwell area, festive lights, planters, town centre trees and the Long Street car park. The committee also works closely with volunteer groups such as Dursley in Bloom (DIB), Festive Dursley and Visit Dursley.

In 2023/2024 we continued to carry out routine maintenance and improvement works in the town, which included the installation of a new grit bin at May Lane and a new memorial bench, following resident requests.

We maintained our town CCTV system to help our local Police team to tackle anti-social behaviour and other incidents, agreeing to arrange additional coverage for the Town Hall and community food cart areas in 2024/25.

We employed a new street cleaner to help keep the town centre area clean and tidy. From April 2024 the working hours doubled to 12 per week, allowing us extra capacity.

We continue to help Dursley in Bloom with planting around the town, including watering, waste removal and planting up the railing planters. The volunteer group work extremely hard to keep the town 'in bloom'.

We had a full programme of town events taking place in 2023/24 including the King's Coronation activities in May which included lots of bunting, trails, fun activities, as well as a special screening of the ceremony at St James Church and a cake competition. The Summer Festival in July was run by a group of traders working in partnership with Festive Dursley and was also a great success. The theme was Shakespeare - exploring the town's little-known links to the famous Bard. We look forward to the 2024 Summer Festival planned for 13th July.

The Festive Dursley Christmas Switch-on event was another spectacular town event. Hundreds of people came out to enjoy the evening, packed full of market stalls, winter wonderland snow, funfair, grotto, performances, fireworks and lights. We were able to light up Parsonage Street again with our fantastic lighting display that covers the town centre area and Kingshill Parade. The 2024 event is being organised by the Festive Dursley Working Group with help from local traders, volunteers and ourselves and will take place on Friday 29th November 2024.

We work closely with the markets in the town, supporting the Artisan Market and Farmers Market with the erection of their advertising banners every month.

We also continue to provide the Visitor Information Centre at Dursley Library, working closely with Gloucestershire County Council to monitor this partnership arrangement. In 2023/24 we participated in sessions with Nailsworth Town Council volunteers and also Library staff across the wider area, to raise awareness of local tourism and visitor information.

We facilitate the Visit Dursley group, working with others, at a local level, to try and network and co-ordinate activities that promote Dursley. In 2023/24 this included joint promotion of activities for a Shakespeare Summer, the Tour of Britain 2023, Halloween, Christmas and the Pedersen Gathering. We also helped to promote a summer trial shuttle bus service across the Dursley/Cam/Slimbridge area and started the development of a longer-term Visit Dursley strategy and action plan for the town.

We work in partnership with others, including Market Towns and Visit Stroud to share information and ideas around tourism and the high street. This includes Stroud District Council and the continued development of the Discover Stroud Trails App. In 2023, we created a new Dursley Shakespeare walking trail to enjoy and received training in the app's new events feature. You can enjoy trails around Dursley and the district for FREE by downloading the 'Discover Stroud District Trails' from app stores.

2024/25 looks to be a busy year with lots of town events planned. While there are still many challenges facing our high street, we saw new businesses open in 2023/24 and we hope to see improvements in trade activity and footfall in the town.



**Councillor T Kinnison,
Deputy Chair of Town Improvements Committee 2023/24**

Planning Committee Report

The Planning Committee meets monthly to discuss and comment on planning issues affecting the town. These applications include the development of new dwellings, change of use, extensions, works to listed buildings and trees.

We also comment and make representation where necessary on Stroud District Council licensing, street naming and road closure consultations.

Members of the committee take it in turns to review the plans prior to the meeting and present findings and comments on the night. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can make representations. In 2023/24 we deliberated and commented on 46 planning applications and 3 licensing applications.

We can consider and comment on pre-application consultations before the actual applications are submitted to Stroud District Council. The Council signed up to the Pre-Application Community Involvement Protocol for the Stroud District Parishes back in January 2014 and we remain committed to this.

We invite people to attend committee meetings when necessary and we also raise concerns with Stroud District Council when required. In 2023/24 we attended 2 licensing panel hearings and gave representations at a Development Control Committee.

In 2023/24 we continued discussions with Stroud District Council regarding progress on opening Lister Road at Littlecombe as well as raising concerns relating to enforcement issues and shop frontage/ signage developments.

We continue to dedicate time to respond to consultations which will shape the way local government operates in the future.

In 2023/24 we considered 6 consultations and responded where appropriate. This included Stroud District Council's consultation on Polling District, Place and Station Review and Gloucestershire County Council's consultations on Local Government Boundary Commission Divisions and also Street Parking Orders relating to roads in Dursley.

We continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Development Plan (2018-2031) when we respond to planning application consultations as it is a statutory planning document. The plan sets out a number of projects that the Town Council would like to deliver over the plan's lifetime.

In 2023/24 we continued work on a project to develop a Local Heritage Asset List for Dursley, consulting with the community and agreeing a final list at Council on 7th November 2023.

The project involved working with volunteer residents, Stroud District Council and members of the Dursley and Cam Society to create a list of non-designated heritage assets of local significance. The project group continues to meet to discuss its legacy, now that the list has been approved by Stroud District Council and is being used by Development Management Officers in assessing planning applications.



***Councillor M Nicholson,
Chair of Planning Committee 2023/24***

Town Trust Committee Report

Dursley Town Council is managing Trustee of Dursley Town Trust (Charity No. 202607) and as such we have appointed a new Town Trust Committee to oversee the management of the following properties:

The Town Hall and Market Place
Jacob's House
The Heritage Centre

The Terms of Reference for the Committee were agreed back in March 2023 and followed discussions that started back in 2022 with the Trustees at the time. The discussions ultimately led to the successful agreement and transfer of the Dursley Town Trust's assets and management of the properties, to the Council as managing Trustee.

The Committee, which meets as necessary and operates under charity law, comprises of 6 of our Town Councillors and one representative from the Heritage Centre who all have voting rights.

In 2023/24 much of the work has been around reviewing banking and property management arrangements for the Town Trust.

In relation to the Town Hall and Market Place we considered usage and hire rates, as well as cleaning and storage arrangements.

Following requests from market traders, we ordered new, light weight, modern tables for hirers, which are now in use. We were able to raise a small amount of funds through donations from recycling the old, often repaired, heavy wooden tables.

We looked at issues across the properties, relating to fire and the water safety regulations, as well as those relating to ongoing general building maintenance.

We also, unfortunately, had to deal with some Town Hall repair works relating to vandalism and graffiti, which required liaison with the police.

The Town Hall and Jacob's House are listed buildings of great historical significance to the town. Given this, the maintenance issues relating to the buildings are not always straight forward and can be costly, which is something that we must carefully plan and manage within the funds available.



***Councillor M Stennett,
Chair of Town Trust Committee 2023/24***

Staffing

The Town Clerk, John Kay, is employed by the Council to provide professional advice, management and administration support for the Council's activities.



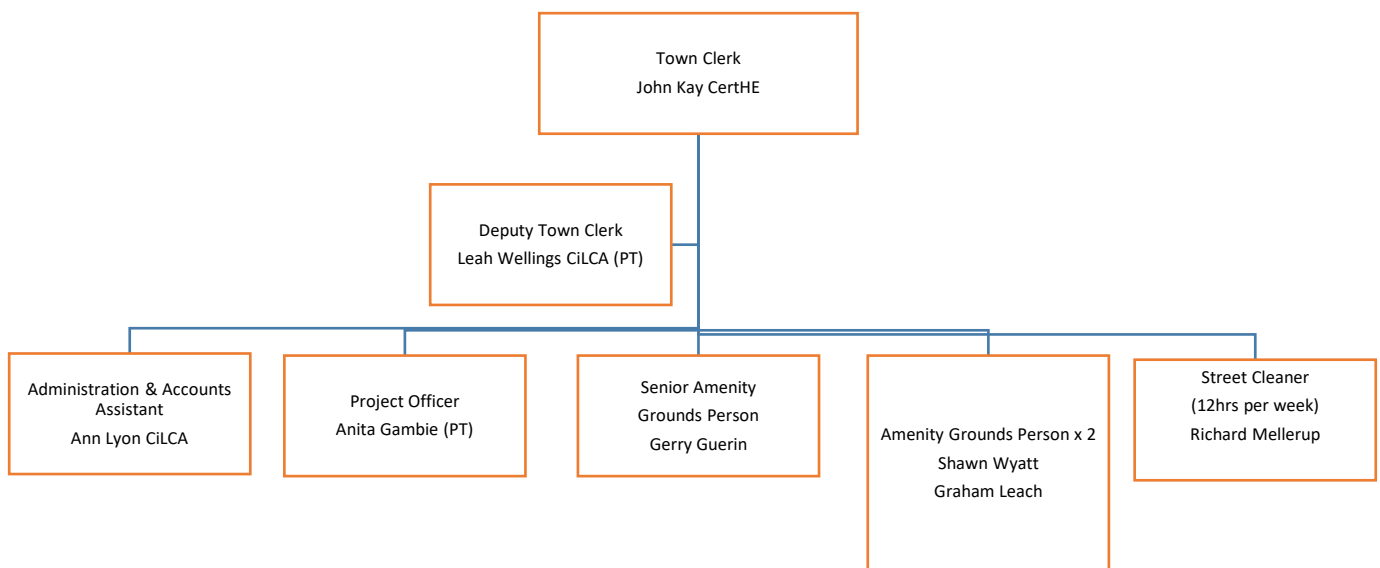
The activities undertaken by the Clerk are very broad and include organising meetings, issuing agendas and recording minutes, project and property management, managing risk and insurance, managing data and records, dealing with electoral matters, public relations and managing contractors and staff.

The Clerk is also the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, managing financial affairs in accordance with regulations, taxes and proper practices.

The Staff Committee meets when required to discuss issues relating to employment.

Town Council Staff Structure

The Town Clerk is supported by a team of full and part-time Council employees who assist with activities:



(PT) = Part time

Staff Training

We recognise the benefit of having a trained workforce and continue to invest in and support staff to undertake training relevant to their job and the Council.

The Town Clerk holds a Certificate of Higher Education (Level 4) in Community Governance, as well as the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) qualification. The level 4 Certificate is an advanced qualification, tailored specifically to the needs of local council officers who work within local communities, it is highly relevant to the Council's work and is recognised in law as a qualification for clerks.

During 2023/24, the Town Clerk successfully completed training in Sharps Awareness (online) and also Emergency First Aid

The Deputy Town Clerk also holds the CILCA qualification and during 2023/24 successfully completed training in Emergency First Aid.

The Project Officer holds the nationally recognised Prince 2:2017 Foundation qualification and, during 2023/24, successfully completed the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Council's training course 'Planning in Plain English' as well as Emergency First Aid.

In 2023/24 the Administration Assistant successfully completed training in Emergency First Aid and was one of only four people nationally awarded a new Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Award. The award was in recognition of an exemplary portfolio evidence submission for the Certificate in Local Council Administration.

Members of the Ground Staff team are ROSPA trained (at Levels 1 & 2) to undertake regular playground inspections. Two of the team have also undertaken the Lantra Chainsaw course. Such training has to be renewed at regular intervals.

During 2023/24 the Ground staff team successfully completed training in 'Hazards and Risks in Highways Situations', also Emergency First Aid, along with the Street Cleaner who started in July 2023.

Training needs are kept under review, staff appraisals are carried out each year and reviewed by the Staff Committee. In 2023/24 the staff appraisal process was reviewed and a new system successfully implemented.

Council Office

The Council office is based at Jacob's House, Castle Street, Dursley and open Monday to Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Council Ground Staff are based at the Pavilion on the War Memorial Recreation Ground.



***Councillor M Stennett,
Chair of Staffing Committee 2023/24***

Meet Your Dursley Town Councillors (as at 22nd April 2024)

Please note that Councillors Kinnison, Thomas and Woodward decided not to stand for re-election in May 2024 so will step down from Council at that point. Council will be joined by new Councillors Brigid Schoombie, Colin Sweet and Suzi Abraham from 7th May 2024.



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Dursley Boundary Wards

Dursley Town Council covers the Parish Boundary of Dursley and is sub-divided into three wards (Kingshill, Central and Highfields), with an overall population of around 7,500 people (*ONS Census 2021*).

There are 17 members of Council split over the 3 wards.

A ward boundary map is attached as Appendix 1. For a list of Street Names and Ward Locations in the Dursley Town Council boundary please visit our website www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk or contact the Council office.

Overview of Councillor Changes during 2023/24

Councillor Alex Stennett was elected as Town Mayor for 2023/24 and Councillor Matt Nicholson was elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2023/24.

During 2023/24 several Councillors stepped down from Council and we co-opted new members.

Councillor Symon Ackroyd stepped down as a Councillor having served on Council since 2016 and as Town Mayor between 2022-2023. Councillor Doina Cornell, stepped down in 2023 having joined Council in 2021 and also Councillor Danae Savvidou, who joined in 2020.

In 2023 Councillors Ken Eales and Matt Patrick were both co-opted to serve on Council.

All Town Council seats were up for election in May 2024. As the number of candidates nominated was equal to or less than the number of seats available, all were duly elected without contest and no election was required to take place on Thursday, 2 May 2024 for Dursley Town Council. The Annual Council Meeting will take place on 7th May 2024 at which point all 15 Councillors will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, leaving 2 places vacant for co-option.

Councillor Attendance at Meetings

Councillors have a responsibility to:

- Attend meetings when summoned to do so.
- Consider, in advance of the meeting, the agenda and any related documents.
- Take part in meetings and consider all the relevant facts and issues on matters which require a decision including the views of others expressed at the meeting.
- Take part in voting and respect decisions made by the majority of those present and voting.
- Ensure, with other councillors, that the council is properly managed.
- Represent the whole electorate, and not just those who voted for them.

The 2023/24 attendance data for Councillors is attached as Appendix 2.

The agendas for forthcoming Council meetings are published on our website www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk along with the minutes of the meetings.

Inspection & Internal Control Programme

We have an inspection programme in place. As well as commissioning independent inspectors to carry out checks and audits for us, for example on our finances and playgrounds, Councillors are responsible for carrying out monthly inspections of each of our main sites, our street furniture by ward and internal financial controls.

A Councillor inspection rota is issued at each full Council meeting. The 2023/24 inspection data for Councillors is attached as Appendix 3. Councillors can, and do, raise issues at any time in between inspections.

Councillor Training

We recognise the benefits of training and continue to invest in and support Councillors to undertake training relevant to their role on the Council. All new Councillors receive a starter pack and attend an induction meeting with the Town Clerk.

During 2023/24, the following Councillors undertook training with the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils:

- Councillors Kinnison attended Planning in Plain English.
- Councillors Eales, M Patrick, Stride and M Stennett attended Being a Better Councillor Part 1 & 2.

Youth Services

We support the young people of the town by managing the 'Vibe' Youth Centre. We share use of the space with the Dursley Tabernacle and work in partnership with them to maintain and manage the centre.

In 2023 we reappointed 'The Door' to provide youth sessions and support out of the Vibe youth centre following a tendering process. The contract is until August 2026, with an option to renew for 2 years.

In 2023/24 we spent £52,289 on youth services provision, this also included renovation works to the garden area. We hold regular meetings with and receive service reports from The Door.

Youth services in 2023/24 included sessions at the Vibe Youth Centre, detached work on the streets and attendance at Rednock School. Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour has been an issue in Dursley, which has been hand in hand with an increase in substance misuse. The Door have been managing challenging behaviour at the Vibe and working alongside the local PCSOs, who have been regularly visiting sessions to build relationships with the young people. The Vibe has hosted The Door's Young Leaders programme. Training young people to assist youth workers in sessions and events, giving them increased responsibility and leadership amongst their peers.

In addition to The Door youth sessions, the Vibe Youth Centre can be hired by others and has been used by the following during 2023/24 – The Independence Trust, Prospects Youth Services, The Door Parent Group Support monthly meetings, Stroud District Council Easter HAF session, Tab Fusion Café and the Tab Youth Group.



Snapshot of The Door's Latest Statistics for Dursley

YP = Young Person

THIS REPORTING PERIOD (1ST DECEMBER 2023 – 29TH FEBRUARY 2024)

	Number Of Sessions	Hours	YP Footfall	Achievements	Incidents
THE VIBE	32	63.1	800	49	5
REDNOCK	9	8.86	533	0	0

PREVIOUS QUARTER (1ST SEPTEMBER – 30TH NOVEMBER 2023)

	Number Of Sessions	Hours	YP Footfall	Achievements	Incidents
THE VIBE	38	75.5	939	56	0*
REDNOCK	8	6.19	530	Not Recorded	0



Working in Partnership with Others

We recognise that partnership working can help the Council to achieve its aims and deliver the best outcomes for the community. It offers the opportunity to save money, reduce risks and raise our profile in the community. Overleaf you will see that the Council has representatives on many outside groups.

Working with other authorities & community organisations

We work in partnership with Cam Parish Council whenever possible. In 2023/24 we liaised on plans for the Kings Coronation activities and hold regular youth service management meetings together.

We continue to work closely with Dursley Tabernacle to manage the Vibe Youth Centre building, which is a shared facility. During 2023/24 development work was undertaken to the garden area at Vibe.

We work closely with the Library Service and in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council to run the Visitor Information Centre located in the Library on May Lane, which is continuing to develop.

In relation to local tourism, we also work with Stroud District Council, other Market Towns in the District, Visit Dursley members and Visit Stroud to agree a more coordinated approach to supporting the local economy and tourism activities. This includes working closely with the Stroud District Tourism Officer on the FREE Discover Stroud District Trails app during 2023/24, as well as with Market Towns on possible use of a new Market Town Vitality fund which will become available in 2024.

We also liaised with the Gloucestershire Community Rail Partnership on their engagement work, for a weekend trial shuttle bus service that ran over the summer months during 2023.

We work closely with our local Stroud District Council Neighbourhood Warden, Andy Beamish, on issues of concern. In 2023/24 we worked together on issues related to fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. The Neighbourhood Warden service itself provides residents with help and support with anti-social behaviour, abandoned vehicles, bogus callers, home security and crime prevention, hate crime and bullying, litter, dog fouling, fly tipping and lots, lots more.

We work closely with the local Police team on issues of concern. In 2023/24 we worked together on incidents involving vandalism, graffiti, anti-social behaviour and an abandoned electric bike.

We also work closely with Dursley's District Councillors and County Councillor, receiving regular reports at our monthly Council meetings.

Working with local schools & young people

We work with our local schools when possible.

In 2023/24 our youth provider 'The Door' worked closely with Rednock School, working in partnership with teachers and the local PCSO team, to support young people in our community.

We embarked on the bus shelter art project with Rednock School, enabling a group of students to start work with a street artist to learn the skills required to develop a piece of community art.

Working with community groups & volunteers

As highlighted in the individual committee reports, we work with Dursley in Bloom (DiB) volunteers to develop and implement a planting scheme for the town, Festive Dursley volunteers with their events and activities, including the Summer Festival and Christmas Lights Switch on, and members of the Visit Dursley group to promote the town.

In 2023/24 the Local Heritage Asset List project for Dursley involved working with volunteer residents, Stroud District Council, the Dursley and Cam Society and local community. We also established a new Environmental Sub Group working with resident volunteers.

Our involvement with the Cam and Dursley Creatives group consists of sharing information and promoting opportunities for partnership working, e.g. new items for the Dursley Sculpture and Play Trail and bus shelter art project.

Engaging with the wider community

We welcome members of the public to attend our full Council and committee meetings.

In 2023/24 we saw 60 people attend the Dursley Annual Assembly, held at the Community Centre. We also saw 20 members of the public attend Council/committee meetings over the year.

We continued to develop our website in 2023/24 and encourage others to use the local 'What's on' and 'Community/Business Directory' sections. Our website is an important focal point for information about the Council and people can access a wide range of town information.

We continue to develop our presence on social media with 1.5k Facebook followers and routinely share our posts to larger Facebook groups, such as Dursley Matters. We also publish a quarterly newsletter online and at key outlets around the town, aiming to deliver at least one edition to every household each year.

Please see our Community Engagement Policy for further information about how we engage with the local community and work with other organisations and sectors.

The Councillor and Community Report 2023/24 includes summary reports from local organisations and Dursley Town Council grant recipients.

Council Representatives on Outside Groups

Every year we agree Councillor representatives to sit on the following local organisations/groups:

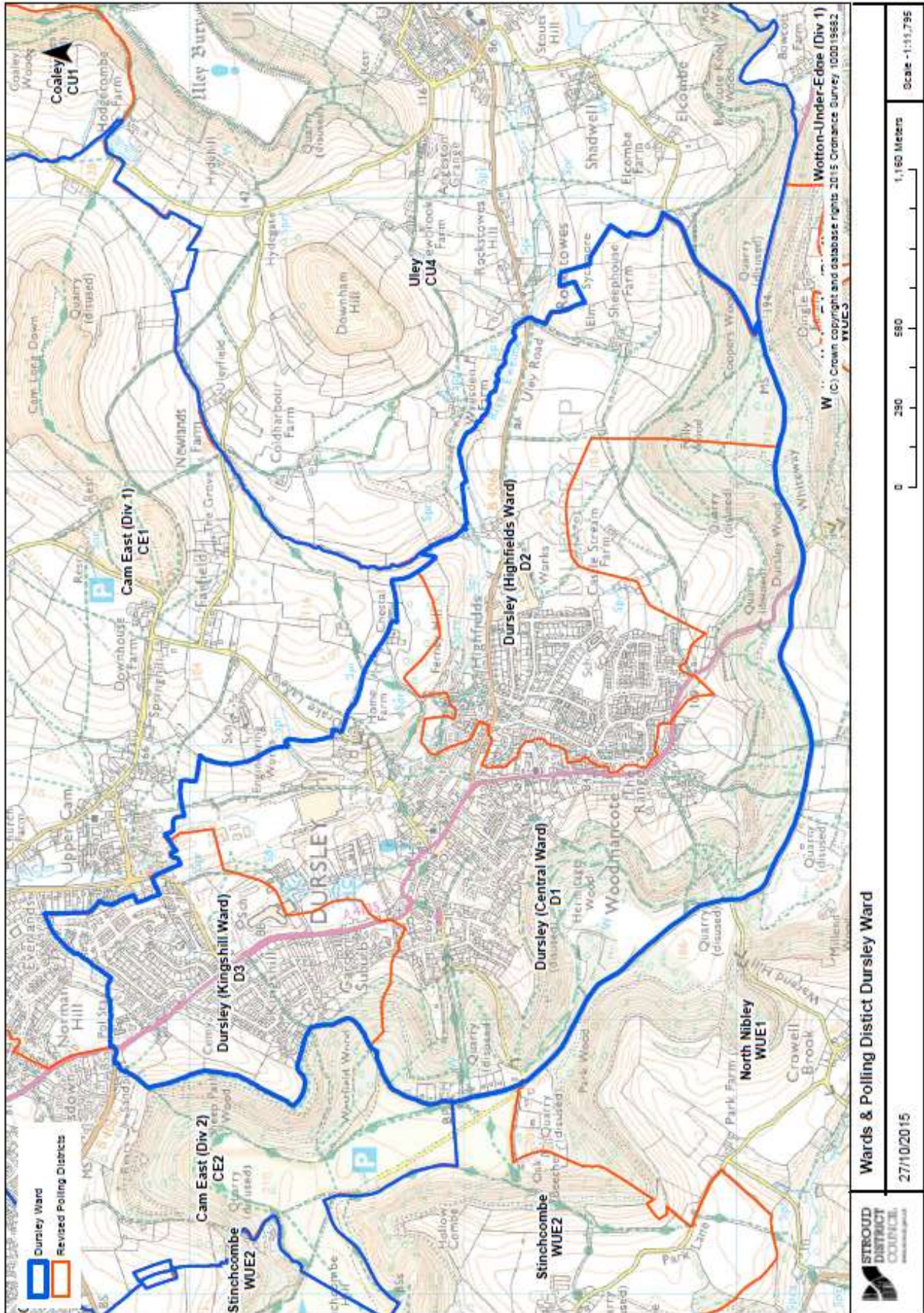
Community Speed Watch
Cam, Dursley & Uley Joint Woodlands
The Chantry Centre
Environmental Sub Group
Dursley & District Community Association
Dursley in Bloom
Cam & Dursley Creatives
Dursley Welcomes Walkers
Cam & Dursley Joint Youth Committee
Festive Dursley Working Group
Dursley & District Association for the
Transport of the Disabled & Elderly
Visit Dursley

Gloucestershire Association of Parish &
Town Councils
Gloucestershire Chartered Parishes Group
Kingshill House
Twinberrow Foundation
Uley-Dursley- Cam Greenway
Dursley United Charities
Dursley & Cam Joint Emergency Plan
Police /Highways /Transport Representatives
Rednock School Link Representative
Stroud District Market Town Forum
Stinchcombe Hill Recreation Ground Trust

See the Dursley Town Council Website www.dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk for information about the Council including our services, councillors, meeting agendas & minutes, what's on, road closures, community directory, policies, news, reports, updates & much more.

You can also sign up online to receive the 'Dursley Matters' newsletter by email.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2

Councillor Attendance at Meetings 2023-2024

Councillors	Full Council	Policy & Finance	Green Space	Town Improvements	Planning	Staffing	Town Trust	Overall Attendance
S Ackroyd	2 out of 2	-	-	-	1 out of 1	1 out of 1	0 out of 1	80%
S Creswick	9 out of 11	6 out of 6	-	-	9 out of 12	4 out of 5	-	82%
D Cornell *	2 out of 7	-	-	1 out of 2	-	-	-	33%
K Eales	9 out of 9	-	5 out of 6	3 out of 4	9 out of 10	-	-	90%
P Hayes	10 out of 11	6 out of 6	5 out of 6	4 out of 4	11 out of 12	4 out of 5	6 out of 6	92%
D Horn	6 out of 11	-	4 out of 6	-	9 out of 12	-	2 out of 6	60%
T Kinnison	10 out of 11	5 out of 6	-	3 out of 4	8 out of 12	-	-	79%
M Nicholson	11 out of 11	5 out of 6	4 out of 6	-	12 out of 12	4 out of 5	-	90%
L Patrick *	4 out of 11	3 out of 6	-	-	4 out of 12	-	-	38%
M Patrick	6 out of 8	-	-	-	5 out of 6	-	-	79%
J Rubin	8 out of 11	5 out of 6	-	-	10 out of 12	-	5 out of 6	80%
D Savvidou	5 out of 9	3 out of 4	-	2 out of 3	-	2 out of 3	2 out of 4	61%
A Stennett	10 out of 11	4 out of 6	6 out of 6	-	-	4 out of 5	-	86%
M Stennett	11 out of 11	6 out of 6	5 out of 6	-	-	4 out of 4	6 out of 6	97%
T Stride	11 out of 11	4 out of 6	5 out of 6	-	11 out of 12	2 out of 3	-	87%
T White	4 out of 11	-	3 out of 6	2 out of 4	-	-	-	43%
W Thomas *	7 out of 11	-	-	2 out of 4	-	-	-	60%
M Woodward	4 out of 11	-	1 out of 6	1 out of 4	-	-	1 out of 6	26%

Notes:

Attendance figures are taken from May 2023 through to April 2024 and are based on committee membership. Please note that some Councillors may choose to attend other committee meetings that they do not sit on.

*Town Councillors who are also District or County Councillors - often have Council meetings that clash due to timings, impacting their attendance figures.

Not all Councillors sit on all or the same committees every year and some may have started/left Council during the year.

In addition to that above, some Councillors sit on working groups, steering groups and also represent the Town Council on a number of outside bodies.

Appendix 3

Councillor Inspections Completed 2023-2024

Councillors have an inspection rota. If Councillors are not available to complete their inspection, arrangements should be made to swap with another councillor and inform the office. Councillors can and do raise issues between inspections.

The following sites and the street areas by ward should be inspected monthly according to the rota:

Kingshill Cemetery/Allotment
War Memorial Recreation Ground
Highfields Play Area
Kingshill Street Furniture
Long Street Car Park

Kingshill Play Area
St Marks Churchyard
Highfields Street Furniture
Central Street Furniture
Internal Checks

Checks include: litter, graffiti, grass mown, weeds, vandalism, repairs or painting needed.

The tables below show inspections completed by Councillors and give an overall percentage of those completed for each site/area, with the aim of reaching 100% completed. A blank space means the inspection was not completed.

Those percentages shaded green have gone up compared to the previous year and those shaded red have gone down.

MONTH	Kingshill Cemetery/Allotment		Kingshill Play Area	
Apr-23	S CRESWICK	Yes	J RUBIN	Yes
May-23	M WOODWARD		A STENNETT	
Jun-23	P HAYES	Yes	M STENNETT	
Jul-23	D HORN		P HAYES	
Aug-23	T STRIDE	Yes	D HORN	
Sep-23	T KINNISON	Yes	T WHITE	Yes
Oct-23	L WELLINGS	Yes (allot)	P HAYES	
Nov-23	M PATRICK		A STENNETT	
Dec-23	T KINNISON		M STENNETT	
Jan-24	K EALES	Yes	J RUBIN	Yes
Feb-24	M WOODWARD		T KINNISON	Yes
Mar-24	J RUBIN	Yes	L PATRICK	
% COMPLETED	58% (67% in 22/23)		33% (58% in 22/23)	

MONTH	War Memorial Recreation Ground		St Marks Churchyard		Highfields Play Area	
Apr-23	D CORNELL	Yes	W THOMAS	Yes	N GRECIAN	Yes
May-23	T KINNISON	Yes	D HORN	Yes	J RUBIN	Yes
Jun-23	S CRESWICK	Yes	D CORNELL	Yes	W THOMAS	Yes
Jul-23	T WHITE	Yes	T KINNISON		T STRIDE	Yes
Aug-23	T STRIDE	Yes	W THOMAS	Yes	D SAVVIDOU	Yes
Sep-23	D SAVVIDOU	Yes	D HORN		K EALES	Yes
Oct-23	M PATRICK	Yes	M NICHOLSON		T STRIDE	Yes
Nov-23	T STRIDE	Yes	S CRESWICK	Yes	J RUBIN	Yes
Dec-23	M WOODWARD		L PATRICK		W THOMAS	Yes
Jan-24	T KINNISON	Yes	D HORN	Yes	D SAVVIDOU	
Feb-24	K EALES	Yes	P HAYES	Yes	W THOMAS	Yes
Mar-24	P HAYES	Yes	M WOODWARD		T STRIDE	Yes
% COMPLETED	92% (67% in 22/23)		58% (67% in 22/23)		92% (75% in 22/23)	

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MONTH	Highfields - Street Furniture		Kingshill - Street Furniture	
Apr-23	W THOMAS	Yes	P HAYES	Yes
May-23	D CORNELL		S ACKROYD	
Jun-23	T STRIDE	Yes (combined)	T KINNISON	
Jul-23	T STRIDE	Yes (combined)	M STENNETT	
Aug-23	K EALES	Yes	T KINNISON	Yes
Sep-23	J RUBIN	Yes	M WOODWARD	
Oct-23	D CORNELL		T KINNISON	
Nov-23	W THOMAS	Yes	L PATRICK	
Dec-23	K EALES		D SAVVIDOU	Yes
Jan-24	T STRIDE	Yes	M STENNETT	
Feb-24	W THOMAS	Yes	L PATRICK	
Mar-24			T KINNISON	
%COMPLETED	67% (75% in 22/23)		25% (50% in 22/23)	

MONTH	Central - Street Furniture		Long Street Car Park		Internal Checks	
Apr-23	S ACKROYD		M NICHOLSON		J RUBIN	Yes
May-23	M NICHOLSON		D SAVVIDOU	Yes	T KINNISON	
Jun-23	P HAYES	Yes	T KINNISON		D SAVVIDOU	Yes
Jul-23	P HAYES		D SAVVIDOU		A STENNETT	Yes
Aug-23	S CRESWICK	Yes	T KINNISON	Yes	S CRESWICK	
Sep-23	M PATRICK		S CRESWICK	Yes	M STENNETT	Yes
Oct-23	D HORN		T WHITE	Yes	M NICHOLSON	
Nov-23	M NICHOLSON		K EALES	Yes	D CORNELL	
Dec-23	P HAYES		M WOODWARD		W THOMAS	
Jan-24	T WHITE	Yes	M PATRICK		M WOODWARD	
Feb-24	S CRESWICK	Yes	T STRIDE	Yes	S CRESWICK	
Mar-24	M PATRICK		K EALES	Yes	T KINNISON	
%COMPLETED	33% (42% in 22/23)		58% (33% in 22/23)		33% (50% in 22/23)	