



Dear Resident,

I was elected Chairman in May 2023. Shortly after, the country celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. Many joined in with the celebrations that had been organised by the Parish Council. A dramatic change in the weather forecast resulted in a very hastily and efficiently re-arranged relocation to Loddon Hall. The event was considered by all, including the visiting mayor of our twinned town Quincy, France, to have been a resounding success, with demand for similar events in the future. Thanks to all, including the audiences that made this such a success.

Later, in August the annual Village Fete again proved to be popular. This time the weather was with us and made for another memorable day. The former chair of the council with over 40 years service, Roy Mantel was our guest of honour and opened the event.



Roy Mantel (left) being presented with a gift for his service by Martin Alder, Chairman.

The strong community spirit in Twyford supports many of the Council's other activities. These range from Twyford in Bloom, where again we received recognition in the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom awards, to the support in the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan. We should also offer our thanks to the volunteers working on environmental initiatives within Twyford.

In the area of the more formal business of the Parish Council, the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan was a significant event. This now gives the Parish Council a legally valid acceptable means by which to influence planning matters within our parish. Many thanks to all of those in the community who contributed towards and supported us in achieving this.





The Council continues to support the community through these challenging times via various initiatives and organisations that operate locally, such as Citizens Advice. We hold monthly 'Meet your Councillor' sessions outside Waitrose, with both our Borough Councillors and Ruscombe Parish Councillors.

We have continued to refine our action plans, both for 2024, but also beyond. This enables us to be in a position to respond promptly to any funding opportunities that may arise, whilst ensuring that what is sought is part of a coherent plan to benefit the community.

The Council's finances remain healthy, but with the accumulated effects of inflation and increasing responsibilities, an increase in our precept has been inevitable. After much discussion, the resultant precept has increased over that in 2023 and it now sits in the middle of the range of precepts charged for a band D house in equivalent local Parish Councils. In cash terms, the total cost is now equivalent to that of a cup of coffee per month.

Martin Alder, Chairman, Twyford Parish Council – March 2024

How does the precept work?

Twyford Parish Council sits in the first tier of Local Government and is the first point of contact for anyone concerned with a community issue. Both Officers and the 15 elected Councillors work hard to deliver services to the people of Twyford. The Parish Council has a wide range of powers including the power to raise money through council tax. The Parish precept forms part of residents council tax which funds services provided by Twyford Parish Council. In 2024-25 the annual precept for a band D household will be £72.54 an increase on 2023-24 of 43p per week per household. An increase is necessary to cover the planned expenditure and costs to administer the Council's functions (as set out in this leaflet).



Meet your Councillor sessions are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month 10-midday outside Waitrose.
See our facebook page for up to date information.





Twyford

PARISH COUNCIL

Precept 2024-25

Our services

Open Spaces

Contractors look after the grounds and sports pitches at King George V recreation ground and Stanlake Meadow. Popular facilities include the skate park, ball court, play equipment and fitness trail. The equipment is subject to regular safety checks and repairs and replacements are made as required. We maintain the CCTV in and around the recreation ground.



Sports and Recreation

King George V recreation ground is home to Twyford Tennis Club. Stanlake Meadow is home to the Twyford and Ruscombe Cricket Club and Twyford Comets Football Club. Stanlake Pavilion provides changing rooms and facilities for 'home' and 'away' sports teams.



Allotments

Both the Hurst Road and London Road sites remain popular. Starter plots are available for those new to keeping an allotment and we work closely with the Twyford Allotment Tenant's Association who are happy to advise and guide allotment holders. We also work with local organisations to provide 'Twyford Growers', a therapeutic gardening group.



Defibrillators and Street Lamps

We maintain the network of defibrillators in and around the village as well as providing over 170 street lamps.

Burial Ground

We operate the burial ground located to the rear of St. Mary's Church on Station Road, Twyford. Whilst the left side is owned and maintained by St. Mary's Church the right side is run by the Council. Here, there is space for burials and cremated remains of Twyford residents.



Representation

Twyford Parish Council responds to consultations at both national and local level on behalf of Twyford.

The Council is a statutory consultee on issues around planning in the Twyford Parish. It's Planning and Amenities Committee meets monthly to consider any comments on planning applications. These comments are submitted regularly to Wokingham Borough Council for their consideration.

Twyford Parish Council and volunteers from the village created a Neighbourhood Plan which sets out a series of planning policies that Wokingham Borough Council adopted on the 20th July 2023 and will now be used to determine planning applications in Twyford up to 2038.

Twyford residents are welcome to attend Council meetings and have the opportunity to ask questions at the start of each meeting. The meeting agendas are published on our website.

In addition, we represent residents at a number of local organisations such as Age Concern Twyford, Twyford and Ruscombe Community Association, Twyford Together and Twyford Twinning Association to name a few.



Twyford Parish Council Meetings

We carry out most of our business through the work of four main spending Committees. Meetings are held at Loddon Hall, Twyford. Further details can be found on our website.

The Full Council sets the precept whilst delegating most other business to the Committees.

The Planning and Amenities Committee considers planning and environmental matters, street furniture and highways.

The Parish Lands Committee considers all matters relating to the grounds the Parish owns.

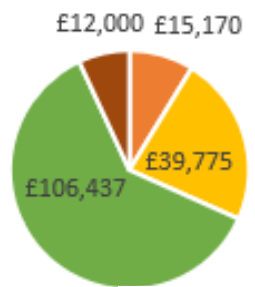
The Finance and General Purposes Committee controls the finances and general administration of the Council. It monitors the budgets, contracts, insurances, policies and staffing matters.

The Community Events and Engagement Committee is responsible for planning and organisation of all events including the Annual Village Fete as well as community engagement surveys / newsletters / social media.

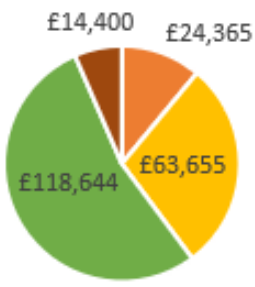
Budget Breakdown

The pie charts below show the breakdown of the total budget, as expenditure between committees.
In 2024-25 a band D resident will pay an additional 5p per week towards grounds maintenance costs and 8p per week towards office/staffing costs.

Budget 2023-24



Budget 2024-25



- Planning and Amenities Committee
- Parish Lands Committee
- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Events and Community Engagement Committee

Grants

We will consider applications for grants or loans from non profit-making voluntary organisations, charitable bodies or other bodies (but not individuals) providing a public service other than for gain, which will directly benefit the Parish of Twyford and its residents. Priority will be given to smaller and more local organisations. More information and an application form can be found here:

www.twyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk/community/grants-and-loans/

In 2023-24 the following grants were awarded:

- £100 CLASP
- £200 Round Table
- £300 Wokingham Job Support
- £400 Keep Mobile
- £400 Parenting Special Children
- £450 Link Visiting Scheme
- £1,000 Twyford Twinning Association
- £1,500 ARC Youth Counselling Service
- £1,500 Age UK - Twyford Growers horticultural therapy group.



Capital Expenditure

In 2023-24 the Council used capital reserves to fund the following:

- £4,600– Coronation event
- £1,310 – Councillor training
- £1,000 – IT equipment
- £550 – Tree works
- £500 – Coronation Labyrinth
- £450 – Election costs
- £300 – Cost of living flyers

Information is correct up to 22.02.24.



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Our Achievements in 2023-24:

Celebrations in Twyford to commemorate the Kings Coronation

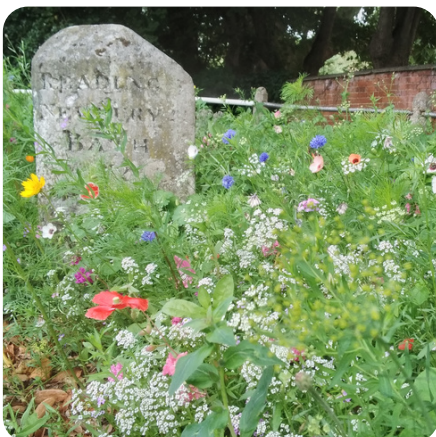
Photos below show the coronation labyrinth at King George V recreation ground and commemoration mugs given to all Twyford primary school children.



Twyford in Bloom success 2023

Twyford was awarded the Thames and Chilterns in Bloom Silver Gilt award and the Regional Heritage award for the second year running.

Photos below show the milestone, amongst wildflowers, outside Bridge House and a heritage board on Bell Corner.



Neighbourhood plan

The Neighbourhood Plan successfully passed referendum on 6th July 2023 and was formally adopted by Wokingham Borough Council.





Our Achievements in 2023-24 continued:

Playground works

Play equipment at King George v recreation ground has been updated with a new see saw, zip wire and repairs to existing equipment.



Skate Park

In November we went to tender for a new wheeled park to replace the aging skate park in King George V recreation ground. A well attended public meeting took place in February 2024 to gauge ideas from the skate park users.



Become a Councillor

Make a change to your local community. We are looking for innovative forward-thinking individuals to join Twyford Parish Council. Contact: clerk@twyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk to find out more.





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Opportunities for you to get involved:

- Become an Adopt a Street Volunteer
- Join one of our working parties to help look after the environment
- Volunteer to help with the Annual Village Fete
- Become a Speedwatch volunteer



2024 Dates for your calendar:

Annual Litter Pick
23.03.24
Annual Parish Meeting
24.04.24
Twyford Village Fete
17.08.24

How you can contact us:

Twyford Parish Council
PO Box 8250
Reading
RG6 9SZ

clerk@twyfordparishcouncil.gov.uk
0118 9345444