



Winchcombe Town Council Annual Report 2026



Annual Town
Meeting
27 May 2026

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WINCHCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTICE OF PARISH MEETING
WINCHCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE



The Annual Meeting of Winchcombe Parish to be held at Abbey Fields Community Centre, Back Lane, Winchcombe:

7:30PM WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2026

The meeting may discuss any matters affecting local affairs and pass resolutions. Members of the public are welcome to attend but only persons registered as local government electors for the Parish of Winchcombe are entitled to vote.

The business to be transacted at the meeting will be as follows: -

1. To read the Notice convening the meeting.
2. To receive apologies for non-attendance.
3. To receive, and if approved, to confirm the Minutes of the Winchcombe Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2025.
4. To consider any matters arising from the Minutes of the Winchcombe Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2025.
5. To receive a report from the Chairman of Winchcombe Town Council.
6. To receive the accounts (unaudited) of Winchcombe Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2026.
7. To receive a report from a representative of Gloucestershire County Council.
8. To receive a report from a representative of Tewkesbury Borough Council.
9. To receive reports from local community groups and organisations, and recipients of WTC Community Grant Scheme.
10. To deal with any other business which may be lawfully raised at the Meeting.

Dated: 21 May 2026


J Mason

Chairman Winchcombe Town Council.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL WINCHCOMBE TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE ABBEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE, BACK LANE, WINCHCOMBE AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2025.

PRESENT: Mr J Mason (Chair) Mr D Chandler Mrs C Agg
Ms S Sturgeon Mr T Forrester Ms A Patel
Clerk / Deputy Clerk

1. TO READ THE NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Jim Mason, Chair of Winchcombe Town Council who read the notice dated 15 May 2025, formally convening the meeting.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors L Gorton, D Gray, G Madle, R Parker and R Wakeford. Non-attendance recorded for Councillors M Lennard and S Maughan.

3. TO RECEIVE, AND IF APPROVED, TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE WINCHCOMBE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2024.

Cllr D Chandler proposed that the minutes were confirmed as a true record, seconded by Cllr S Sturgeon, carried unanimously.

4. TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE WINCHCOMBE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 29 MAY 2024.

None.

5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF WINCHCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL.

Cllr J Mason presented his Annual Report which was also shared in bound form in the WTC Annual Report.

6. TO RECEIVE THE ACCOUNTS (UNAUDITED) OF WINCHCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025.

The Clerk circulated Accounts (unaudited) of the Winchcombe Town Council for the year ended 31 March 2025.

7. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

County Cllr D Gray provided a report which was shared in bound form within the WTC Annual Report. Highlights from the year include:

Cllr D Gray had sent apologies, but new County Councillor Cheryl Agg was in attendance and shared highlights including:

- Continued works to improve roads
- Cllr Agg will be sitting on both the Environment and Education scrutiny committees and is chair of CROW (Countryside Rights of Way)
- Thanked David for all the work done to bring about changes on major roads
- Cllr Agg is here for WTC Councillors and residents

Cllr J Mason asked for an update on the implementation of previously TRO. Cllr Agg stressed that the team is juggling many priorities but will follow this up for WTC.

8. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The joint report from TBC Councillors D Gray, G Madle and J Mason was shared in bound form in the WTC Annual Report.

9. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS, TO BE CIRCULATED IN BOUND FORM AT THE MEETING.

The Chairman stated Annual Reports had been received and circulated in the Annual Report from:

- Abbey Fields Community Centre
- St Peters Church
- St Nicholas Roman Catholic Church
- Winchcombe Greening Group
- Winchcombe Rewilding Group
- Winchcombe Rotary Club
- Winchcombe Town Trust & Museum
- Winchcombe Welcomes Walkers
- 1st Winchcombe Scouts
- Safe Avon

Cllr S Sturgeon expressed thanks to WTC for the grant to support the set up of Park Run in Winchcombe Park.

10 TO DEAL WITH ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY BE LAWFULLY RAISED AT THE MEETING.

None.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm



J. R. Mason

J Mason

Chair Winchcombe Town Council

Chairs Report



The past year has been challenging for us at the town council, but we have risen to these challenges successfully.

Following community consultation, we have formalised our four-year plan. We now need to deliver what our residents and businesses have indicated as their priorities.

The new Mountview Cemetery is almost complete and will soon be open for interments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved, both contractors and volunteers.

At Winchcombe Park we have seen the completion of the pump track along with installation of a CCTV camera and we have added a new toddler play area which has been greatly received within the community.

The toilets have had a fresh coat of paint, and we are now working towards a complete refurbishment of them.

We are committed to funding the refurbishment of The Old Boys School, Gretton Road and will be holders of the lease. This is a valued property that will have great potential for the youth of our town.

During the past year we have purchased two Vehicle Activated Signs for Littleworth and Broadway Road and have ordered a third for the bottom of Cheltenham Road. We are hoping that this will deter speeding through those areas. This work was driven by our Highways Working Group, formed to address traffic matters raised by residents in a community consultation in 2022.

One of our commitments is to improve communications and engagement with our community, and as such we have set up a Facebook page, and we have a new website coming soon!

Once again, the Party in the Park and the Walking Festival have been great successes and I would like to thank all those that give up their time voluntarily to bring these events to life.

As our commitment to deliver positive change for our community continues to grow, so does the work required to make it happen. Therefore, we are delighted to have been joined by a new admin officer to support the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The council would not function without them. I would like to personally thank Leanne, Marie and Kim for their dedication and hard work.

A special thanks to all our contractors for the standards of work they deliver for us.

Finally, I would like to thank my councillor colleagues for all they give in performing their roles, working to keep Winchcombe such a special place for all of us.

J Mason

Chair Winchcombe Town Council

Statement of Accounts

22 April 2026 (2025-2026)

Winchcombe Town Council Income & Expenditure Account 01/04/2025 to 31/03/2026

<i>(Last) Year Ended 31 Mar 2025</i>		<i>(Current) Year Ended 31 Mar 2026</i>
	<u>Income</u>	
775,455.97	1. INCOME	448,253.38
1,500.00	7. BURIAL	
<u>£776,955.97</u>		<u>£448,253.38</u>
	<u>Expense</u>	
16,889.24	4. GENERAL PURPOSES	23,121.64
34,209.29	7. BURIAL	37,619.96
59,583.80	6. PLAYING FIELDS	61,384.03
30,000.00	5. LEISURE AND TOURISM	41,000.00
25,673.73	2. ADMINISTRATION	30,971.76
99,761.19	3. FINANCE	147,584.18
17,121.20	8. EXTERNAL INTERESTS	780.25
278,902.79	9. EARMARKED RESERVES	169,639.00
<u>£562,141.24</u>		<u>£512,100.82</u>
	<u>General Fund</u>	
237,506.04	Balance at 01 Apr 2025	798,623.56
776,955.97	ADD Total Income	448,253.38
1,014,462.01		1,246,876.94
562,141.24	DEDUCT Total Expenditure	512,100.82
452,320.77		734,776.12
-346,302.79	DEDUCT Reserves Balance	253,406.64
<u>£798,623.56</u>	Balance at 31 Mar 2026	<u>£481,369.48</u>
	Reserves:	
	Earmarked Reserve Balance	£236747.80

2025/2026

Annual Report from

Gloucestershire County Council

County Councillor for Winchcombe & Woodmancote Division – Cllr Cheryl Agg

Over the past year, my work as County Councillor has focused on supporting Winchcombe through casework, partnership working, and advocacy at county level, alongside practical support for local organisations and infrastructure that directly affect residents and community life.

Highways and Road Maintenance

Highways remain one of the most frequently raised issues, and I continue to work closely with Gloucestershire County Council Highways to ensure local priorities are recognised and progressed. I am pleased that a number of roads in Winchcombe and Greet have been resurfaced during the past year, improving safety and the overall condition of the local road network. These works reflect sustained engagement with highways officers and the importance of continued investment across the town and surrounding areas.

Looking ahead, further resurfacing works are planned in the coming weeks, with additional roads already identified as part of the ongoing programme. I will continue to monitor these works closely, particularly around timing, quality, and communication with residents.

Where issues relate to utility infrastructure, I have also worked directly with Severn Trent to ensure necessary repairs to their assets are carried out and properly reinstated within the road network, helping to reduce longer-term damage and repeat disruption.

Residents are encouraged to keep reporting issues via FixMyStreet. Submitting clear photographs and accurate what3words locations helps ensure problems are logged correctly and prioritised for action.

Supporting Community Services and Wellbeing

Alongside highways, supporting key local services has remained a priority.

Winchcombe Day Centre continues to provide an essential respite service for older residents, offering social contact, activities, and vital support for carers. I was pleased to support the centre through my Grassroots Fund, awarding £2,000 to help sustain day care provision that benefits many local families.

I have also supported Winchcombe Town Football Club, which plays an important role in promoting physical health, wellbeing, and community connection. Grassroots sports clubs provide positive opportunities for people of all ages and make a significant contribution to the social life of the town.

Supporting Children and Young People – Heart Sight

During the year, I supported an application from Heart Sight, an organisation working with children in crisis, including those who are neurodivergent. Heart Sight delivers woodland-based activities that help children build confidence, develop connection, and improve wellbeing in a calm, supportive outdoor environment. Their work aligns closely with county priorities around inclusion, early intervention, and mental wellbeing.

Working with the Town Council

Throughout the year, I have continued to work constructively with Winchcombe Town Council, respond to residents' concerns, and ensure local voices inform county-level decision-making. I remain committed to clear communication, partnership working, and advocating for services and infrastructure that support Winchcombe and its residents.

With warm regards,
Cheryl

Tewkesbury Borough Councillor Report

2025/26

Winchcombe Ward
May 2025 – April 2026

As your Borough Councillors we are pleased to be able to share our annual report with you for 2025-2026.

Despite significant pressures throughout the year, Tewkesbury Borough Council has successfully maintained services, stable finances and begun preparing for significant structural reform. Looking ahead, the Council faces a period of increased uncertainty, particularly in relation to local government reorganisation and national funding changes.

During the year, as a Council we have continued to focus on delivering key priorities affecting residents and parish councils across the Borough, including flooding resilience and emergency planning, housing and homelessness pressures, environmental and waste services, economic development and financial sustainability. Work also continued on digital improvements to council services, performance monitoring and strengthening transparency and accountability through regular scrutiny, audit and governance processes. Alongside overseeing budgets, risk management and service delivery, we also continue to plan for the longer-term impact of Local Government Reorganisation and infrastructure pressures linked to growth, while continuing to support effective frontline services and partnership working across the Borough.

The borough continues to experience significant housing and population growth and as your Ward Councillors we are available to help support you with any planning or development concerns that you may experience.

We recognise the valuable work that goes on within our communities, largely by volunteers. As well as directly supporting local initiatives we work closely with Tewkesbury Borough Council's Communities Team and we have been involved in several of their initiatives this year. We have regular dialogue with Anj Patel, our area's Community and Place Development Worker about local needs and opportunities. Please do get in touch with us if we can support any community projects you are involved in, we are keen to help where we can.

A major strategic focus for the Council this year has been preparation for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This is likely to result in the creation of one or more unitary authorities, replacing the current two-tier system. Staff at the Council have been working closely with other district and county colleagues to prepare for this change and we have seen significant impacts on Senior roles and their capacities in recent months.

As a county we are due to hear from Government in July regarding the decision on what unitary model they want us to implement and the expected timeline. Until then we are sitting with significant uncertainty, Council Officers obviously more so.

Financially we are in a stable position for the short term, we have a balanced budget for the year ahead and are managing finances carefully. It's worth remembering that the Borough Council receives less than 7% of the total Council Tax bill, and while it is anticipated that the Council will cease to exist beyond April 2028 this has not yet been formally confirmed, therefore the Council must plan its medium term financial future as if it was to continue as an independent organisation.

This will also help the new unitary authority in planning for the early years of its own financial challenges. The Council has an established reserves strategy, helping to manage financial risks and maintain stability.

The Council has continued to strengthen its work on climate and environmental policy through its commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and supporting a borough-wide Climate and Ecological Emergency framework.

During the year, the Council has focused on biodiversity and nature recovery through new peat-free and pesticide-free commitments, and partnership work linked to Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Additional work has included improving sustainability within procurement and planning policy, promoting carbon literacy training for councillors and staff, and working with residents, businesses and parish councils to strengthen environmental resilience across the Borough.

It's been a privilege to serve again as your Ward Councillors this year and we look forward to another year representing you, thank you for giving us the opportunity. You can get in touch with any of us via the email addresses below.

Cllrs Gemma Madle, Jim Mason, David Gray

councillor.madle@tewkesbury.gov.uk

councillor.mason@tewkesbury.gov.uk

councillor.gray@tewkesbury.gov.uk

Reports from local groups, charities and organisations



Community Allotments and Orchard



In the last 12 months, the Winchcombe Community Allotments and Orchard have grown a lot (pun intended).

Our group of regular volunteers has expanded, with an average of 10-12 people attending most community gardening sessions. Between spring 2025 and 2026, four of those volunteers have been local teenagers taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. We've loved seeing them learn new skills, work hard and socialize with the rest of the group.

Our board has also evolved in late 2025/early 2026, with our new chair Amy now in place after Tom, one of our founders, stepped down, and two new trustees, Giles and Sarah, joining us. Having extra volunteers and trustees has made it easier to stay on top of things, grow more veg (including surplus pumpkins which were donated to the Mini VIPs Nursery) and get more projects done.

Our biggest accomplishment (quite literally) is the construction of our polytunnel which was completed in the new year. On top of allowing us to extend the growing season and to hopefully grow tomatoes, aubergines, etc. more successfully, it has become a community space for volunteers to shelter from the rain while sharing a cup of tea and a slice of cake.

Having previously had little luck when attempting to grow root vegetables directly in the clay ground, we've also built a new raised bed to grow carrots in, thus offering a more accessible option for our volunteers. We've applied for and used funding from the Tewkesbury council to invest in long/mid-handled, lighter tools, Kids forks and other pieces of equipment aiming to make gardening more accessible for everybody.

Thanks to this grant, we've also expanded our orchard by planting 5 new fruit trees on the site. The Winchcombe town council has supported us too by generously funding some of our compost, which we use to expand and care for our growing space following the no-dig principles. This gardening method avoids disrupting the soil to preserve its life in the long term. Another sustainability-driven initiative is our new wildflower meadow patch, planted to boost biodiversity and support pollinators.

As we plant the seeds that will feed our growing community in 2026, we can't help but feel proud of what we've accomplished in the 4 years since the community allotments were created, and in the last 12 months in particular.

Finally, we've reinforced our community outreach efforts last year by taking part in several local events.

We were one of the locations on the Winchcombe Green Trail and used this opportunity to promote our project.

Our trustee Sarah was one of the judges at the Winchcombe Show (where some of our veg incidentally won 1st and 2nd prizes).

We have also organised our second Wassail event: on a cold, sunny January day, Happenstance Border Morris blessed our orchard and the audience with cider, merry songs and participative dancing.



PARISH OF WINCHCOMBE REPORT JAN-DEC 25

The Church of England's Parish of Winchcombe has three churches, of which St Peter's in Gloucester St is in the Town Council's area, the others being Christ Church in Gretton and St Michael's in Stanley Pontlarge. Responsibility for St Mary's is with Sudeley Castle, but summer services continue there at 4pm on the fourth Sundays of April to September.

2025 has seen continued development of the strands of Parish work as articulated in the Parish strategy energetically driven forward by our Priest-in-Charge, the Revd Capt. David Penny.

The number and geographical spread of services with associated musical support within the Parish has been maintained with the active support of our retired clergy, Readers and volunteers. It may seem to some as an annual 'ritual' to say so, but our genuine thanks to them all and we remain very lucky to be so relatively well endowed with such pro-active people. We achieved full and well attended Easter, Advent and Christmas services in the Parish, with the strong support of our new Director of Music, James Willshire, and the choristers, as well as a number of welcomers and supervisors who made themselves available to manage the anticipated numbers of attendees at the major services. Our bells are still ringing with a new lick of paint on the frame in St Peter's and the ringers have new blood though they are not complacent regarding seeking new recruits.

Service attendance at St Peter's is steady with the hint of a growing number of younger attendees and - hooray - some younger children. St Michael's remains healthy and stable whilst Christ Church is still an area requiring some attention that is being addressed with local initiatives. St Mary's, although no longer the responsibility of the Parish, continues to have a loyal cohort for its Summer Evensong services with the added benefit of reinforcement from the transitory visitors to Sudeley Castle, and supported by some fine a cappella musicians.

The Parish remained engaged with the wider community through its involvement in the typical round of town and area events with the additional special activities of the 850th anniversary of the founding of St Michael's celebrated with a walk and highly successful concert, and the hosting of a rogation walk picnic at Christ Church. Additionally, both VE and VJ days were remembered. Despite some challenges regarding the temporary non-engagement of Encounter Church, Churches Together in Winchcombe has become more focussed this year exemplified for example by its activities at the town's Country Show and Christmas Festival.



We again, through the medium of St Peter's Centre, have been able to offer a "Warm Space" - with an associated grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council - for the town's youngsters in conjunction with the forming of our new Beacon group with the demise of WAM, and the initiation and continued development of association with both Winchcombe and Winchcombe Abbey Primary schools, including through our 'Awesome' events programme. On the younger people's front, we have seen the initiation of BLAST (Being Light and Salt Together) in the latter quarter of the year, catering for the faith development of our younger attendees to Sunday morning services at St Peter's, whilst our toddlers group continues to be well supported and welcomes new attendees for this free activity on Thursdays during the year from 10am to Midday.

The Parish was actively involved in the provision of volunteers to support other groups in the area, in the ramping up of food bank support, and with Pastoral care which has been successfully re-focussed. Socially, we have been as active as ever with a number of fundraising activities; some tried and tested, but some new ideas. In particular, we would highlight the ever-popular book fair, a hugely enjoyable fête, a very well supported Crafters' Fair, and the town Christmas Fair stall in conjunction with another well attended Christmas Tree Festival.

Finally, recognising St Peter's role in particular as a significant tourist draw, we continue as a venue to host town guided tours. Much work is done unseen to maintain our buildings and churchyards and we heartily thank the Town Council for their continued oversight of the 'closed' churchyard. We will be looking to them for funding of the refurbishment of the Northwestern facing churchyard wall in 2026 as part of an ongoing programme of care so contributing to showing a town that is looked after.

We remain a vibrant community available to all, both for pleasure and in times of personal crisis.



Mini VIPs Nursery Group 2025 - 2026

These are just a snapshot
of
some of the activities our
children
have been doing.



We are already planning their
graduation, to move onto their chosen
school and preparing the next cohort
of children to move up from Nursery to
their new Pre-school.



They settled extremely well into
their new environment, and the
families have been very
supportive of this new change to
the Mini VIP pre-school.



Our first experience using the forest area.
This is a free activity included in the
universal funding. All children participate
on Tuesdays.



Don't forget to save the date 'Sunday 15th August' where we will be holding the
summer fun day for all to attend. Time 12-3pm.

Please follow our Mini VIP's facebook page for more insights.

The Rotary Club

Winchcombe Rotary Club remains active in Winchcombe and beyond, with male and female members from the town and surrounds. Our two main aims are serving the community and having a good time.



The Club meets twice a month at the White Hart in Winchcombe; one meeting is a speaker meeting and the other a business meeting.

The Club works hard to raise money for local, national and international charities. Our major fund raiser is the Classics at Prescott weekend, and this is supplemented by other fundraising activities including bucket collections, erection of Christmas trees in the town centre, organising Santa's sleigh and a quiz night.

As well as supporting local projects, our community projects include decorating Winchcombe with Christmas trees, taking Santa on his Sleigh around the streets of Winchcombe, entertaining the children with Santa's grotto, planting crocuses as part of Purple4Polio awareness, maintaining a floral display in the planter in Abbey Terrace, food collections and fund raising for the North Cotswold Food Bank, stewarding at the annual Remembrance Service and supporting Lend with Care. We also do local litter picks.

The money we raise from our members and from the various fund-raising activities go to support our charitable donations. The Club gives priority to humanitarian needs, charitable and public organisations rather than individuals, projects where our contribution can make a significant difference, local and national/international needs with local connection and Rotary supported Charities.



We have made donations to local, national and international good causes:

- Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation to set up a Walking Cricket Team in the Winchcombe locality
- Winchcombe Scout Group to provide funding for the replacement ceiling in the Scout Hut
- Toddington Parish Council providing a pathed access to the playpark
- Winchcombe School to provide portable radio communications for the school
- Winchcombe Abbey school to provide financial support to the school to maintain full attendance on school trips
- DEC Jamaica cyclone disaster fund and to Myanmar earthquake appeals
- Open Door Cheltenham to provide socks and footwear for the homeless
- Winchcombe Town Council to upgrade and extend the Petanque Piste and provision of a picnic table
- Winchcombe Tourism to sponsor the 'Hedgehog Trail'
- A contribution to build a sanitary block in a school in rural Kenya so allowing girls and boys to receive an education and help attract and retain teachers for the school
- CASS (Cotswold Athletes Support Scheme) to support young athletes living in and around the Cotswolds
- Winchcombe Town Youth Football Club towards the purchase of a storage container
- North Cotswold Food Bank
- Winchcombe Day Care Centre to provide a defibrillator on the outside of the building

- Winchcombe Green Town project to build a Sensory Garden within the school grounds
- Party in the Park donation for skateboard tuition
- Sue Ryder Hospice to fund the purchase of a portable scanner
- Winchcombe Town Council to part fund a cycle "Pump Track" in Winchcombe Park
- Everyman Theatre schools pantomime appeal
- From the charity quizzes donations to Open Door homeless charity and the Big Space Cancer appeal at Cheltenham General Hospital. The Easter Egg competition in the local pubs and inns also raises money for our charities
- We also sponsor the Rotary Young Artist competition in Winchcombe



On the social side, members and their families meet for meals in local pubs, take part in canal trips, barbeques and take part in local skittles and boules competitions.

We work closely with the Town Council and other local organisations; we remain very grateful to the people of Winchcombe and surrounding areas for their support and encouragement.

We welcome new members from all backgrounds, both couples and singles. If you are interested in learning more about us, please look at our website on [Winchcombe Rotary Club](#)

Party in the Park Winchcombe



Participation and inclusion: Organisers estimate around 3,000 attendees in 2025, reporting that over half of Winchcombe residents attended, spanning the town's full demographic. As a free-to-attend festival it is promoted to groups who may not be able to access arts events, and adjustments have been made to help ensure people with disabilities can safely access the site.

Partners and funding: The festival has been supported financially by Winchcombe Town Council, the Rotary and Gloucestershire County Council, alongside sponsorship from local businesses. In 2025, Reform IT acted as the headline sponsor.

Community impact and feedback: Survey feedback remains strongly positive: 86% rated the event 8/10 or above; 91% felt it brought the community together; and 95% agreed it helps build confidence for young people performing on stage. Respondents also highlighted the social value of the festival (69% said it provided an opportunity to meet new people) and the importance of keeping the event free to attend (72%). One attendee summarised local feeling: "Party in the Park gets better year on year."

Looking ahead: The next festival will take place on Saturday 27 June 2026 in Winchcombe Park.

Organisers plan to add a craft village alongside returning activities and welcome the Town Council's continued support to help ensure the event goes ahead.



Winchcombe Party in the Park is a free, inclusive community festival held in Winchcombe Park, established in 2023 by Pete Sen (The Music Guru). It provides a supportive outdoor performance opportunity for young people from Winchcombe and the surrounding area, alongside carefully selected local adult bands. Volunteer-led and family-friendly, it aims to bring residents of all ages together, strengthening creativity, confidence and community spirit.

2025 event highlights: The festival took place on Saturday 28 June 2025 and benefited from excellent weather. Volunteers set up the marquee and staging, with event helpers receiving pre-event training. University of Gloucestershire students supported live-streaming, stage coordination and production, and captured film/photography and interviews with young artists.



Activities and wellbeing: New for 2025 was a wellbeing tent offering bookable sessions, alongside creative and active opportunities including graffiti art workshops, skatepark lessons and supervised lawn games for younger children. Food and drink were provided by nine local vendors, with attendees also encouraged to bring picnics.

Delivery and resourcing: The event is delivered by a committed team of local volunteers who support planning throughout the year. In 2025, 28 volunteers supported the day itself, and the planning effort is estimated at 153 hours.

Winchcombe Greening Group

Winchcombe Greening Group Annual Report 2025/26

A small group of volunteers have continued to maintain a variety of planters locally. These are located at the corner of Vineyard Street/Abbey Terrace, 3 on North Street outside the Old Police Station, 3 on the corner of Crispin Road/Greet Road and one outside the Cemetery, Greet Road.

They are replanted seasonally in autumn and late spring with winter and summer bedding plants mixed in with established planting, checked and maintained throughout the seasons.



In addition, mixed borders at Brook Close, Footbridge and 2 at the Dell, Pennylands have also continued to be looked after by volunteers.

Spring 2025 through to October 2025 was a very challenging period as the area suffered severe drought conditions. The planters were kept watered and had drought tolerant bedding planting, but the mixed borders suffered badly from zero rainfall. Perennial plants died back and will be replaced in 2026/27.

The mixed borders have now recovered after autumn to spring rain and a photo of The Dell, Pennylands border and one of the in-wall troughs located on the corner of Vineyard Street/Abbey Terrace are shown.



Winchcombe Junior Parkrun



Winchcombe junior parkrun has been operating for nearly two years now and we are heading towards our 100th parkrun. This is a free 2K run for children aged between 4-14 years. The parkrun takes place every Sunday morning at Winchcombe Park starting at 9.00 although we advise that participants arrive for about 8.50 in order that they hear the run briefing and take part in the warm-up. Finishers can earn wristbands for completing 11, 21, 50 and 100 junior parkruns. This is a great way of celebrating their achievements!

To date (30 April) we have had 525 finishers which have been supported by 167 volunteers. The average finish time is 13:56 which is great as the course is quite hilly.

We regularly attract between 20-30 young participants. There is no necessity to run the entire course, and children can walk, hop, skip, jump, meander whatever they feel like doing on the day. Parents and guardians can run with the children, and this encourages many people to take part in physical activity which they may not have considered previously. As well as the physical benefits of running, many friendships have been made as families stop in the park before and after the run.

Saddle Snacks are there on most Sundays so if people feel like lingering, they can have a breakfast bap with tea, coffee or a cold drink.



We have a fantastic core team of volunteers who turn out in all weather conditions to support the youngsters and ensure that parkrun can take place. Sometimes they even turn up in fancy dress (see photo). New volunteers are always made very welcome so if you would like to volunteer or require further information about our parkrun, please email winchcombejuniors@parkrun.com. All the tasks are quite straightforward and there are always more experienced volunteers on hand should a query arise.



Activities are always posted on our Facebook page, so we encourage people to visit this if they want to see what is going on.

Our next project is to purchase a secure, lockable container to house the parkrun equipment, and we hope that this will be in place by the end of May.

Thank you to the Town Council for donating so that this can be purchased and erected. It will make life much easier for our volunteers and will not require Steve to wheel the kit through Town every Sunday.

Just to see the children's smiling faces as they run the course and then cross the finish line makes Winchcombe junior parkrun worthwhile. It encourages them to embrace the outdoors and to enjoy physical activity without any pressure to win.



Winchcombe Rewilding Group

Winchcombe Rewilding Group Tree care team were flat out last Spring/Summer. March 2025 saw the beginning of the drought and Winchcombe Parks Trees had only been planted a few weeks previous. Watering for months on end was a slog but the hard work paid off, we only lost a handful. Well done volunteers



WRGs Wildflower Plots are increasing in plant species year on year, looks like another good show of Orchids and it's been a fabulous spring for Cowslips, especially at the Wincel Green site.



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust were hands on making a start on pruning in the Community Orchards at Pennylands. They will be back this Winter with some top tips.

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome

Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome Steering Group Report to Winchcombe Town Council, year ending May 2026.

The last year has been business as usual, promoting the town as a walking centre, providing information, improving footpaths, working with local businesses and staging our 3-day Annual Walking Festival. We have also been involved in two new ventures.

We worked with an ex-BBC presenter to produce a podcast about our walking festival, which also promotes local businesses. It can be found on our website and on Sudeley Castle's website.

We have also worked closely with Winchcombe Surgery, Tewkesbury Borough Council and the NHS Social Prescribing team to try to get more people walking to improve their physical and mental health.

This has included starting up regular three-mile easy walks around the town for groups who can venture out on their own and also 6-week courses of one-mile walks around Winchcombe Park area for patients who need support. The first course has taken place and is now being evaluated before more patients are invited on a second course.

The past year has been one of our most successful, with almost £50,000 of grants secured to resurface the riverside path, replace a rotten footbridge with a culvert, and restructure and stone the path from Castle Street into Sudeley Castle grounds. Now it is possible to walk from Corndean Lane to Gretton Road via Sudeley Castle, Broadway Road, the Dell and Winchcombe Park in all weathers on good paths.

The thing we are most proud of is our part in this project, to design and fund a beautiful gate, made by local craftsmen.

It was officially opened on 7 May 2025 by Jim Mason.



Sheila Talbot, Chair of Winchcombe Walkers are Welcome

Abbeyfields Community Centre

Unfortunately, I have to begin this year's report by paying tribute to my predecessor, John Gerrard who sadly passed away in March. From the outset, John was a driving force behind the creation of AFCC and has been a kingpin throughout the succeeding two decades. The Centre today stands as an eloquent testimony to his dedication to the community of Winchcombe. He will be much missed.



This is my second annual report as Chair of Trustees. I'm pleased to report that the Community Centre continues to be in very good shape and financially sound. As with most well-run institutions it has continued to evolve incrementally, focussing on small changes to deliver long-term improvements.

Following on from the recent investments in insulating both buildings we have invested (c. £5,000) in batteries and inverters to make use of some of the electricity generated by the solar panels on the main building. Currently, although the generation of solar energy makes a significant contribution to the centre's income (c. 20%), it only contributes to our electricity usage during hours of daylight when our usage is at its lowest. Now, having installed two 5kw batteries, we can provide more of our daily electricity without impacting negatively on our FIT (Feed-In Tariff) income.

Last year we indicated our plans to install solar panels and batteries on our second range of buildings; this will require the acquisition of grant funding and will be, inevitably, a longer-term project towards reducing our reliance on the National Grid. The Project 'Underground in The Cotswolds' has been given planning approval but we have to await the physical start of the project in order to submit our bid to the National Grid's Community Fund. As part of our preparation for this bid we commissioned an energy efficiency report from Utility Aid and we will use this in support of our bid. The latest indication is that OFGEM has questioned this project which might not now happen. In that case we will need to look elsewhere for grant funding.

One of our user groups raised the issue of alarm provision for the centre's disabled toilets. Although it was not a requirement when the toilets were first put in, we felt that it was important to bring our facilities up to the current expected standards, so the disabled toilets in both buildings now have disabled alarms fitted.

When we had our PAT testing carried out the question of EICR compliance was raised. We could find no evidence of a previous EICR inspection so we have now commissioned this and we're in the process of having all the recommendations carried out to ensure full compliance.

We have continued with our rolling programme of decorative improvements, most notably the repair and redecoration of the entrance to the Town Council building and the redecoration of our Meeting Room which has now been equipped as a multi-purpose room for card and board games as well as a flexible meeting space. The former Tewkesbury Borough has been vacated and has been cleared of furniture. This room has now been designated the Meeting Room. We are currently redecorating the former Police Point which has now been vacated. Even with the reconfiguration of our available accommodation we have experienced a reduction in our annual rental income, largely because of the withdrawal of the Police presence on the site. After exploring alternative uses for the former Police Point, we are now in the process of converting it into an administrative office and archive for the Centre.

There have been occasional occurrences of cars ‘bumping’ into the ‘safety railings’ which were originally installed to aid disabled access to the centre. Having reviewed the facilities in relation to disabled provision in consultation with the Town Council we have selectively removed some of the railings, making good the various sites and ensuring that low-level ramps are appropriately white-marked for the safety of pedestrians and car drivers. The changes have also improved the visual impact of the site.

Although we have a good ‘slate’ of local specialists and tradesmen to carry out regular repairs and improvements, we struggle in the area of plastering and the maintenance of audiovisual facilities. For over a year we have tried unsuccessfully to find someone to repair the render above one of the windows in Langley; every approach points us back to two people who have already turned us down. We are still seeking to have this work done.

Room hire charges at the centre have remained unchanged for a number of years, and we were able to absorb the effects of the Covid-19 epidemic and the ballooning of energy prices without increasing our charges. In the autumn we felt that an average 10% rise would be required to ensure that our accounts remain in good balance. However, in recent months there have been steady increases in room rentals so we have decided to hold the prices for another year. Abbeyfields Community Centre represents outstanding value when compared with other comparable facilities in the area.

Paul Clark
Chair of
Trustees
May 2026



Winchcombe Town Trust

Registered Charity 1173052

A Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year:

Mr. D.M.F Dufton – resigned 20 January 2026
Mr. P. Hazel - Chair
Mr. A Herod
Mr. A. Robinson
Mr. V. Royle
Mr. A.B. Thomas
Mr. R Wakeford
Mr R Wilcock



The Trust continues to seek more trustees and volunteers to join the team. Trustees are elected by resolution of the Trust and serve for an initial period of 5 years, renewable once.

There is a separate dedicated Museum Committee, which focusses on the daily operation of the Winchcombe Museum, engaging with a dedicated group of hard-working volunteers without whom the Museum would not be able to operate.

B Activities in 2025

The year saw a number of successful exhibitions at the Museum. The year started with photographs of the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Steam Railway followed by the Audrey Hammond art exhibition. Then followed the Winchcombe at War exhibition held in collaboration with nearby Sudeley Castle. We were then delighted to have on short term loan, the Winchcombe Hoard from The Wilson Museum in Cheltenham.

The Trust has been successful in attracting a few new museum volunteers during the year, but more new helpers will be much appreciated.

The Undercroft retail outlet, operated under licence by the owners of two complimentary local businesses, had a reasonably successful year and continue to operate into the current year.

Expenditure on the building during the year principally related to the flooring of the attic to provide more accessible storage space rather than needing to use external storage facilities. Funds were also spent on upgrading the storage heaters in the Museum making it a more pleasant working environment for the volunteers and of course for visitors.

The Trust has continued with its popular series of monthly talks about local history and the Museum collection during the winter months.

During the last quarter of the year, led by an external consultant, the entire team of Trustees and volunteers were involved in the development of an Audience Development Plan. The objective was to clearly identify the various communities that the Museum should focus on in the future so that they had a better understanding of the rich history of Winchcombe and the surrounding area. The plan was successfully completed by the end of the year with clear goals and objectives being identified.

Measurement of activity

The principal criterion being used to measure the growth of the Museum is visitor numbers. During the year 5285 people visited the Museum compared to 7254 in the previous year. While the reduction in visitor numbers is disappointing the Trustees believe it represents the general downward trend experienced by similar organisations where the overall good weather experienced during the summer months encouraged people to remain outdoors.

C Finance

The Trust financial position continues to require careful management as the Trust has very limited resources of its own for financing major projects and operating the Museum.

D Volunteers

The volunteers are an indispensable element in the functioning of the Trust and the Museum. Volunteers are the principal source of Trustees and also those people who maintain the building and Museum.

They provide the essential resource to operate the Museum during opening hours and importantly help educate visitors about the wide range of fascinating exhibits to be found at the Museum.

The vast majority of such volunteers are based in Winchcombe. Where more specialist skills are required, the Trust has been fortunate to find individuals who have been able to help with major projects.

E Future Plans

Following the success of the exhibitions held in 2025 more will be organised in the current year, including a major exhibition celebrating the 100th anniversary of the famous Winchcombe Pottery, with more to come in the following years.

The completion of the recent Audience Development Plan project has clearly identified the various communities that the Museum needs to address. The initial part of the project implementation will focus on redesigning the current Meteorite Room to become a Special Exhibitions Room. At the time of writing various options are being explored and it is hoped that future exhibitions can be housed in the new room from the mid-year onwards. It is anticipated that the costs will be covered from within the Development Fund.

Longer term proposals for the Museum will be developed in the months to come and will be subject to grant funding.

Paul Hazel
Chairman 16 February 2026



Wincombe Green Town

Wincombe Green Town (WGT) is a registered charity supporting environmental sustainability, biodiversity, and community climate action across Wincombe and the surrounding area.

Since 2022, the organisation has delivered a wide range of practical projects and public events in partnership with local schools, councils, charities, and community groups.

A major focus has been work with Wincombe School.

WGT has helped develop a sensory garden providing an outdoor wellbeing and learning space for pupils and staff, including planting fruit trees and hedging, creating raised beds, and establishing a reflection area. The charity supported the school's Eco Team in achieving Green Flag awards in both 2023 and 2024.

WGT promotes waste reduction and reuse through seasonal pop-up clothes shops, helping reduce textile waste sent to landfill, and through a twice-monthly Toy Library at Wincombe Library, which encourages sharing and reuse while supporting young families.

The organisation has undertaken a number of biodiversity and conservation initiatives. Volunteers helped plant 1,400 hedge trees at Mount View Natural Cemetery in 2026 and have supported tree planting projects at several locations around the town, including recreation grounds, housing developments, and public green spaces. WGT also organises an annual Midsummer Garden Trail, supported by Wincombe Town Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council, promoting wildlife-friendly gardening and nature awareness through activities for children and talks from expert speakers.

In partnership with SafeAvon Trust and with support from Wincombe Town Council, volunteers are monitoring the health of the River Isbourne and helping residents understand the connection between gardens, water quality, and the local environment. WGT has also supported local wildlife campaigns focused on hedgehogs and swifts.

The charity encourages greener living through workshops on insulation, solar panels, and battery storage, helping residents better understand renewable energy options for their homes. WGT also promotes ethical banking and has moved its own accounts to the Cooperative Bank.

Community education remains central to the charity's work. WGT has hosted talks by speakers including Adam Henson on sustainable farming and Jonathan Porritt on climate issues. Other activities include a Green Book Club, community litter picks in partnership with local groups, and film screenings exploring environmental themes.

Wincombe Green Town continues to support practical local environmental action through education, conservation, waste reduction, and community engagement, and values its ongoing collaboration with Wincombe Town Council and other local partners.



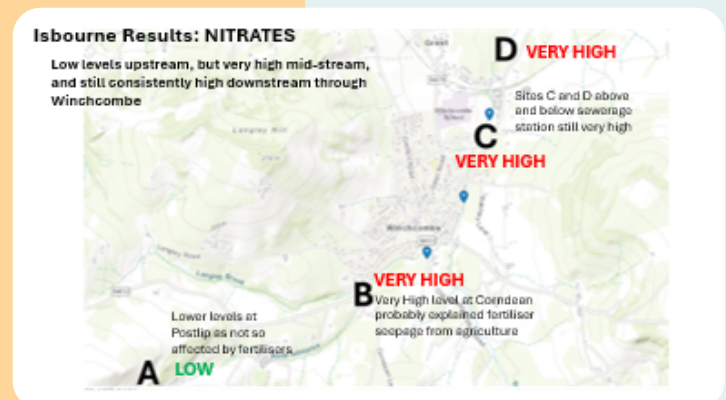
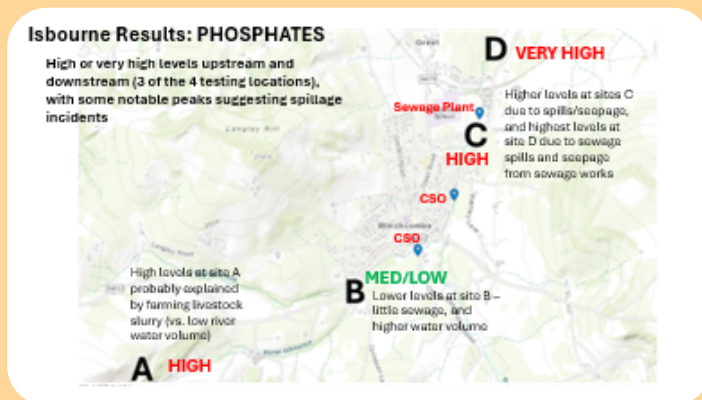
Safe Avon

ISBOURNE RIVER WATER QUALITY TESTING - STATUS UPDATE (11 MAY 2026)

Based on local river observations, as well as national and regional concerns about river water quality, Winchcombe Green Town was keen to ascertain what the water quality of the River Isbourne is running through Winchcombe, concerned that it might not be as clean as it should be. There is also alarming specific data from Severn Trent regarding recorded sewage spills.

So, in April 2025, a small team of 10 local volunteers started to test the water regularly (weekly) at 4 locations, using recognised equipment provided by “Safe Avon”, and funded by the Winchcombe Town Council - we are very grateful for this funding support of this scientific measurement exercise.

This is quite a big effort as each test takes approx. 30 mins. But having now completed 12 months of testing (over 200 tests), the results are extremely worrying. The levels of nitrates and phosphates are high or very high:



This significantly impacts biodiversity across the natural ecosystem - high nutrient levels in low nutrient environment causes proliferation of invasive species (e.g. algae) which over-dominate resulting in species diversity loss.

What can Winchcombe Town Council do to help improve the quality of the river water? Not a lot directly; but on behalf of our community the Town Council can bring these disturbing results to the bodies whose job it is to regulate those who pollute our river.

The Town Council has agreed to use the evidence prepared by the Winchcombe Green Town volunteers to petition the Environment Agency, and Severn Trent Water for action to be taken against those responsible for water pollution. Specifically:

- investigating the extent that pollution is being caused by excessive use of agricultural fertilisers on farmland upstream of our town; and

- asking the Environment Agency to investigate the extent that our town might have high levels of spillages, or perhaps under-monitoring of performance and spillages of sewage

Win Green Town welcomes the decision of the Town Council also to raise this serious situation to Cameron Thomas MP, and at the same time call on the Environment Agency for action to deliver the cleaner river our town deserves.

Meanwhile, the river testing volunteer Team will continue to test through to April 2027 and accumulate more data in support of these petitions for investigation and inspection/regulation.

Win Green Town is grateful for the full support that Winchcombe Town Council has backed this science-based action to clean up the river running through our town, as well as affecting all the communities downstream on the Isbourne, where the river pollution we are measuring flows on to other communities too.

Isbourne Arts

A thriving community venue in its second year of opening

Isbourne Arts opened in August 2024 and in less than two years has staged over 80 shows, hosted monthly markets, provided a hub for community initiatives and welcomed people in to commemorate and celebrate. And for those keen to participate, there's a growing programme of creative workshops and courses for all ages. Nearly 4,000 people have attended ticketed events, 750 have attended fundraisers, and over 2,000 have attended free entry events.



A community-led project

Isbourne Arts' creation was driven by community inspiration and support; the project's development, realisation and operation are all the result of community expertise and commitment. A registered charity and company limited by guarantee, Isbourne Arts' four trustees/directors are supported by teams of volunteers who provide for all the day to day needs of the operation.

Building on a unique venue

Converted from Winchcombe's former Methodist church, a combination of government, charitable and community funds backed the purchase and renewal of the building and the conversion of the Main Auditorium, with capital funds raised to date now exceeding £720,000. Since then, additional government funding has provided excellent sound, lighting, solar panels, and a generous donation enabled the purchase of a long throw projector, enabling screening of National Theatre Live and film since October 2025.

A new Studio space, funded by Enover Community Trust, Winchcombe Town Council and a generous donor, will open in summer 2026, expanding opportunities for workshops, exhibitions and small-scale events.

Programme growth

Since opening, activity has developed rapidly:

- 2024/25: opening programme including monthly markets, music events and drama from the Winchcombe Players, most notably the town's first pantomime in 30 years
- 2025/26: expanded programme with a live event most weekends, NT Live screenings from October, and programmes of participatory arts activities for older people and for young people, both funded by Gloucestershire County Council
- Participant feedback from participatory arts activities highlights strong personal impact, including increased confidence, creativity and social connection, and reflects the wider wellbeing value of the work. One participant described it as a brilliant outlet during a period of personal loss.

Financial position and outlook

Financially, Isbourne Arts operational performance has so far met the income targets set out in its business plan, and overheads have proved to be somewhat lower than expected, resulting in a modest surplus. This provides reserves sufficient to cover costs for a reasonable period.

While overall engagement remains strong, there has been some evidence of a lower level of demand for tickets in 2025/26, likely to be mainly the result of the increased level of programming and the waning of the honeymoon period that all venues benefit from when they first open.

Accordingly, growing and diversifying our audience reach is a key goal for 2026/27. We will achieve this through a combination of more targeted print distribution and by expanding our social media activity, alongside more market research to better understand the cultural and creative interests of our audiences and potential audiences to inform programming decisions.

We are also seeing increasing numbers of requests to hire for private events, including parties, wedding celebrations and celebrations of life, which offers a positive opportunity for diversification.

Looking ahead

The Studio will provide new opportunities for small-scale events, exhibitions, participatory arts activities and community-led initiatives. The works are creating a space that is very versatile, offering a wide range of programming opportunities. Its adjacency to the large fully fitted kitchen provides the potential for some catering of events. If this proves to be a success, we will consider acquiring a licence for civil marriages and civil partnerships for future years; one of Isbourne Arts' trustees is a Registrar. Isbourne Arts remains proud of what has been achieved in a short time and grateful for the continued support of Winchcombe Town Council as we move into our next phase of development.

1st Winchcombe Scouts



Winchcombe Scout Group was formed originally in 1908 - one year after Lord Baden-Powell's famous initial camp-out on Brownsea Island - and is, consequently, one of the oldest scout groups in the world!!

Nowadays, Winchcombe Scout Group is made up of nearly 60 young people from Winchcombe and surrounding villages split between Beavers (6-8 years old), Cubs (8-10) and Scouts (10-14). The sections are run by 9 uniformed volunteers who are selected and trained by the Scout Association and the group in general is supported by a trustee board of 8 volunteers from the community who oversee and guide the activities.

The aim of the group is to give all our young people skills for life and experiences that complement their school education but also give them a sense of adventure as well as community spirit. Activities include camping, cooking, hiking, pioneering, boating, climbing, crafts - all the traditional things that are associated with scouts. In addition, the scouts like to help in the community by leading the Remembrance Day parade, carol singing, gardening for older people.

This year we were very grateful to receive a grant from Winchcombe Town Council towards a major refurbishment for the Scout hut roof and ceiling. The WTC grant paid for all new guttering and soffit boards which has tremendously enhanced our wet weather resilience!!! We also received substantial grants from the Winchcombe Rotary Club, Bernard Sunley Foundation, Ecovert, Dent-Brocklehurst Foundation, Winchcombe Country Show, Winchcombe Working Men's Club, Hollingsworth & Vose to enable us to completely replace the aging ceiling and make the hut much more usable in colder months.

Mark Tonkin

Group Scout Leader
1st Winchcombe Scouts

Before



After

