

Return of the Green Man



Bradford on Avon Green Man Festival takes place on Saturday 11 May from 9am to 5pm. The FREE festival will see more than 40 dance groups, including morris sides and European folk dance groups, led by giants Jack and Jill in the Green (pictured), visiting 12 town centre venues along with bands and fantasy beasts.

Other attractions on the day include a kids' zone, artisan market, community hub, pagan arts and crafts, a mummers' play, three music stages, live pub music, buskers and more. The full programme is available on the BoA Green Man Festival website: boagreenmanfest.org

Vision on

Thank you to everyone for their comments and questions about the first draft of the town vision. We have taken your views and comments into account and the second draft of the vision was discussed at January's Town Development committee.

The final draft will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting in March, when councillors will vote on whether to adopt the vision. More information about the town vision is available on our website: bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/our-town-vision

Budget 2024/25: delivering on our aspirations

The town council has developed the budget to deliver the aspirations set out in our Business Plan, as well as to account for inflationary pressures.

Since the asset transfer in April 2022, street services have come in-house, and we now have a town warden team doing a fantastic job keeping streets clean and green spaces well managed. However, the cost of running and maintaining vehicles to provide these services has increased.

We have also built a skilled town council team who run the community fridge, warm spaces initiatives, the summer holiday club and have increased the number of community events across town.

The town council's 2024/25 budget is £1,431,620 - a rise of 12% on the previous year. This necessitates a precept rise of 9% or 43p per week for the average Band D property.

In total, the cost of the town council's services to residents in a Band D property is £5.25 per week. The precept we receive only accounts for around 11% of your overall Council Tax bill, most of which goes to Wiltshire Council.

Other areas of growth in the budget include our commitment to improving play areas across the town - which is now underway. Prior to the asset transfer, Wiltshire Council put little investment in the town's play areas.

Traffic solutions are moving forward

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This needed to be carefully considered in order to safeguard the bus service.

The completed traffic modelling report was received by the town council in January.

The study modelled 3 options:

Option A: Market Street one-way and Silver Street one-way with bus gate

Option B: pinch point and priority narrowing on Market Street and Silver Street

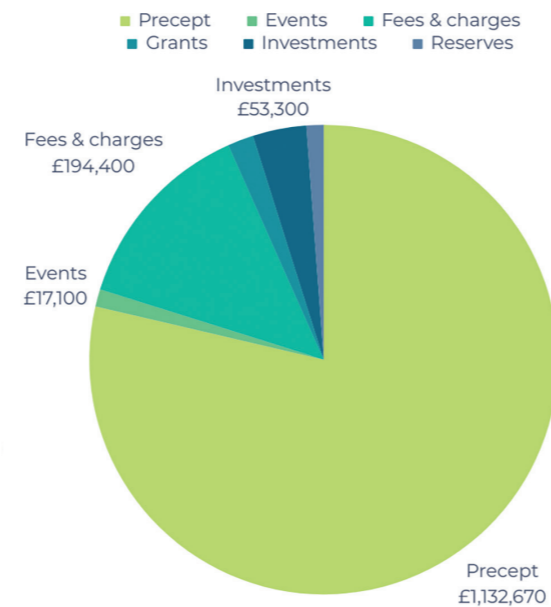
Following the modelling of these options, it was apparent that they didn't sufficiently meet the town's priorities and therefore a third option was identified and modelled.

Option C: Silver Street one-way (with bus gate) and Market Street priority narrowing.

The consultants recommended option C for more detailed design as this goes further in addressing the town's priorities.

The full technical report and the plain English executive summary can be found on our

Town council income 2024/25



The percentage of the budget made up of the precept has dropped from 81% to 79% because fees, grants and revenue from venue hire contributes a larger part of our income than ever before.

Wiltshire Council has adopted a new policy that town and parish councils will pay for their own elections.

For more information, you can read our Business Plan on our website bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/policies/

website: bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/future-of-transport

The third phase of the process is for the town council to engage with residents on the report and its recommendation.

The town council has organised 2 drop-in public engagement sessions about the report; these will take place on:

Wednesday 20 March: 4pm - 8pm

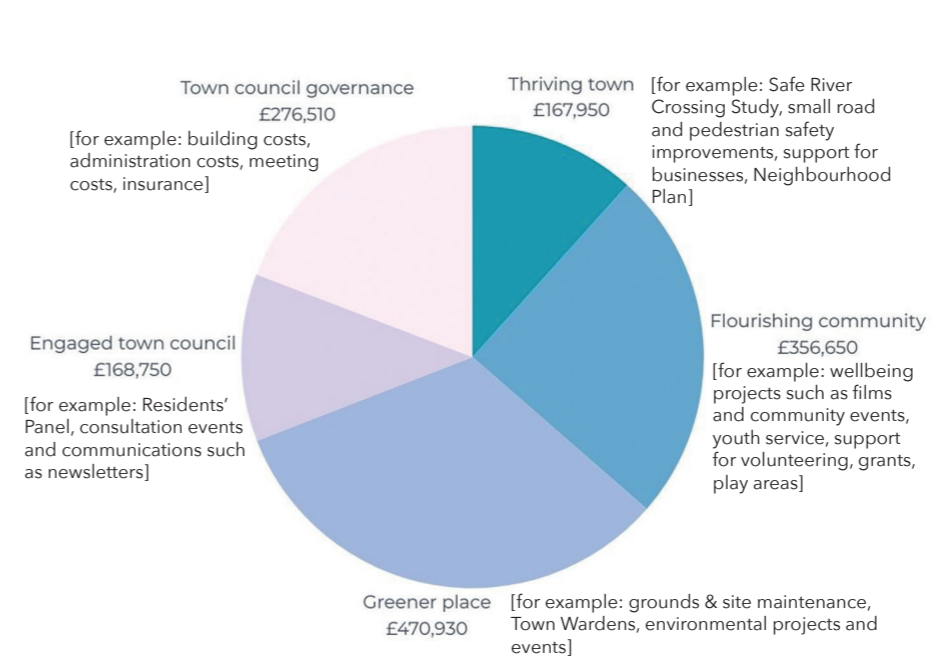
Saturday 23 March: 10am - 2pm

The sessions will take place in St Margaret's Hall. This will be your chance to make comments on the report and recommended option to take to design stage.

An online survey will also be available on the town council website. Additionally, you can view a copy of the report and collect a copy of the survey from the town council offices.

Further to the engagement sessions, Wiltshire Council will be asked to undertake more detailed design work.

Town council expenditure 2024/25



Making new friends at the Chatty Café



Mayor Katie Vigar, pictured left, enjoyed meeting customers at the Chatty Café that started up recently at the Mill Café in Lamb Yard. The nationwide project aims to help people get together and make new friends over a sociable coffee. The Chatty table at the Mill Café is available every Monday from 10am to 2pm.

Photo: Trevor Porter

Awards handed out to green-fingered groups

At the beginning of the year, we celebrated the success of South West in Bloom entrants - The Three Horseshoes, Wiltshire Heights, the Bradford on Avon Railway Station Volunteers and Secret Gardens - with afternoon tea and cake.

Mayor Katie Vigar presented the groups with their It's Your Neighbourhood

awards. The Three Horseshoes, Wiltshire Heights and the Railway Station Garden were awarded Level 5, Outstanding; Secret Gardens gained Level 4, Thriving.

Judges from South West in Bloom also awarded Holy Trinity Church a Level 5, Outstanding award.

Ducks in a row for Easter event

We're gearing up for the ever-popular Duck Race on Easter Monday.

The race will begin at 12 noon with fun, games and live music in Westbury Garden from 11am. The event is once again sponsored by children's swimming school Puddle Ducks.

Ducks cost £2 and can be sponsored at the Tourist Information Centre and participating businesses in the town.

We're also pleased to announce the return of the Business Duck Race, when local businesses will compete against one another for a chance to dethrone last year's winners, Dible & Roy.

No thanks to rubbish at the Phoney Box

We'd like to remind everyone that the Grow BoA Phoney Box at the top of Whitehill is a plant and seed exchange - it is not a dumping ground or recycling point.

Recently, non-recyclables such as plant pots and trays have been left in the Phoney Box. While some plant pots (grey and brown) may be recyclable, they need to be taken to a garden centre with the proper facilities - including some local nurseries. Larger companies such as B&Q and Dobbies also run their own return/ recycling schemes.

Stepping out

BoA Walkers are Welcome organise 2 walks every month - on the second Sunday and last Tuesday of the month - and anyone is welcome to join.

The walks are free, and you don't need to register or join - just turn up suitably dressed for the weather. Please be aware the group has a 'no dogs except assistance dogs' policy.

Walks always start outside the Tourist Information Centre in Westbury Garden, leaving at 9.30am.

If you'd like to find out more, please visit the BoA Walkers are Welcome website: walkbradfordonavon.org