

Annual Report 2019- 2020

Introduction by Councillor Chris Gay, Town Mayor

This short document reviews the work of the Council over the last twelve months and shows how money has been spent in delivering services to our community.

This report covers the financial year 2019-20 which ended prior to the Covid19 pandemic therefore make new reverence to the impact is has had on our community.

The financial year in question was a very busy one for the council as it started to take on the operation of more of our local services such as the Market and Shambles. The council also undertook a major refurbishment as the sports facility at Green Lane in partnership with Wiltshire FA and the football foundation to raise In grant funding which has allowed ut to build a full size flood lite all-weather pitch and new club house.

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 to the Town Clerk, Simon Fisher at SimonFisher@devizes-tc.gov.uk.

At the heart of the community

The devolution of assets from Wiltshire Council will enable the Town Council to provide those assets at the standards that local people believe to be acceptable. We have already taken on public toilets, achieving the nationally recognised platinum standard and have increased the number of times amenity grass is cut around the town which we hope will keep things looking a little neater. We employ our own barrow man whose job is to patrol the town centre keeping it as clean as possible. He is also targeting areas that need a little more attention such as the car parks and the areas to the front of the sorting office.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been in place for some years and remains a key planning document that developers need to follow when considering larger scale developments in the town. Work has commenced on the further development of the plan to set out polices that will shape the town to meet the emerging housing allocation for the period 2016-36. The challenge to bring forward allocated employment land has continued over the past year, with virtually no employment units being built. Meetings with land owners have identified many of the issues but solving them may be a little trickier, therefore an open dialog with developers is essential.

The Council has had some challenges over the last year around the Market Place and trying to meet the expectation of residents and local business against the requirements of Wiltshire Council has difficult. The Town Could has been at the fore front of that debate and will therefore continue to work with all stakeholders over the coming months to find a solution that delivers access to local shops as well as a vibrant and appealing town centre.

The Town Council will continue to work with the local business community, town event providers and other stakeholders to understand how it can support the town to develop and meet the needs of future generations.

The Council's venues sit at the heart of many of the town's cultural and fundraising events. In the last year the Council provided £13,874 worth of free hire to organisations who ensure the town remains a vibrant community, where there is always something to see or do.

Providing services for our community

Over the last year, the Council continued to deliver many services itself and also helps to fund some services that are provided by others which improve the quality of life for our community. CCTV is one such service as is the funding of an Arts Officer who supports many of the town's cultural activities.

The Council also makes a significant annual financial contribution to the cost of the Leisure Centre, currently run in partnership with Wiltshire Council as well as providing financial or in kind support for many of the town's events and festival which include the Carnival, Arts Festival, Food Festival and Devizes Eisteddfod.

Over the next year these services are set to grow to include indoor and outdoor markets and tourism.

Space to relax, exercise and have fun

Among the facilities we provided during 2019/20 were:

- 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
- The playing field at Green Lane
- Town Gardens (including the refurbishment of the Chequer and Penny Bank)
- Allotments

The Council delivers 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.

Hillworth Park has continued to be very popular with visitors of all ages, proving to be a true community space hosting music events and entertainment as well as sporting and educational activities. Last year, the Park was again awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award and judged to be of 5 star standard in the South West in Bloom "Pride in Parks" Award.

Work continues to deliver improvements at Green Lane playing field which will include an all-weather playing surface. Funding is now in place and the council is now working through contract and lease obligations before work can begin later this year

Caring for our Town

The look and feel of the town is vital to its economic vibrancy, therefore protecting the built environment and improving the street scene are important elements of the Council's strategy to raise the profile of the town. Over the last year negotiations with Wiltshire Council have led to an agreement on how local services can be delivered differently. Over the next year there will be a transition from street scene services being delivered centrally to a locally accountable service.

The Town Council owns a number of retail properties in the town and working with its tenants is committed to promoting and maintaining a good mix of shops and a positive shopping experience for local people and visitors alike. The Council owns some of the most significant public buildings and monuments in the town centre. Ownership of the structures carries considerable financial 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.

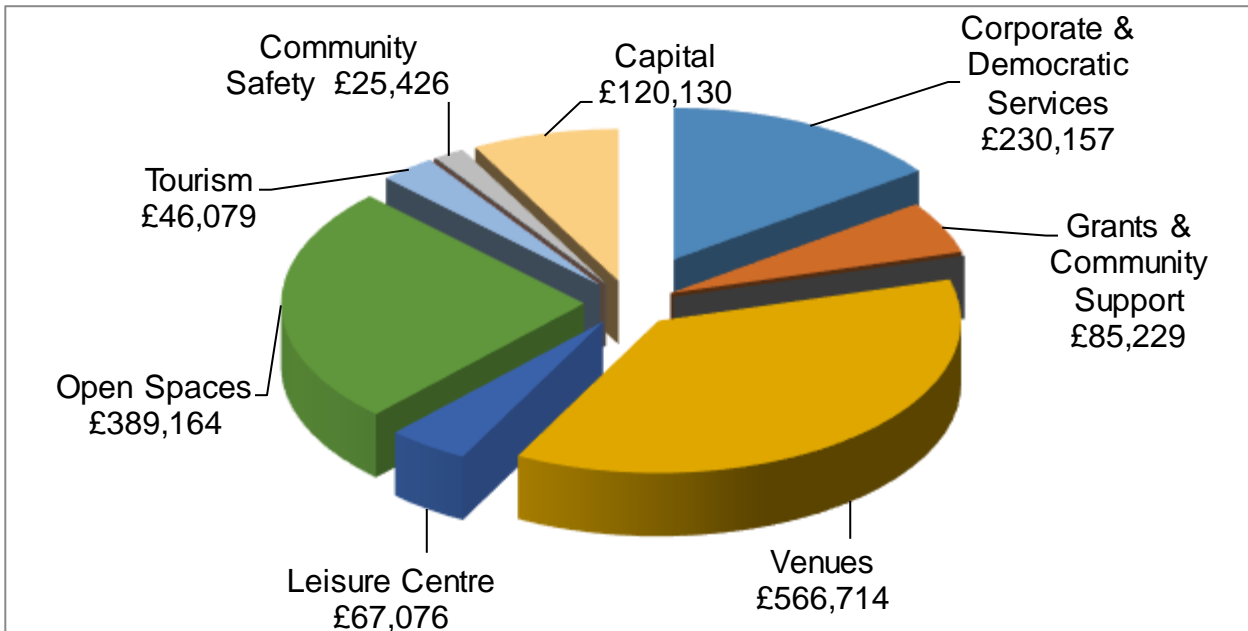
Working for the future

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.

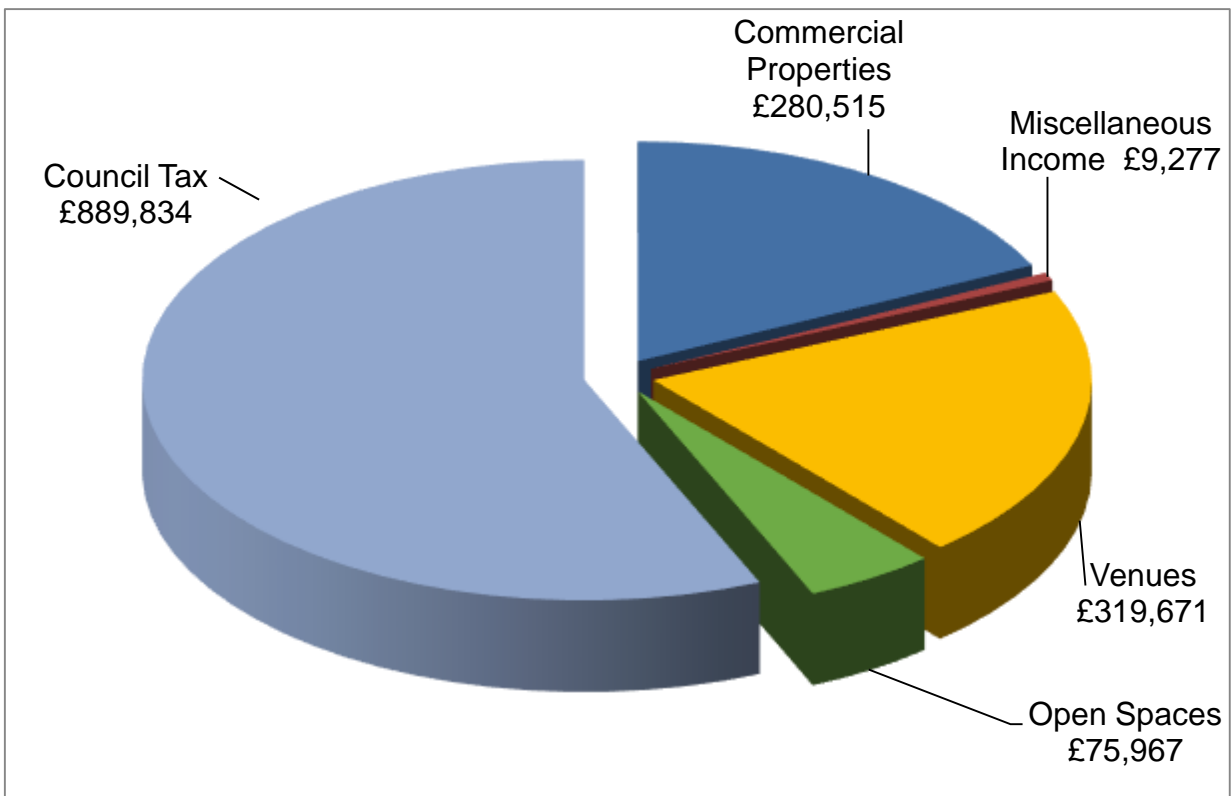
We will continue to work in partnership with others, to ensure where services are needed and whenever possible, that they are delivered locally.

Financial Summary for 2018 – 2019

How the Money was Spent



Where the Money Came From



DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2018/19

WARD	DETAILS	POLITICAL PARTY	TEL NO & E MAIL ADDRESS
N	Sarah Jane BRIDEWELL 32 Queens Road, Devizes, SN10 5HW	Guardian	Home: 01380 722321 sarah.bridewell@devizes-tc.gov.uk
E	Jane Mary BURTON 17 Longcroft Road, Devizes, SN10 3AT	Guardian	Home: 01380 724575 jane.burton@devizes-tc.gov.uk
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N	Sue EVANS 27 Nursted Road, Devizes, SN10 3AF	Conservative	Home: 01380 722499 Mobile: 07532 110090 sue.evans@devizes-tc.gov.uk
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	Chris GREENWOOD 95 Avon Road, Devizes, SN10 1PT	Guardian	Home: 01380 7722466 Mobile: 07525 185514 chris.greenwood@devizes-tc.gov.uk
S	Ian HOPKINS 103 Southbroom Road, Devizes, SN10 1LY	Independent	Home: 01380 725614 ian.hopkins@devizes-tc.gov.uk
N	Andy JOHNSON 82 White Horse Way, Devizes, SN10 2JR	Conservative	Home: 01380 829665 Mobile:07897 456790 andy.johnson@devizes-tc.gov.uk
E	Kelvin NASH 2 Meadow Drive, Devizes, SN10 3BJ	Conservative	Home: 01380 726764 kelvin.nash@devizes-tc.gov.uk
S	Ray Parsons Roosters Rest, 88a Hillworth Road, Devizes, SN10 5HD	Guardian	Home:01380 739332 ray.parsons@devizes-tc.gov.uk
E	Ian Pennington 101 Brickley Lane, Devizes SN10 3BS	Conservative	Home: 01380 726151 ian.pennington@devizes-tc.gov.uk
S	Judy ROSE 91 Avon Road, Devizes, SN10 1PT	Guardians	Home:01380 721262 Mobile:07779 057464 judy.rose@devizes-tc.gov.uk
R	Rick ROWLAND Holly Lodge, 9 Alan Cobham Road, Devizes SN10 5GE	Guardian	Home 01380 724844 rick.rowland@devizes-tc.gov.uk
R	Kathleen Shaw The cottage, High Street, Rowde, Devizes SN10 2PL	Labour	Home: 01380 725952 kathleen.shaw@devizes-tc.gov.uk
R	John STEVENS 6 Speer Court, Thomas Wyatt Road, Devizes SN10 5FH	Conservative	Home: 01380 739599 john.stevens@devizes-tc.gov.uk
R	Jeannette VON BERG 15 Century Close, Devizes, SN10 3FG	Guardian	Home; 01380728239 Jeannette.vonberg@devizes-tc.gov.uk

S= South Ward E= East Ward N= North Ward R= Roundway Ward

DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL – SENIOR OFFICER

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