



# Oundle Town Council

Fletton House, Fletton Way, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4JA

**Tel:** 01832 272055 **Website:** [oundle.gov.uk](http://oundle.gov.uk)

**Email:** [admin@oundle.gov.uk](mailto:admin@oundle.gov.uk)

## Grants to Oundle Primary and Prince William

In light of the “unprecedented” nature of the third lockdown, OTC was delighted to follow the examples of two of our District Councillors in making important emergency grants to Oundle Primary and Prince William Schools – funds that are desperately needed for the purchase of laptops for pupils who are distance learning again. Councillor Jake Vowles and Councillor Phil Stearn committed £3,000 each, and OTC matched both grants. Councillor Reichhold made his grant to Volunteer Action, based at Fletton House, whose response to the pandemic has been remarkable and vital for so many. We hope this redistribution of funds will help fill gaps in local services and will keep a watchful eye and ear for others as 2021 carries on.

## Council Tax

As you may recall from an Advertiser a couple of months ago, OTC is holding its precept fixed for 2021-22. We understand the financial pressures of the pandemic and wanted that to be understood as the new North Northants Council is formed. To this effect, your Mayor wrote this letter on Oundle’s behalf to the Shadow body that will become North Northamptonshire on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. We hope the message has been heard, but won’t hold out our breath.

***“With reference to the NCC Draft Budget, which proposes to increase Council Taxes, Oundle Town Council are concerned about the impact on our lower income residents. Over the past 12 months many have suffered with redundancy, reduced contract hours and reduced income through the furlough schemes. Added to this burden, we believe that as ex-East Northamptonshire residents will be hit by a higher than average percentage rise.*”**

***At Oundle Town Council we have postponed discretionary spending programmes and agreed a zero precept rise for 2021-22. We would like NCC to take a similar approach in these exceptional times, i.e. set a zero council tax rise for all residents, and postpone discretionary programmes to meet that budget. We are mindful that one of the benefits of a Unitary authority was to reduce costs not increase them.*”**

***With our best regards***

***Tony Robinson***

***Mayor etc***

***On behalf of Oundle Town Council”***

## Wildflower Wardens

OTC is keen to adopt a long term wildflower strategy around the town, and as such would like to take some early steps on 4 pieces of our own land –

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Creed Road</b>  | <b>St Christopher's Drive</b> |
| <b>Culme Close</b> | <b>The Rec</b>                |

We're keen to hear from anyone who would be willing to join our band of "Wildflower Wardens" for these pieces of land, helping oversee the first seed sowing, and helping us grow (excuse the pun) and develop each site and others around Oundle, in partnership with the Blooming Oundle project amongst others. Time is against us for this spring and summer, so do please get in contact with the Council offices as soon as possible.

## Please Keep Oundle Tidy

Please use the litter and dog poo bins to keep Oundle tidy. East Northamptonshire Council (ENC) are responsible for emptying most of the litter and dog poo bins so if you see one that needs emptying you can report it to them on **01832 742000** or online at <https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/xfp/forms>.

**This will change when North Northants Council takes over from Northamptonshire County Council and ENC on April 1st and we'll post details about the changes on our website and in the Oundle Advertiser.**

## ENC's development plan for Oundle

### Is this what Oundle needs?

Consultation now open online - **Ends 4:00pm 19th March 2021**

Our town's future is laid out in the East Northamptonshire Local Plan 2. The Oundle content of this plan is very different to what the town asked for in the various representations over the past 3 years.

Please see the links on the Oundle Town Council (OTC) web site OR search "**enc local plan 2 consultation**" and go to the link on the second section. There is a huge amount to read.

Although the process says that the plan is out for consultation, there is only a very limited remit of what can be raised in this consultation. It is only possible to comment on whether ENC's Plan is –

|                     |           |           |                                 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Positively prepared | Justified | Effective | Consistent with national policy |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|

Effectively you are being asked if you believe that the viable alternatives have been considered fairly. OTC do not believe that they have and will be preparing an evidence-based document to submit on the town's behalf in March (which we will publish on our site/social media feeds on March 17<sup>th</sup>).

If in the meantime, you want to have your say, then please do have a look at the whole plan the ENC site (link on the OTC site) or contact your ENC Councillor who are all on Oundle's side. **AND VERY IMPORTANTLY** "...unredacted copies of all representations will also be submitted to the Secretary of State with this Plan."

## **OUNDLE TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS – HAVE YOUR SAY**

At the Full Council meeting on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, we decided -

- to allocate £90,000 in S106 funding for the cycleway on Glapthorn Road
- to get an outside contractor to cut the cemetery grass this year, at significant additional cost. It's an important amenity for Oundle, a town that has little green space.
- how best to challenge sections of the ENC Local Plan and how we might develop housing in Oundle

### **Did we make the right decisions?**

Do you get annoyed by dog poo and litter around the town? How can we best turn the shift to the unitary "North Northants Council" to Oundle's advantage?

**NOW IS YOUR CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.** After elections were put on hold due to COVID-19 last year, they are certainly going ahead this May.

Oundle Town Council has 14 seats but not all are filled right now – which might mean there is no need for election in May. **WE NEED FRESH FACES AND NEW IDEAS** so need more people to stand, ideally to a competitive election.

**PLEASE CONSIDER STANDING** – contact a Town Councillor, or Emma, the Town Council Clerk, for more information.

It is all about public service – we're all volunteers who give up 2-3 evenings most months to help the upper levels of local government help Oundle.

Oundle is a great place to live, but it is changing. Help shape that change and stand to become a councillor. Nominations must be in to Elections Team at Thrapston Council offices by 4pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April.