

## Finance and Scrutiny Report 2014 - 2015.

Our Council Tax amount for this year was £248,611 and once again this allowed us to invest in Tetbury.

The objective behind our Budget is to provide support for our community both in monetary support terms and by funding physical maintenance and improvement to those town assets for which we are responsible.

How successful were we in doing this?

We made grants totalling £18,000 to local organisations, so that they could continue their important community work. Organisations such as the Dolphins Hall Trust, the Youth Pod, St Mary's School, Tetbury Guides, The Monday Club and Tetbury Cricket Club benefited from our funding so that they in turn could invest in their activities for the community. Tetbury in Bloom and Christmas In Tetbury also received grant funding from us.

We are responsible for a number of 'Green Spaces' around the town and we employed an additional gardener in the summer months to cope with the high level of work required. This allowed us to maintain these areas to a good standard. We also carried out a number of emergency tree works in various areas where trees had fallen or were deemed to be dangerous.

In order to develop the Goods Shed into a worthwhile community asset, we obtained Planning Permission for its development and set aside £50,000 from our reserves to get things off the ground. We also have been successful in obtaining money from developers in and around the town to fund this work.

For the first time in many years we have set aside funds from reserves to maintain and improve our Council Offices and an ongoing programme of works has been put together to protect the building from undue wear and tear. All the urgent work has been completed including an unplanned roof repair over the Council Chamber where a large hole exposed the building to the elements.

The economy of the town centre is important to us and this year we provided £12000 to both fund our TIC and promote the town as a tourist attraction in order to maintain employment in the shops and hotels in and around the town.

Our reserves hold funds for future developments of Burial Grounds in the town as well as Allotments, identification of suitable land where development is possible is proving difficult despite us having the funding to proceed.

Our reserves remain healthy and with prudent spending we can continue to invest in our town and its people.