



Tetbury
Town Council

Annual Report 2025-26

Serving Our Community



Message from the Mayor

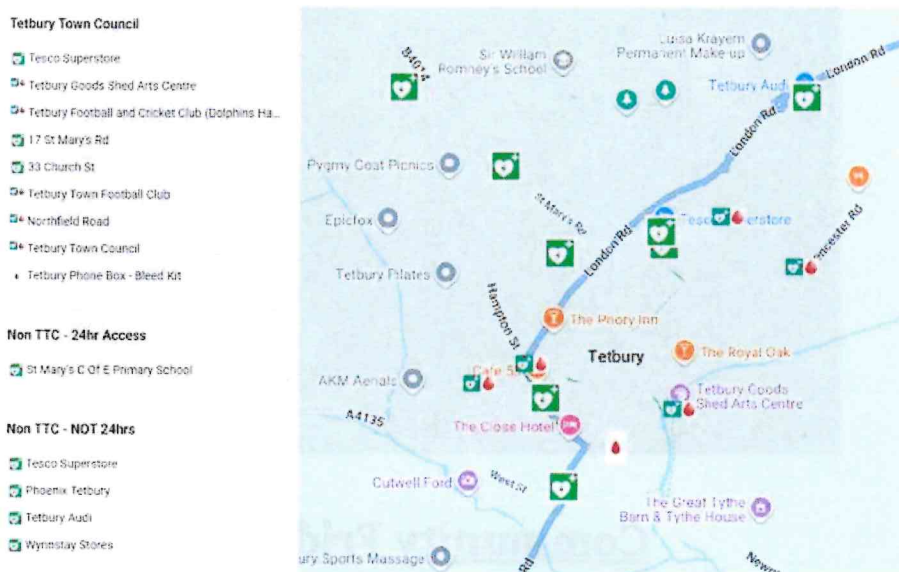


Tetbury
Town Council

It has been a pleasure to serve the people of Tetbury as mayor this year and to be a part of many of the fantastic community events, activities and schemes that are run in our town.

Bleed Kits

Through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), Tetbury Town Council has purchased 9 bleed kits that can be found next to all the defibrillators shown on the map below as well as at the top of Gumstool Hill. Bleed kits are designed to provide immediate assistance in the event of a major bleed or trauma, helping to save lives while waiting for the emergency services.



Christmas Switch-On Event

I was proud to represent the town at this year's Christmas Switch-On event. Although the weather took a turn for the worse, it was wonderful to see many residents enjoy the evening.

Christmas Tree Festival

It was a privilege to take part in the Christmas Tree Festival, a cherished tradition that brings together local groups, schools, charities, and businesses in a creative and uplifting display. Each tree told its own story, and together they created a wonderful celebration of the season.

Christmas Lunches

We are immensely proud to provide Christmas Day lunches to our residents through our Christmas Day initiative. This project ensures that no one in our community feels alone or unsupported during the festive season. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, partners, Councillors, Officers, Tetbury Woolsack Races, The Close Hotel, Calcot & Spa and TAYCT, we were able to offer a warm meal and a sense of belonging to those who needed it most. It stands as a powerful reminder of the compassion and unity that define Tetbury



Community Fridge

We are grateful to the various supermarkets and local businesses who continue to support our Community Fridge with generous donations. Their ongoing contributions help ensure that good, nutritious food is available to everyone.

The Community Fridge is open daily and accessible to all residents, offering a welcoming space where people can collect food items at no cost. It is located behind the Town Council offices.

Councillor Steve Scott
Mayor of Tetbury

Finance & Scrutiny

Precept 2025/2026: £484,669.00

Band D Council Tax: £176.00

Percentage increase in Band D Council Tax: 10%

The Finance & Scrutiny Committee which consists of 9 members has focused this year on strengthening financial oversight and improving transparency. Through regular monitoring, the Committee has supported sound financial management and contributed to more robust governance.

The Committee are looking at investing into different bank providers which will achieve a higher return than we currently receive with our existing bank.

Three times a year our accounts are thoroughly checked by an internal auditor. In 2025-2026 our income totalled £561,868 and our expenditure £511,658

Tetbury Town Council received £42,242 this year from Community Infrastructure Levy. The Council resolved to purchased 9 bleed kits at a total cost of £2,221.80 these have been installed alongside the existing defibrillators in and around the town and at the top of Gumstool Hill.

The Council have also resolved to spend £20,000 of the Community Infrastructure Levy to refurbish the Town Council's play area at Suffolk Close/Cheviot Close.

The Finance & Scrutiny Committee has provided rigorous oversight and constructive challenge throughout the year. The Committee is confident that the Town Council's financial position remains stable and that governance arrangements continue to strengthen.

Heritage, Environment & Community



The Heritage, Environment & Community Committee has continued its work this year to protect Tetbury's historic character, enhance its natural environment, and strengthen the sense of community that makes the town such a vibrant place to live, work, and visit. Throughout the year, the committee has been committed to supporting heritage initiatives, maintaining and improving public spaces, and delivering events and projects that bring the community together.

Heritage has remained a particular focus, with ongoing work to recognise and promote the historical importance of Bath Bridge.

This project reflects the committee's dedication to preserving Tetbury's unique identity and ensuring that its heritage continues to be acknowledged and protected. The committee also supported key commemorative events, including the VE Day celebration, during which the beacon was lit as a powerful symbol of remembrance and unity.

Environmental stewardship has also played an important role this year, with continued care for Tetbury's green spaces, planting schemes, and biodiversity efforts. Regular community litter picks took place with the help of dedicated volunteers and residents, contributing to a cleaner and more welcoming town. Planning has begun for the rejuvenation of the TTC Play Park, scheduled for summer 2026. This project marks an exciting long-term investment in community wellbeing and outdoor space.

The committee has also worked hard to support and nurture community activities and events. The Christmas Switch-On once again proved to be a highlight of the year, despite the weather it created a festive atmosphere throughout the town.

The Christmas Business Windows initiative was particularly successful, with retailers embracing the opportunity to decorate their shopfronts and help bring the high street to life during the season. Engagement with local businesses continued beyond the festive period, ensuring their perspectives and priorities remain central to the committee's work.

Once again, the HEC committee supported the Christmas Day Dinner Initiative, ensuring that residents who might otherwise find themselves alone on Christmas Day were able to enjoy a warm, festive meal. With sincere thanks to the continued support of the Tetbury Woolsack Committee, The Close Hotel, and Calcot Manor, Tetbury Town Council was able to provide Christmas dinners on the day.

This year, the initiative was further enhanced by a generous donation of heated blankets, gifted by the Tetbury Area Youth and Community Trust via Age UK Gloucestershire, which were warmly received and greatly appreciated by recipients. The success of the initiative was also due to the exceptional number of volunteers who gave their time – the largest volunteer turnout seen in the past five years. Without the commitment, generosity, and goodwill of these individuals and partner organisations, this valued community initiative would not have been possible. If you would like to be involved in 2026 Christmas plans, please email eo@tetbury.gov.uk

This year also saw the delivery of the Inspirational Awards 2025, an event that celebrated the remarkable individuals, volunteers, groups, and businesses who contribute so much to Tetbury's community life.

The event was warmly received and highlighted the dedication, kindness, and creativity found across the town. Planning for the next Inspirational Awards, due to take place in 2027, will begin in the coming year to ensure another meaningful and uplifting celebration.

The Heritage, Environment & Community (HEC) Committee can also assist community organisations through grant funding. Grant applications of £500 or under may be made directly to the HEC Committee in June and September. Applications over £500 should be submitted to the Finance & Scrutiny Committee for consideration and, if supported, will then be referred directly to the HEC Committee. Organisations wishing to make an application are invited to email eo@tetbury.gov.uk for further information.

There is funding available from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) through Tetbury Town Council. Organisations are invited to contact Councillors directly or the Chief Executive Officer for consideration at Full Council.

None of the committee's achievements would be possible without the collaboration of councillors, volunteers, local groups, businesses, and residents. Their dedication and involvement have been essential to every project undertaken throughout the year.

The committee remains committed to building on these partnerships, continuing its work to preserve Tetbury's heritage, care for its environment, and support its thriving community.

Cllr Zowie Baker

Chair of Heritage, Environment and Community Committee.

Planning



In the last year, the Planning Committee considered 68 applications.

These ranged from tree preservation orders (18), listed building consent (8), full planning applications (39), variations of premises' licencing hours (1) and street advert applications (1).

Tetbury Town Council Planning Committee does not determine the outcome of planning applications, but provides feedback to the decision makers, Cotswold District Council.

It is very important for residents to realise planning permission has to be sought on all the different types of application identified above. Much of Tetbury lies in a conservation area where planning permission must be obtained before cutting back or chopping down trees. There is an expectation that if a tree is chopped down, another will be planted to replace it.

There is also an expectation that changes to premises will embrace actions to reduce the property's carbon footprint, for example: by fitting double or triple glazing, fitting solar panels, replacing gas boilers with heat pumps and ensuring the property is well insulated.

Chair of Planning

Visit Tetbury Report

Visit **Tetbury**

The past year has been one of significant progress and development for the Tetbury Visitor Information Centre, marked by renewed energy, a stronger presence in the town, and continued dedication to supporting both visitors and the local community. One of the most notable achievements has been our successful move into the Town Council building. This transition has strengthened our visibility, improved accessibility for visitors, and brought us closer to the heart of council activity. Being located within the same building has helped us work more efficiently, collaborate more closely with colleagues, and provide an even warmer welcome to those exploring Tetbury.

We were also extremely proud to be awarded Bronze in the Bath, Bristol including Gloucestershire Tourism Awards. This recognition reflects the hard work, professionalism, and passion of the team, as well as Tetbury's enduring appeal as a destination. It acknowledges not only how we support visitors but also the commitment we show to promoting Tetbury's unique character, heritage, and independent businesses.

In addition to assisting tourists, we continue to provide an essential service for residents. Many rely on the Visitor Information Centre for up-to-date bus timetables, transport information, and general community guidance. By offering reliable and friendly support to those living in Tetbury, we help ensure that the Centre remains a valued resource for everyone—not just visitors. This community-focused approach is an important part of our role and something we remain committed to delivering every day.

Throughout the year, we have continued to develop new and creative ways to keep Tetbury at the forefront as a destination of choice. From enhancing our digital presence to supporting high street businesses and providing up-to-date information, our focus has remained on ensuring that visitors enjoy a memorable and positive experience. The charm of Tetbury, combined with its thriving community and rich history, makes our work both meaningful and rewarding.

Thanks to Matthew and Sue for their continued dedication and outstanding service. Their knowledge, warmth, and commitment make a tremendous difference to everyone who steps through the door, and we are grateful for the energy and care they bring to their roles each day.

As we look ahead, we are excited for a busy and vibrant summer season. With our new location well established, increasing visitor engagement, and a calendar full of local events and attractions, the coming year promises to be one of further growth and opportunity.

The Tetbury Visitor Information Centre remains committed to providing exceptional service and championing everything that makes Tetbury such a special place to visit.

Visitor Information Supervisor
Victoria Bolwell

Grounds Team Report

Grounds Maintenance

The grounds team consists of 4 members who work tirelessly throughout the year. During the summer months, the team operates on a six-week rota, delivering continuous upkeep on various areas of open spaces.

In addition to managing the open spaces and verges owned by Tetbury Town Council, the team also supports Gloucestershire County Council Highways and several housing associations, assisting with their maintenance of roadside verges and communal areas. This collaborative approach helps maintain high standards across the town and strengthens our partnerships.

Over the season we have been concentrating on maintaining Cookspool, this area has seen significant change as several trees had to be removed due to ash dieback.

We have been assisting Tetbury in Bloom with large shrub planting in various locations.

We have carried out fence maintenance from Wiltshire Bridge to the Goods Shed, Webb Road play area fence repair and further fence maintenance will be carried out within these areas over the coming months.

- Will be carrying out playground maintenance following the RoSPA report which will be received later in the year.
- Trimming vegetation along Love Lane, tree maintenance will take place after the nesting season.
- Sowing wildflowers and planting winter and summer bulbs in various locations.



Highways Working Group Report

The Tetbury Highways Working Group continues to play an important role in addressing traffic, road safety, and highways issues affecting the town. The Group provides a valuable forum for councillors and residents to raise concerns, share local knowledge, and discuss practical solutions that improve safety, accessibility, and movement throughout Tetbury.

Throughout the year, the Group has supported Community Lorry Watch and Community Speed Watch initiatives, both of which rely heavily on the commitment and dedication of local volunteers. Lorry Watch helps to monitor unsuitable heavy vehicles passing through the town centre, contributing to reduced congestion and protecting Tetbury's historic streets and buildings. Speed Watch raises awareness of speeding, encourages more responsible driving behaviour, and supports efforts to make roads safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and residents.

The Working Group has also supported and worked alongside the Twenty's Plenty campaign, recognising the importance of lower speed limits in residential and high-footfall areas. The Group acknowledges that reduced speeds can improve road safety, lower noise levels, and help create a more people-friendly environment for those who live, work, and visit the town.

Members of the Highways Working Group are central to its success. Their dedication, local insight, and willingness to give their time voluntarily ensure that highways matters are well-informed, evidence-based, and reflective of community concerns. Members play a key role in identifying issues, gathering information, and feeding local views into the Council's decision-making process.

The Group reports bi-monthly to the Heritage, Environment & Community Committee, ensuring that highways matters are fully considered within the Council's wider work on heritage protection, environmental responsibility, and community wellbeing.

Tetbury Town Council thanks all members and volunteers for their continued hard work, commitment, and positive contribution to the town.

If you would like to join this group as a volunteer, please email reception@tetbury.gov.uk

Highways Working Group
Cllr Zowie Baker
Chair