

Annual Report 2010-11

Foreword by Councillor Mrs Sue Evans, Town Mayor

This annual report summarises the activities and services the Town Council has provided over the last 12 months and how these activities and services have been undertaken.

Each year, Devizes Town Council provides a wide range of services for the people of the town. These services help to ensure Devizes is a sustainable and active community, which makes it a good place to live, work and visit.

The Town Council strives to meet the needs of our community and from time to time undertakes consultation on specific services it provides or gathers a more general view of residents and visitors opinions of the Town. Should you have an opinion about the Town Council and its services you are welcome to send them either directly to me at Mayor@devizes-tc.gov.uk or the Town Clerk at TownCerk@devizes-tc.gov.uk.

At the heart of the community

Devizes Town Council is elected to represent the interests of the town first and foremost and over the last year has lobbied Wiltshire Council to minimise the impact of proposed changes to parking in the Town. Although the Town Council was not successful with each request it did add pressure to retain some free parking in the Market Place. The access to good quality health care for town residents has also been one the Council's primary objectives and it has lobbied government over the changes to the commissioning of health care to help ensure the town does not lose any more of its locally delivered services.

The Town Council is committed to making sure the voices of the town's residents and surrounding area are heard and will put pressure on partners and service providers to ensure the community of Devizes receive the level of investment and services it needs to meet the size of its population.

Providing services for our community

The Council delivers many services itself and also helps to fund some services that are provided by others to improve the community that is so important to us.

Half of the running costs of the Town CCTV system are met by a direct grant from the Town Council. With the withdrawal of other partnership funding, the council is now working closely with the Devizes Development Partnership to find alternative revenue streams to make up the shortfall.

The Council makes a significant annual financial contribution to the costs of the leisure centre, currently run in partnership with Wiltshire Council.

Although partnership funding could not be found to sustain the Devizes Town Centre Manager, the Town Council has pledged to continue its supporting role for many of the town's arts festivals. This will ensure that Devizes can maintain its vibrancy and diverse cultural events, which so many of us enjoy.

Space to relax, exercise and have fun

Among the facilities we provide are:

- Formal Parks and Children's Play Areas at Hillworth Park, Avon Road and The Green
- Open spaces such as The Green & Crammer Pond and Leipzig Plantation
- Playing field at Green Lane
- Town Gardens
- Allotments

Over the next few years the Council has committed to strive to provide good quality recreational and leisure opportunities for people of all ages. Whether for sport, play or just relaxing in a quiet place, we hope our facilities contribute to the health of our community.

After a number of difficulties and delays, work has now started in Hillworth Park. The installation of new play and fitness equipment is nearly complete and the Garden Pavilion has been put back into its original condition. Work on the new park centre has now commenced and the main landscaping work will start in the early autumn. With the current rate of progress we are hopeful that the park will be completed by next summer.

Over the last year, the Council has continued its commitment to provide good quality recreational facilities in Devizes although it continues to face challenges over the sports field at Green Lane and was unsuccessful in its funding bid to Sports England. It is working with partners to find a solution to the site's poor facilities. This area of activity is achieved through some of the core facilities the Town Council provides.

The allotment sites at Windsor Drive and Quakers Walk are in full occupation with waiting lists for both. We have been pleased to be able to support the increasing interest that people have in growing their own food.

As keen supporters of local events, the Town Council has taken a key partnership role in the Devizes Christmas Festival and provides the Christmas lighting in the town. Other events include the Carnival and the Festival, which the Town Council supports by way of both direct grants and free use of the Venues.

Caring for our Town

How our town looks is key to how we feel about it. Protecting the built environment and improving the street scene are important elements of the Council's strategy to raise the profile of the town for local people and visitors alike.

The Town Council owns many retail units in the town and working with our tenants we try to ensure they are kept in good order to maintain a positive image of the town, which is so important during these difficult trading times. The Council also owns some of the most significant public buildings and monuments in the town centre. Ownership of the structures has tremendous responsibility and we ensure that they are maintained to a high standard so that they continue to enhance the town's architecture for years to come.

We have continued to achieve high standards in the South West in Bloom Competition by again winning the Silver Gilt award. This is awarded, not just for floral decorations but for showing that we are caring for the town in a wider environmental context with an emphasis on community partnerships, recycling, waste minimisation, management of its open spaces and ecology. We have to continue the improvements we started last year for the permanent and spring planting and are sure that everyone who visits Devizes during the summer will be impressed by our floral displays.

These improvements are not just about the Council, but are about the whole community, and we should all congratulate ourselves with this fantastic achievement of real community participation.

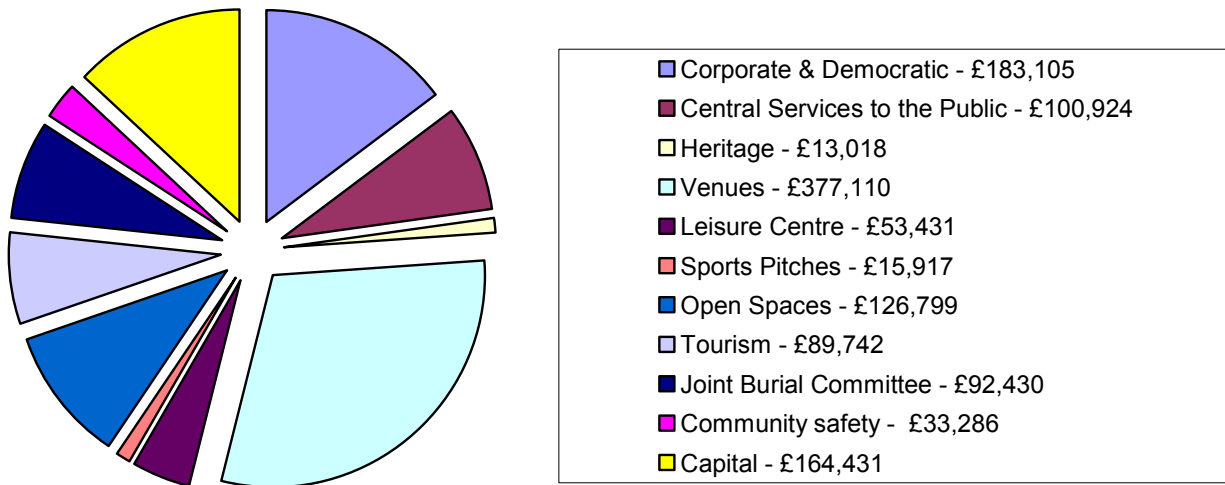
Working for the future

Our services are delivered by a small but dedicated workforce. The Council continues to believe that a well-trained workforce is an effective one and therefore it provides a training programme for each staff member.

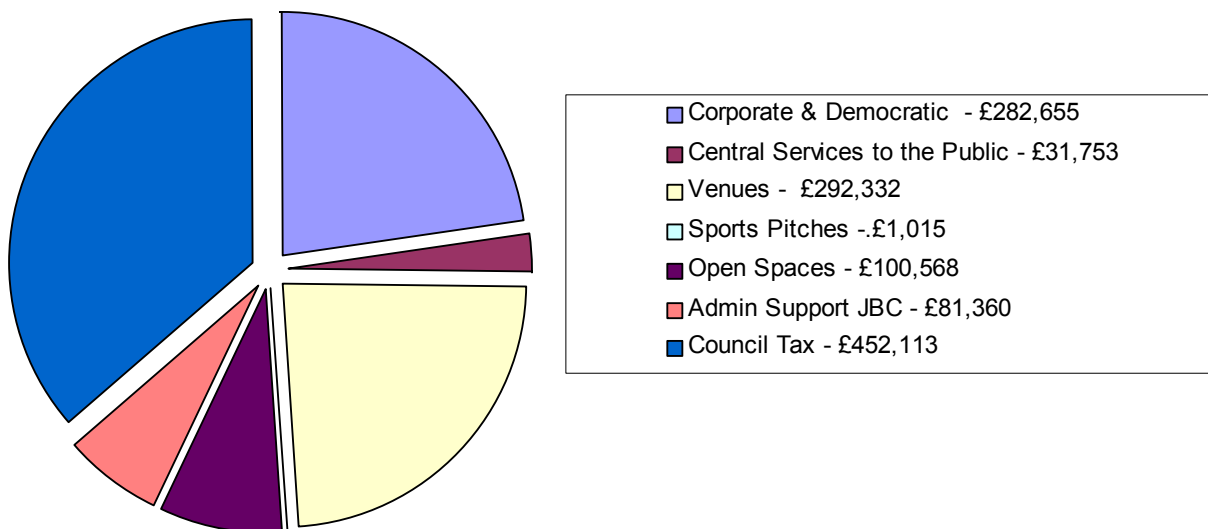
We will continue to work in partnership with others where necessary, to ensure that services are delivered to the residents of Devizes as efficiently and economically as possible.

Financial Summary for 2010 –2011

Where The Money Is Spent



Where the Money Comes From



DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL - MEMBERS 2010-11

WARD	Name & Address	Home Telephone & Email
E	Julian Herbert BEINHORN 45 Nursted Road, Devizes SN10 3AJ RESIGNED MAY 2011	Home: 01380 722652 julian.beinhorn@devizes-tc.gov.uk
N	Sarah Jane BRIDEWELL 32 Queens Road Devizes SN10 5HW	Home: sarah.bridewell@devizes-tc.gov.uk
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N	Peter Barry John SMITH 142 Waiblingen Way, Devizes SN10 2BP	Home: 01380 720084 peter.smith@devizes-tc.gov.uk
E	Mrs Margaret Sheila Nancy TAYLOR 57 Roundway Park, Devizes SN10 2EE	Home: 01380 723537 margaret.taylor@devizes-tc.gov.uk
S	Angus Raymond TAYLOR 57 Roundway Park, Devizes SN10 2EE	Home: 01380 723537 ray.taylor@devizes-tc.gov.uk
N	Mrs Paula Mary WINCHCOMBE Marlbury, 6 Kirby Close, Devizes SN10 2EL	Work: 01380 722500 paula.winchcombe@devices-tc.gov.uk
S	Charles Stuart WINCHCOMBE Marlbury, 6 Kirby Close, Devizes SN10 2EL	Work: 01380 722500 charles.winchcombe@devices-tc.gov.uk

DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL – SENIOR OFFICERS

Town Clerk Sarah Todhunter	01380 – 722160 TownClerk@devizes-tc.gov.uk
Deputy Town Clerk Simon Fisher	01380 – 722160 SimonFisher@devizes-tc.gov.uk

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