



ANNUAL 2025-26 REPORT



#LoveThatcham

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YEAR AT A GLANCE

- Thousands of residents attended major events including Family Fun Day, Thatcham Festival and Remembrance Sunday
- Continued investment in community facilities, open spaces, and town assets
- Successful delivery of themed markets, expanding the town centre offer
- Ongoing support for local charities, organisations and voluntary groups
- Strengthened partnerships with West Berkshire Council and community organisations
- Progression of major projects including the Climate Action Plan and youth provision strategy

Community & Engagement

- 11,000+ households reached through the Town Council newsletter
- 4,552 Facebook followers and over 2 million views across the year
- 534 e-newsletter subscribers
- 11 councillor surgeries held

Events & Participation

- 2,000+ attendees at Remembrance Sunday
- Thousands attended Family Fun Day and KidsFest
- 10-day Thatcham Festival programme delivered
- Multiple themed markets held throughout the year

Community Support

- £1.45 million total council budget
- Over £5,000 awarded to Citizens Advice West Berkshire
- £2,500 awarded to West Berkshire Food Bank
- Dozens of grants awarded to local groups and organisations
- £7,900+ in in-kind support provided to community initiatives

Places & Facilities

- 12 Town Council-managed children's play areas across the town
- 180 allotment tenants supported
- 46 burials and 30 memorial applications managed
- Community halls hosting a wide range of weekly activities

Looking Ahead to 2026/27

- Expanding themed markets and cultural events
- Developing a town-wide Youth Strategy
- Delivering actions from the Climate Action Plan
- Increasing digital engagement and accessibility
- Exploring opportunities for a future community hub





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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor of Thatcham 2025-26 Cllr Petra Pemberton

Serving as the Mayor of Thatcham this past year has been a real privilege and an incredible experience. The role has allowed me to connect with residents, community groups, local organisations, charities, schools, religious and military groups, some of which I had not encountered before, despite living in Thatcham for 34 years.

Meeting the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes: the organisers, fundraisers, carers, and community champions who make so much happen. These people give their time without hesitation, our volunteers, or carers supporting loved ones - take on an incredibly demanding and often unseen role, doing so with compassion, patience, and commitment. They are the quiet heroes of our town, and I offer each of them my deepest gratitude.

This role has been so wonderfully demanding, deeply engaging, and far more rewarding than I ever imagined. I've been genuinely privileged to meet so many remarkable people from all walks of life, spanning every age, background and belief. It has been an honour and joy to represent our town at these events.

We've enjoyed a fantastic calendar of civic events across the town this year, and I've enjoyed being part of each and every one of them.

From Family Fun Day in June, which was thoroughly sun-soaked, to the magic of our October Festival, where Justin, my consort, and I managed to attend more than 33 events in the Festival period - leading to the heartfelt moments of the Remembrance Parade, where our town stood together united in reflection. And of course, our Warming Up for Christmas weekend and the Light switch on. Although the wind blew and the rain poured the people of Thatcham still came out to share in this celebration. For me your enthusiasm and community spirit lit up the evening far brighter than the weather ever could. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our outstanding Events team and the enthusiastic support of our community. My sincere thanks goes to each and every one of you.





One of the most meaningful parts of my Mayoral year has been supporting my chosen Mayors' Charities - Bridge for Young People, Home-Start West Berkshire, and Swings & Smiles. It hasn't just been about raising funds for these great local causes, which of course is so important; it's a chance to find out and understand more about what they do within our community also raising the charities profiles by including them in our civic events.

Bridge for Young People provide essential support for care leavers or young people facing homelessness, providing a home, helping youngsters regain confidence and independence.

Home-Start West Berkshire offer practical and emotional support to families with children in challenging circumstances, ensuring parents have support and don't feel alone.

Swings & Smiles provide inclusive play and support services for children with special needs and their families, creating a joyful and caring environment where every child can thrive.

Raising awareness and funds for these charities has been humbling. I'm so grateful to everyone who supported the fundraising events and initiatives this year, your generosity makes such a difference.

Improving community facilities and public spaces is a priority, ensuring Thatcham is welcoming, accessible, and forward-looking. These achievements are thanks to teamwork - council officers, councillors, partners, and volunteers working together for positive outcomes.

As my term as Mayor comes to an end, my heartfelt thanks goes to everyone who has supported me this year on this remarkable journey - The Town Council Officers, fellow Councillors, volunteers, but most importantly everybody that lives in our wonderful town who offered encouragement and kindness. It's been a pleasure serving this community. I want to also say a huge thank you to my Consort Justin, who has shared every step of this remarkable Mayoral journey with me, and to my wonderful family who have endlessly helped and supported me every step of the way.

Thank you for trusting me as Mayor. I leave the role with huge appreciation of all the people who make Thatcham so special and every confidence that our town will continue to flourish and thrive.

LEADER'S REPORT

Cllr Suzanne Adamantos



It has been a particularly busy and productive year for both officers and councillors. Our programme of events has continued to go from strength to strength, with strong community engagement and positive feedback. We have also seen the benefit of enhanced collaboration, including partnership work at Thatcham Railway Station and the development of the Community United initiative, both of which demonstrate the value of joint working to deliver meaningful outcomes for residents.

A further example of this commitment to the community is the Town Council's purchase and refurbishment of the alleyway linking Beverley Close to the Memorial Park. This has restored a well-used route and improved accessibility, providing a safer and more convenient connection for local residents.

This year has also brought significant changes within the officer team. Following the departure of the Town Clerk in June, our Deputy Clerk, Laura Carlin, stepped up to lead the organisation on an interim basis with professionalism and dedication. She was appointed permanently to the role and continues to provide strong leadership, supporting both officers and councillors effectively.

We have also seen a number of positive changes within the team over the past year. Hayley Scard has progressed from Civic Officer to Deputy Clerk, and we welcome Abbie Trussler into the Civic Officer role. Karen Tangney has been appointed as Finance Manager, stepping up from her previous role as Finance Officer, ensuring continued financial oversight and stability. In addition, Emily Moseley has been promoted from Community Engagement Manager to Place and Projects Manager; recruitment to her former post is currently underway.

Looking ahead, the Council continues to explore future opportunities, including early engagement on proposals such as a new community hub and involvement with T Level students, both of which reflect our commitment to long-term investment in the town and its people.

As Leader, I would like to record my thanks to our officers, who have shown exceptional commitment, flexibility and professionalism throughout a year of change. I am equally grateful to fellow councillors for their ongoing support and dedication to serving the residents of Thatcham.

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Cllr Mike Cole, Chairman



The Finance & General Purposes Committee plays a vital role in managing and monitoring Thatcham Town Council's budget. The Committee meets quarterly to review the Town Council's income and expenditure, while also overseeing earmarked funding, reserves levels, and the Town Council's long-term financial investments.

2025/26 Budget Overview

For the financial year 2025/26, the Council's total budgeted expenditure was £1,455,941. Of this, £1,179,921 was raised through Council Tax, with the remaining £276,020 generated through services provided, sponsorship, grants, and the use of reserves.

The Committee reviewed the Council's income and expenditure on a regular basis, ensuring spending remained in line with the approved budget. This included monitoring day-to-day running costs, reviewing financial forecasts, and keeping track of external income such as grants, sponsorship and service fees.

The Council's reserves were kept under regular review, with adjustments made when necessary to support ongoing services, long-term projects and contingency planning. This continual monitoring helped maintain the Council's financial resilience during a period of rising costs and increasing service demands.

Strategic Planning and Governance

The Committee reviewed several key governance documents during the year, ensuring that financial regulations, policies and procedures remained up to date and fit for purpose. This also included work to improve long-term financial planning and to support the future budgeting process. The Committee also oversaw procurement activity, contract reviews and service delivery arrangements to ensure effective management of the Council's resources.

Investment in the Town's Assets

Over the course of the year, the Committee considered and approved a range of investments to maintain and improve Council-owned buildings, equipment and community facilities. These included routine maintenance, replacement of ageing infrastructure, and works intended to improve environmental sustainability, accessibility and community safety. Funding was also allocated to support longer-term improvement programmes and to ensure that key assets continued to meet the needs of residents.

The Committee oversaw the responsible use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, directing these contributions from new developments towards improvements that benefit the wider town. This included investment in local facilities, infrastructure and community enhancements.



Supporting the Community

The Committee continued to administer the Council's grant schemes, providing financial support for local charities, voluntary groups and community organisations. These grants helped deliver a wide range of community activities, services and events, supporting residents of all ages and backgrounds. Where appropriate, the Council maximised the impact of its contributions by working with matched-funding partners to increase the value of support available to local groups.

Public Engagement

Residents are welcome to attend Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings to learn more about how the Town Council manages public money. Information about meetings is published on the Town Council's website, noticeboards and communication channels, and recordings are available online for those unable to attend in person.

RECREATION & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Cllr Tom McCann, Chairman



The Recreation & Amenities Committee oversees the Town Council's public buildings and community centres, open spaces, play areas, London Road Cemetery, St. Mary's Churchyard, Henleys Allotments, the weekly Friday market, and various street furniture across the town.

The Committee also manages the Town Council's joint partnerships with West Berkshire Council, which provides funding of approximately £70,758 for Henwick Worthy Sports Ground and £28,000 for Kennet Leisure Centre.

Thatcham Broadway

This year, Thatcham Broadway was again enhanced with colourful bunting and year-round floral displays.

London Road Cemetery

Over the past year, 46 burials have taken place at London Road Cemetery, alongside the processing of 30 memorial applications.

The Memorial Garden in the baby section continues to offer a meaningful space for remembrance, with many new plaques installed to support parents in their grief.

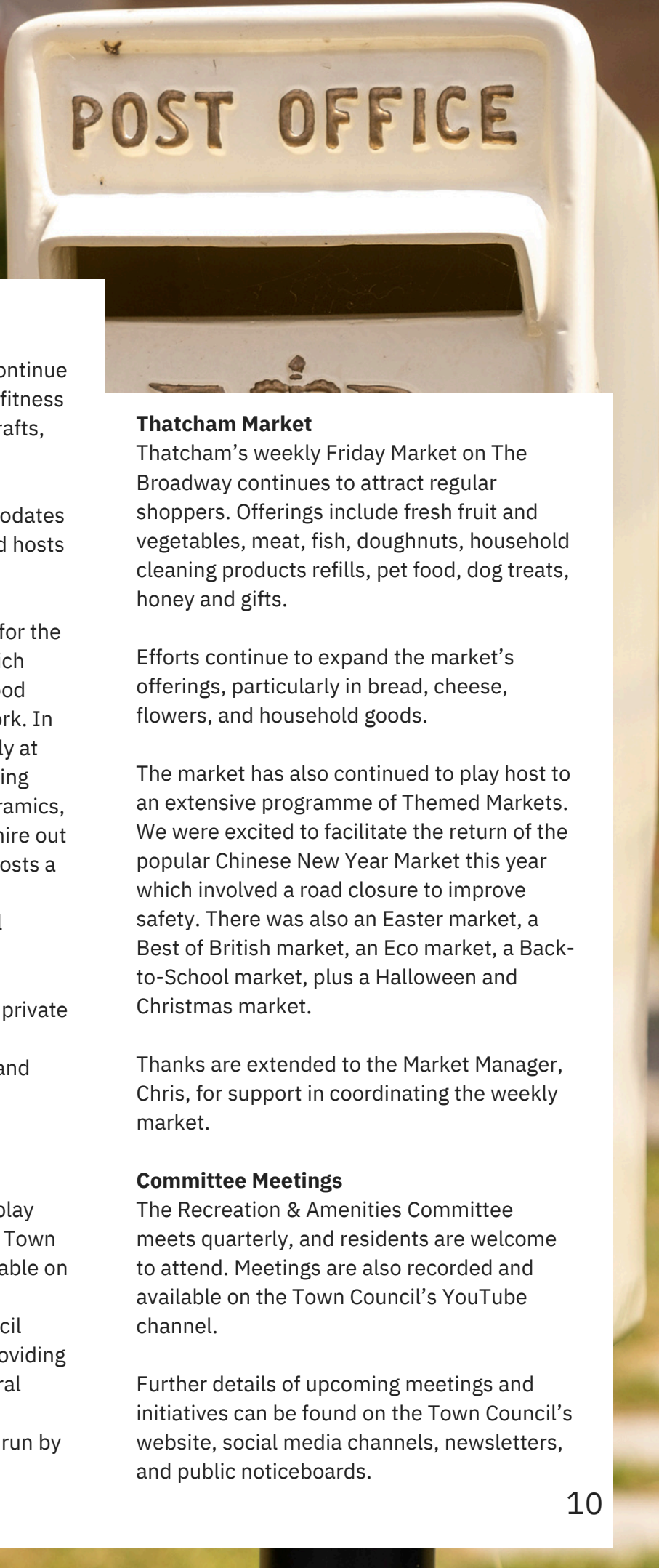
The 19th-century chapel remains an important feature of the site, providing a peaceful setting for private services and quiet reflection. We are also pleased to have secured our first marriage blessing booking, scheduled for April 2027.

Henleys Allotments

Henleys Allotments stay popular, providing 180 tenants with the opportunity to grow their own produce.

The Town Council maintains a strong working relationship with Thatcham Allotment Gardening Club, and thanks are extended to the Allotment Steward for ongoing support, and the increasing support from the allotment holders in their help with clearing and maintaining the site.

A waiting list is in place, and applications can be made via the Town Council's website.



POST OFFICE

Community Buildings

The Town Council's community halls continue to host a variety of activities, including fitness classes, dance, martial arts, arts and crafts, and social clubs.

Burdwood Community Centre accommodates Thatcham Pre-School on weekdays and hosts regular evening classes.

The Town Council also provides space for the West Berkshire Community Larder, which runs every Wednesday as a low-cost food scheme and community support network. In addition, the Repair Café meets monthly at Frank Hutchings Community Hall, offering repairs for electrical items, textiles, ceramics, and other household objects. We also hire out the Council Chamber which currently hosts a range of community courses such as Lipreading, Machine Sewing and Digital Photography.

Both community halls are available for private events and regular bookings at very competitive rates, with further details and booking options available on the Town Council's website.

Play Areas & Public Open Spaces

Thatcham benefits from 16 children's play areas, 12 of which are managed by the Town Council. A map of all play areas is available on the Town Council's website.

During school holidays, the Town Council welcomed Newbury Bouncy Castles providing inflatable attractions for families, Central Family Hub providing Play in the Park sessions, and hosted football sessions run by Footie Camps.

Thatcham Market

Thatcham's weekly Friday Market on The Broadway continues to attract regular shoppers. Offerings include fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, fish, doughnuts, household cleaning products refills, pet food, dog treats, honey and gifts.

Efforts continue to expand the market's offerings, particularly in bread, cheese, flowers, and household goods.

The market has also continued to play host to an extensive programme of Themed Markets. We were excited to facilitate the return of the popular Chinese New Year Market this year which involved a road closure to improve safety. There was also an Easter market, a Best of British market, an Eco market, a Back-to-School market, plus a Halloween and Christmas market.

Thanks are extended to the Market Manager, Chris, for support in coordinating the weekly market.

Committee Meetings

The Recreation & Amenities Committee meets quarterly, and residents are welcome to attend. Meetings are also recorded and available on the Town Council's YouTube channel.

Further details of upcoming meetings and initiatives can be found on the Town Council's website, social media channels, newsletters, and public noticeboards.

EVENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Suzanne Adamantos, Chairman



Family Fun Day, 29th June

Thatcham Town Council successfully delivered its annual Family Fun Day at Henwick Worthy Sports Ground on Sunday 29th June, attracting thousands of residents and visitors. Despite warm weather conditions, the event saw strong attendance and provided a wide range of accessible activities and entertainment for all ages. The programme included inflatables, a fun run, climbing wall, and zorbing, alongside a classic car show, fun fair, Punch and Judy performances, creative workshops, sports challenges, and circus skills activities. New for this year, the Acoustic Stage provided a relaxed space for live music and was well received. The Main Stage and Dance Zone showcased a variety of local talent, while the Newbury Pride in Thatcham Parade added a vibrant and inclusive highlight to the day. With a strong programme of free and low-cost activities, the event continues to provide excellent value and remains a key fixture in the town's calendar. The Town Council is proud to deliver this popular community event and support local organisations and performers.

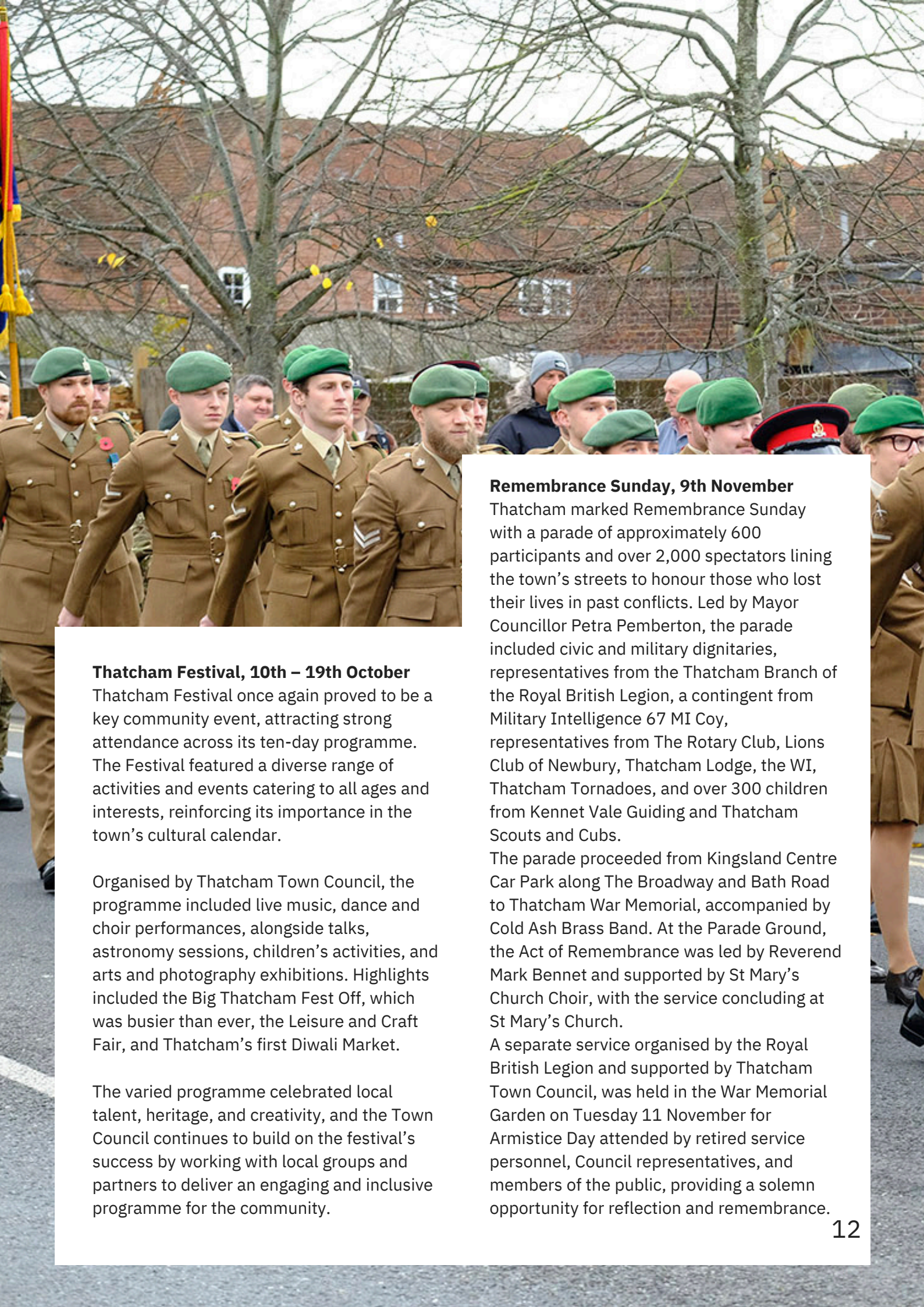
United Service of Remembrance, 20th July

Bereaved family and friends were invited to meet at London Road Cemetery for a simple service of Remembrance. The service was led by members of Thatcham Clergy and music was provided by Cold Ash Brass Band. The service was open to all and as part of the service the names of those who we gathered to remember were read.



KidsFest, 28th August

Thatcham Town Council delivered its second annual KidsFest, transforming the town centre into a dinosaur-themed activity space at the end of the School holidays. The free to attend event attracted strong attendance and provided a wide range of entertainment and activities for families. Turnfields Recreation Ground hosted circus workshops, while the Broadway and High Street featured arts, crafts, interactive sessions, and community stalls. Highlights included a Dino Disco, educational exhibits, and opportunities for children to explore emergency service vehicles. The Dinosaur Trail proved particularly popular, encouraging families to engage with local businesses, while Thatcham Library hosted themed storytelling and creative activities. Despite uncertain weather forecasts, the event was well attended and contributed to a lively town centre atmosphere.



Thatcham Festival, 10th – 19th October

Thatcham Festival once again proved to be a key community event, attracting strong attendance across its ten-day programme. The Festival featured a diverse range of activities and events catering to all ages and interests, reinforcing its importance in the town's cultural calendar.

Organised by Thatcham Town Council, the programme included live music, dance and choir performances, alongside talks, astronomy sessions, children's activities, and arts and photography exhibitions. Highlights included the Big Thatcham Fest Off, which was busier than ever, the Leisure and Craft Fair, and Thatcham's first Diwali Market.

The varied programme celebrated local talent, heritage, and creativity, and the Town Council continues to build on the festival's success by working with local groups and partners to deliver an engaging and inclusive programme for the community.

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November

Thatcham marked Remembrance Sunday with a parade of approximately 600 participants and over 2,000 spectators lining the town's streets to honour those who lost their lives in past conflicts. Led by Mayor Councillor Petra Pemberton, the parade included civic and military dignitaries, representatives from the Thatcham Branch of the Royal British Legion, a contingent from Military Intelligence 67 MI Coy, representatives from The Rotary Club, Lions Club of Newbury, Thatcham Lodge, the WI, Thatcham Tornados, and over 300 children from Kennet Vale Guiding and Thatcham Scouts and Cubs.

The parade proceeded from Kingsland Centre Car Park along The Broadway and Bath Road to Thatcham War Memorial, accompanied by Cold Ash Brass Band. At the Parade Ground, the Act of Remembrance was led by Reverend Mark Bennet and supported by St Mary's Church Choir, with the service concluding at St Mary's Church.

A separate service organised by the Royal British Legion and supported by Thatcham Town Council, was held in the War Memorial Garden on Tuesday 11 November for Armistice Day attended by retired service personnel, Council representatives, and members of the public, providing a solemn opportunity for reflection and remembrance.



Warming Up for Christmas, Christmas Lights Switch-On, 5th December

Thatcham's Christmas Light Switch-On went ahead despite challenging weather, with strong winds and heavy rain necessitating the cancellation of stallholders requiring gazebos. The scaled-down event was met with a positive response, as many residents braved the conditions to join the festive celebrations. The revised programme still delivered a festive atmosphere, featuring performances from the Kennet School Choir, a preview of the year's pantomime from KATS (Kennet Amateur Theatrical Society), community carols led by Churches Together, and live music. Children enjoyed bubbles, puddles, and marshmallow toasting provided by the Scouts, demonstrating that the Christmas spirit was undampened by the weather. Mayor Councillor Petra Pemberton was joined on stage by Councillor Stephanie Steevenson, Vice Chairman of West Berkshire Council, representatives from the Mayor's chosen charities, Swings and Smiles and Home-Start West Berkshire, and Father Christmas for the countdown to the lights switch-on. Unfortunately, due to high winds and wet weather the decision was taken to cancel this year's market due to be held on Saturday 6th December.

Civic Carol Service, 14th December

Presented by Mayor Councillor Petra Pemberton, the Civic Carol Service took place at St Mary's Church. Music was provided by St Mary's Church Choir and Barfield Handbell Ringers, with seasonal refreshments served afterwards. Donations were collected for the Mayor's chosen charities, Swings and Smiles, Bridge for Young People and Home Start West Berkshire.

PLANNING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Cllr Simon Pike, Chairman



The Planning & Highways Committee meets monthly throughout the year to review planning applications, monitor highways issues, and comment on strategic development matters affecting Thatcham. The Committee continues to act as a statutory consultee to West Berkshire Council, ensuring that local perspectives are presented within the wider planning and transport framework. Meetings are open to the public, and residents are encouraged to attend - to make comments on the planning applications being considered, or to raise wider concerns relating to development and highways.

Local Plan Review

The West Berkshire Local Plan Review has been a major focus for the Committee over a number of years – especially the proposal for a major housing development at North East Thatcham. West Berkshire Council submitted the draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State in March 2023 and the Examination by a Planning Inspector took place during 2024. The Town Council made detailed representations and was represented at the hearings by the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Pike.

The Inspector published his report in April 2025. Unfortunately, this report proposed increasing the size of the development from 1,500 to 2,500 homes. The Council obtained a legal opinion on whether this proposal could be challenged through Judicial Review, which advised that any challenge would be very unlikely to succeed. West Berkshire Council adopted the Local Plan in June 2025, with the modifications proposed by the Inspector.

The Town Council was successful in obtaining some modifications to the Policy in the Plan for North East Thatcham (now numbered SP14), most importantly that a masterplan would be developed for the site, in collaboration with the Town Council and adjoining parish councils, and with community engagement. This will then be formally approved by West Berkshire Councillors.

It was envisaged that this masterplan would have been developed during the second half of 2025, but has been delayed for reasons outside the control of either Council. This will now take place in the coming months.

The Town Council will play an active and constructive role in its development, in collaboration with neighbouring parish councils and key stakeholders in the town. During the Local Plan Examination, the proponents of the North East Thatcham site provided an 'outline masterplan' to the Inspector, which is likely to be the starting point for future development of a full Masterplan. The Town Council has already provided comments to West Berkshire Council on this outline masterplan.

Other Future Major Development

A detailed planning application has been submitted for a site between the Regency Park Hotel and Cold Ash Hill for nearly 300 houses. While this site is within Cold Ash parish, it is immediately adjacent to the boundary with Thatcham. The application has been amended during the last year, in part because the most recent mapping by the Environment Agency indicates that parts of the site are at risk of flooding from a small water course that starts within the site.

The Committee monitors this planning application, and will make representations on significant changes – especially as any flooding would affect residents of Thatcham. The Town Council has proposed to West Berkshire Council that the former Newbury Leisure Park on Lower Way should be considered for development for housing in a future update of the Local Plan.

National Planning Policy Framework

The NPPF is the statutory Government guidance on planning of development and determining of planning applications. The Government published a draft revision of NPPF last December, with substantial changes to the policies. The committee did not review this in detail, but noted that some of the proposed changes could have significant impact on development in the district.

Planning Applications

Throughout the year, the Committee reviewed a wide range of planning applications. These included:

- Household extensions and alterations
- Applications involving changes of use
- Proposals for new dwellings or subdivision of existing plots
- Applications for commercial premises or redeveloped community spaces

The committee does not consider minor applications that are unlikely to have an impact on neighbours, unless they have submitted an objection.

When considering a planning application, the Committee has the option of supporting the application, objecting to it, or making no objection. For most applications, the committee makes ‘no objection’ sometimes with comments on matters such as parking, access and specific design features.

The Committee will ‘object’ to an application on grounds such as flood risk, scale, design suitability or impact on neighbours. It generally only ‘supports’ an application when it will provide a public benefit.

Consultations

The Committee responded to a number of local and district-wide consultations, including:

- Policies relating to licensing and community facilities
- Transport and speed limit consultations
- Local authority strategies connected with recreation, infrastructure and development
- Public consultations on traffic orders and parking schemes

These responses ensured the community’s interests were represented in wider policy development.

Enforcement and Planning Matters

Across the year, the Committee received updates relating to:

- Enforcement notices issued for unauthorised development
- Appeal decisions and ongoing monitoring
- Queries raised by residents regarding neighbouring development

These matters were handled in partnership with West Berkshire Council's enforcement and planning teams.

Highways

The Committee regularly reviewed highways and road safety matters raised by residents, councillors, and West Berkshire Council, including:

- Temporary road closures and resurfacing works
- Traffic management schemes
- Pedestrian and cycle improvements
- Public consultations on proposed speed limit changes
- Safety concerns relating to signage, visibility, or local congestion

Where appropriate, the Committee submitted formal comments or requested clarification from West Berkshire Council.

A Planning Tracker is available on the Town Council's website, providing residents with an accessible way to view planning applications in Thatcham and their current status.

GRANTS SUB COMMITTEE

Cllr Mike Cole, Chairman



Community Grant Awards

The Grants Sub Committee oversees the allocation of our Community Grants. This is done through bi-annual funding awards in February/March and September/October. We have a matched funding agreement with Greenham Trust where every £1 awarded by the Town Council has the potential to be matched by Greenham Trust. Applications are administered through The Good Exchange, which ensures recipients receive the matched funding.

The Sub Committee considers applications that serve the Thatcham community, to ensure residents of Thatcham benefit from the grant awarded. Applicants are often invited to attend a meeting to present their project and take questions.

During 2025/26 Thatcham Town Council awarded the following grants, most of which were doubled up with valuable matched funding from Greenham Trust:

Cold Ash Brass	£800	Annual Retainer (not match funded)
Citizens Advice West Berkshire	£5,115	Contribution towards Operational Costs
Newbury Pride	£1,696.50	Assistance at Family Fun Day
Old Bluecoat School	£500	New Car Park Fence
West Berkshire Food Bank	£2,500	Hungry Holidays' project
Thatcham Town Cricket Club	£1,500	Upgrade indoor cricket nets at Kennet
Thatcham War Memorial	£876.34	Memorial Insurance
Volunteer Centre West Berkshire	£500	Community Transport Services
Home-Start West Berkshire	£800	Provide essential resources
Newbury Weekly News	£800	Over 80s Christmas Parcel Fund

Partnership Contributions

Thattham Town Council has formal agreements with West Berkshire Council to provide partnership contributions towards the running costs of two significant local services - Kennet Leisure Centre and Henwick Worthy Sports Ground. Our contributions for 2025/26 were:

Kennet Leisure Centre: £28,000

Henwick Worthy Sports Ground: £70,758

Committed Community Support Grants

Thattham Town Council has a number of funding agreements with local organisations. Providing funding to support these organisations ensures a commitment to serve Thattham's community. This year we've provided the following funding:

Friends of Thattham Library	£219.63	Garden items & embroidery w/shop
Friends of Thattham Library	£804	Makeover of Library Garden
Friends of Thattham Library	£99.05	Purchase of Sack Truck
Friends of Thattham Library	£398.27	Library furniture and games
Friends of Thattham Library	£382.79	Garden Seat & chalkboards
Friends of Thattham Library	£525.00	Book returns box
Old Bluecoat School	£100	Card Making

Community Project Fund

As well as the Community Grants, the Town Council also has a mechanism for distribution of smaller grants. The Community Project Fund is administered directly by the Town Council and is in place to support organisations where a smaller amount is sought but will make a big difference. When an application is made by an organisation to the Community Project Fund, it is considered by the next appropriate Council meeting, thus allowing these awards to be considered swiftly throughout the year, rather than on the bi-annual basis of our larger grant scheme.

Beneficiaries of this fund during 2025/26 were:

7th Brownies Thatcham	£250	Assist 2 girls to go on camp
Thatcham Comedy Club	£250	Assist Comedy Club
Project Salama	£250	Assist Fundraising event
Welcome Space	£250	Create a welcome space, loneliness craft sessions
Thatcham Rotary	£250	Help towards facilitating the duck race in September
Kennet School	£250	Project 'Food Departments Garnish Garden'
1st Thatcham Scout Group	£249.80	Project 'Wood Burning Kettle Stoves'

In-Kind Grants

Thatcham Town Council proudly supports local charities, businesses and organisations to get started on their journey with free hall hire, borrowing equipment, and free weeks at Thatcham Friday Market.

This year we have donated the following in-kind:

Thatcham Community Larder: £7,938
Sue Ryder Charity Quiz: £72
Dance Fundraiser: £240
Board Game Club: £66
West Berkshire Comedy Festival: £108
Newbury Building Society Fundraiser: £48
West Berkshire Therapy Centre: £24
Allotment Society: £60
Pub watch: £15
Dementia Friendly West Berkshire: £60
Neighbourhood Watch: £34
Swings and Smiles: £60

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING PARTY

Cllr Justin Pemberton, Chairman



The Environmental Working Party continue to make strides towards sustainability and environmental improvement within our community.

Climate Action Plan

Thatcham Town Council's Climate Action Plan was officially adopted in January 2025. The plan sets the council's environmental initiatives, priorities and action points – from the activities we promote and run, to the contractors we use and our overarching approach to sustainability. It provides the basis of the Council's journey towards increased sustainability and carbon neutrality. Since the Action Plan's adoption just over a year ago, we have implemented a number of changes as a result, and it will continue to shape and influence future policies and practices.

Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

As part of the Climate Action Plan, we have commissioned a local Wildlife Trust Consultancy to carry out a biodiversity audit and provide management recommendations for Town Council managed sites to assist with improving their value for biodiversity. The strategy will include advice on how to incorporate more community-led action on our sites. It will be informed by field surveys as well as a data search from Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre as part of a desk study. The report will be ready in Spring 2026.

Carbon Footprint Report

Another project stemming from the Climate Action Plan is the proposed Carbon Footprint Report. We are committed to measuring our carbon footprint as a Council and we ultimately wish to produce a targeted action plan to reduce this.

Thermal Image Camera

Our Thermal Image Camera loan scheme continues to be popular amongst Thatcham residents. We also now hire out hygrometers that can measure humidity and so are useful at identifying damp within buildings.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Cllr Mark Lillycrop, Chairman



The Community Engagement Working Party continues to strengthen the way the Town Council connects with residents, ensuring people feel informed, included, and able to influence local decisions. Over the past year, we have achieved measurable growth across digital, print, and in-person engagement, alongside expanding opportunities for community participation.

Newsletters & Digital Communication

Four editions of the Town Council newsletter were delivered to over 11,000 households during 2025/26. Resident feedback indicates increasing readership, with clear evidence that features within the newsletter are driving attendance at events and participation in consultations. It remains a trusted and effective communication tool.

YouTube & Transparency

All Council and Committee meetings remain publicly accessible online.

2025/26 performance included:

- 1,098 views
- 40.5 watch hours

The Heritage Week video series, highlighting Thatcham's blue plaques, proved particularly popular. Further improvements to accessibility and usability are planned.

E-Newsletter Performance

The monthly e-newsletter has grown to 534 subscribers.

- Open rate: 11%
- Click-through rate: 3%

While engagement has stabilised following launch, the mailing list continues to grow steadily. Focus for the coming year will be on improving content and increasing interaction.

Social Media & Online Engagement

The Council maintains an active presence across Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Facebook remains our strongest platform, with 4,552 followers and over 2 million views over the year. Engagement has been driven by:

- Major community events, particularly the Chinese New Year Market
- High-demand public information, such as road closures
- Promotion of Council facilities, generating significant website traffic
- Interactive campaigns encouraging community participation.

There has been a shift toward more participatory content, inviting residents to contribute to events and initiatives. This has strengthened community ownership and increased meaningful engagement.

Surgeries & In-Person Communication

Councillor surgeries continue to provide a direct and accessible way for residents to raise concerns and seek support.

- 11 sessions were held across the year
- Attendance was steady and consistent
- Most queries relate to wider district services, the Town Council acting as a first 'port of call', handling local issues and channelling others to the right contacts at West Berks Council and elsewhere.

Councillors also maintain a visible presence at community events, strengthening informal engagement.

Community Events

In addition to our established programme of civic events, the Council has supported and delivered a diverse range of community events, celebrating local culture and encouraging community involvement.

Highlights include:

- Chinese New Year Market – A flagship event attracting thousands of visitors
- Diwali Market and Best of British Market – Celebrating culture and local identity
- Dementia Action Week – Over 2,000 crocheted flowers created by residents to “paint the town blue”
- World Book Day Trail
 - Ranked 8th nationally
 - 49 groups participating
 - Estimated 196 players.

In addition, the Thatcham Community Awards saw a significant increase in engagement, with nominations rising from 17 in 2025 to 49 in 2026, reflecting growing community pride and participation.

Digital Noticeboard

The Town Council has upgraded the noticeboard in Thatcham Broadway to a digital screen, dedicated to showcasing adverts and messages for community groups, local organisations, charities, and event sponsors. This change has been warmly welcomed by the town, contributing to the Town Council's efforts to make Thatcham's town centre a more enjoyable place to be. Not-for-profit organisations interested in advertising can reach out to the Council at enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

Community Projects & Partnerships

The Council has continued to support and promote local improvements and partnership working, ensuring residents are informed and engaged with changes to community spaces and services. This reinforces the Council's role as both a communicator and an active contributor to local outcomes.

Future Plans

In 2026/27, the Working Party will focus on:

- Expanding themed markets and cultural events
- Increasing data-led engagement and participation
- Improving accessibility through enhanced digital content and formats
- Growing direct communication channels, including the e-newsletter
- Continuing to strengthen transparency across all platforms.

We encourage residents to stay connected, attend events, and share their ideas.

Contact:

enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

Nathan Gregory, Chairman



Blue Plaque Scheme

In 2018, the Heritage Working Party launched Thatcham's blue plaque scheme, with the first commemorative plaque installed at the King's Head Public House, marking its role in Britain's first mail coach run. Since then, a new blue plaque has been unveiled annually. This year, Thatcham's 8th Blue Plaque was unveiled at Moorside Community Centre by the Mayor of Thatcham, Cllr. Petra Pemberton, alongside Major Carnegie-Brown of the Royal Logistics Corps.

The plaque celebrates the historic significance of this area, once the largest military storage depot in Britain during the Second World War. It served as a vital supply base for both the D-Day Landings and Operation Market Garden. During the war the depot spanned to Newbury racecourse and had an estimated coverage of 9 million square feet. It was the last American depot to be returned to British control after the war, subsequently operated by the Royal Logistics Corps from 1993. At its peak, in the days leading up to D-Day, the site employed around 7,000 people, remaining one of Thatcham's largest employers until its closure in 2000, when 200 staff still worked here. Today, the military legacy of the site lives on through the road names of the Kennet Heath estate - including Battalion Way, Horse Guards Way, Cavalry Close, Military Drive, and Urquhart Road - each a lasting tribute to the area's wartime heritage.

The unveiling was followed by refreshments and an insightful historical talk by Dr. Nick Young at Moorside Community Centre.

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The Heritage Working Party is committed to preserving and promoting the rich history of Thatcham. It oversees the town's blue plaque scheme, which celebrates local figures and buildings of historical significance.

The Working Party has the discretion to co-opt community members to assist and provide guidance. All co-opted members have voting rights within the Working Party, which meets quarterly. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings and contribute to discussions on local heritage.

Looking Ahead

The Working Party has exciting plans for 2026/27, aiming to further enrich the town's historical narrative and continue raising public awareness of Thatcham's heritage.

For more information, visit the Town Council's history webpage:

www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk/history

Get Involved

If you are passionate about Thatcham's history and would like to join the Heritage Working Party or simply attend a meeting, please email: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk.

YOUTH WORKING PARTY

Cllr Justin Pemberton, Chairman



The Youth Working Party met to begin shaping a renewed, coordinated approach to youth provision in Thatcham. This year represents the early development phase of a longer term plan, focusing on understanding current gaps, strengthening partnerships, and defining the priorities for a future Youth Strategy.

Understanding Youth Needs

Discussions highlighted a clear difference between Thatcham's strong offer of uniformed and structured groups and the limited open access youth provision available locally. This was reinforced by a West Berkshire Council survey of around 600 Kennet School pupils, which found that young people want:

- More accessible indoor spaces and activities
- Safe, welcoming places to meet socially
- Better access to mental health support
- Reduced barriers related to cost, transport, and awareness

As this is an emerging area of work for the Council, no additional consultations were run this year. However, the Working Party plans to carry out further youth engagement, building on the WBC findings to gather more detailed, local insights.

Early Ambitions for 2026/27

Although no major projects were delivered this year, the Working Party has established a clear direction of travel. Ambitions include:

- Developing a comprehensive Youth Strategy
- Exploring potential youth spaces across the town
- Identifying funding opportunities to support future initiatives
- Strengthening partnerships with local organisations and youth service providers
- Conducting a fresh youth survey to build on the WBC data with more specific, localised insight
- Developing a holistic youthwork model, including youth workers linked to both school and community settings

Summary

2025/26 has been a foundational year for the Youth Working Party. Through strong multiagency participation and early strategic discussions, the Town Council has gained a clearer understanding of youth needs and the gaps in local provision. The work ahead will focus on gathering deeper insight from young people, improving accessibility to activities and spaces, and building the partnerships and infrastructure required to support a stronger, more inclusive youth offer for Thatcham.

OUTSIDE BODY REPORTS

WEST BERKSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION GROUP (SPAG)

Over the past year, the West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group (SPAG) has become fully independent and is now established as a voluntary organisation, governed by its own constitution. The group has a standing committee of nine members and welcomes contributions from any interested parties, who are invited to attend meetings and help shape the agenda. The group has secured free meeting space at Gardner Leader Solicitors in Newbury, for which it is very grateful.

SPAG has continued to deliver its work across a number of key areas:

The group has worked in partnership with Thatcham Town Council community officers, Samaritans, West Berkshire Public Health, Network Rail, GWR and others to support suicide prevention efforts at and around Thatcham Railway Station. Improvements have been made to the station, alongside engagement activities involving Samaritans and other organisations. SPAG has led on station-focused meetings and follow-up actions, including improvements to signage and raising considerations around barriers and surveillance. This work remains ongoing.

Engagement with the racing industry in Lambourn has been a notable success. This included a well-attended event with around 60 participants, featuring talks, presentations and a short play. As a result, racing staff have gone on to attend Suicide Prevention First Aid training, with further sessions delivered.

The group continues to meet regularly and has strengthened its membership by bringing in additional expertise and community representation. This includes

specialists in domestic abuse, early years and family support, a consultant psychiatrist, and public health practitioners.

The group also welcomes Councillor Suzanne Adamantos of Thatcham Town Council as a member of the standing committee.

Over the next six months, SPAG plans to host two special interest meetings focusing on:

- Domestic abuse and its link to suicide
- Postnatal depression and its link to suicide

The Chair continues to represent the group at Berkshire-wide suicide prevention strategy meetings.

The Chair also attends related mental health strategy meetings.

The group continues to promote its website: www.westberkshiresuicideprevention.org

SPAG maintains its partnership with West Berkshire Highways, particularly in relation to the installation of Samaritans signage.

The Chair continues to respond to requests and provide input on relevant issues throughout the year.

Overall, SPAG continues to expand its reach, strengthen partnerships, and play an active role in suicide prevention across West Berkshire.

Cllr Suzanne Adamantos

ECO FRIENDS WEST BERKSHIRE

Eco Friends help everyone in the West Berkshire area to reduce their single use plastic and carbon footprint, bringing together all aspects of reduce, reuse, repair and recycle in one place.

The group hosted its first sewage protest in Newbury in May last year, drawing over 50 attendees. The event was supported by Thatcham and Newbury Mayors, West Berks representatives and local MP Lee Dillon.

In June they operated a water refill station at the Thatcham Family Funday, dispensing 120 litres and saving an estimated 400 single-use plastic bottles. Thank you to everyone involved in this initiative, which provided very welcome refreshment in the sweltering heat.

In October the group partnered with Waitrose for a "mass unwrap" event, engaging directly with customers to educate them on plastic waste.

Ongoing initiatives include campaigning for the installation of a free public water refill point at Henwick Field. Eco Friends are also organising a second, larger sewage protest on 16th May, with plans to safely incorporate an on-water element and will be returning to the Thatcham Family Fun Day with fresh refills.

Thank you to Eco Friends organisers Nikki Coome and Jenny Kirby for their help with this report. Congratulations too to Jenny and her husband Tom (aka Thatcham Refillable) who managed to collect a very impressive 2,045 chocolate tubs after the festive season as part of the 'Tub2Pub' recycling scheme.

Cllr Mark Lillycrop

THATCHAM FLOOD FORUM AND SWMP

The Flood Forum and Surface Water Management (SWMP) Funding Committee were formed in the wake of the devastating floods that affected more than 1,200 homes across the town in 2007.

Thanks to their coordination and fundraising efforts, and the strong support of Thatcham Town Council, West Berks Council and the Environment Agency - flood alleviation schemes have been implemented at Cold Ash Hill, Tull Way, Dunston Park and Dunstan Green, Siege Cross, and latterly in North and East Thatcham. As we approach completion of the final stage at the Memorial Field and Brown's Field, with a retention basin and swale and provision for a new dog walking area, we are now in a position to help protect around 1,000 properties from a repeat of those events in 2007.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, councillors, officers and partners who have contributed to one of the most successful SWMP schemes in the country.

The work of the Forum and SWMP is essentially complete. But while the members of those bodies are now stepping back, there is still much to do in terms of education and advice around surface water management, monitoring local drainage systems, and keeping up pressure on the Government with regard to loopholes in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The planning authorities play a big role in this respect, and hopefully others will come forward to assist with this task.

Brian Woodham, retiring chair of the SWMP Funding Committee, has compiled a lasting record of the events surrounding the Thatcham flood and subsequent alleviation work, which will be available to read via the Thatcham Town Council website. There is also an excellent summary in Thatcham Town Council's spring newsletter; do spare a few moments to read it!

Cllr Mark Lillycrop

SWINGS AND SMILES

Swings & Smiles provides support, friendship and inclusive play opportunities for disabled children through a wide range of specialist services. They operate from a fully accessible centre, on Lower Way, designed specifically for children with complex needs, featuring a sensory room, activity room, adapted garden with specialist play equipment and a personal care room. To meet growing demand and better support to older, more physically able young people, they also run sessions from the Annex at The Waterside Centre in Newbury. This enables young people to access the community with the friends they make through clubs and respite activities.

They run a seven-day-a-week timetable offering respite sessions, youth clubs, family play sessions and under-5s groups. Every activity is designed to provide meaningful, diverse play opportunities - from sensory programmes that stimulate communication and imagination to physical experiences such as accessible climbing that many families previously thought impossible. Their trained play leaders work closely with each child to understand their individual needs, support their development and facilitate friendships.

Alongside centre-based services, they deliver outreach to schools, charities, community groups and individual families within a 40-mile radius. Although based in Berkshire, they support families from Hampshire and Oxfordshire, reflecting the scarcity of specialist provision locally. They also collaborate with other charities and community providers to broaden the support available.

1,348 families are registered with Swings & Smiles and demand for their services continues to increase. Their respite sessions are fully booked with waiting lists, demonstrating the essential nature of what we provide. In 2024 alone, they delivered 7,632 hours of respite care and 5,353 hours of family play sessions to children with disabilities and their siblings. Without their support, many families would have nowhere to go for safe, appropriate play, socialisation and essential respite. Families regularly describe them as a lifeline, and they are committed to ensuring disabled children - and their siblings - have the opportunities, experiences and support they need to thrive.

The economic climate continues to prove challenging in raising funds for the charity through grant applications, fundraising events and public donations. They are grateful for all the support that they receive that enables them to deliver the services that families so desperately require.

Cllr Suzanne Adamantos

THATCHAM PARISH HALL

Thatcham's Parish Hall was built and opened in 1907. The hall offers a welcoming space for a variety of local groups, clubs, and societies. It has two rooms available for hire. Whether hosting dance classes, a table tennis club, brass band practices, small theatre productions, or social gatherings, the versatility of the Parish Hall allows for numerous social opportunities. With its charitable status, Thatcham Parish Hall accesses funding opportunities and grants that enable it to improve and maintain its facilities, ensuring they meet the needs of the community. The hire revenue is used to ensure the hall is maintained and managed for future generations of Thatcham. This makes it an invaluable resource in Thatcham, providing a space for local organisations to thrive and strengthen community ties.

The hall is run by a dedicated committee made up of volunteers and also includes three Thatcham Town Councillors. Cllr Simon Pike plays a crucial role in maintaining the space. The committee is deeply invested in the town and making it a welcoming environment for all. Maintaining this historical building for the benefit of the community.

Cllr Jeff Brooks

THATCHAM VOLUNTEER BUREAU

The Thatcham Volunteer Bureau is a great resource for those who need transport for medical appointments. You only pay for the mileage, although donations are welcome. They offer both volunteer drivers' cars and a larger vehicle for wheelchair access. We're looking for more volunteer drivers to join us.

Cllr Val Watts

WEST BERKSHIRE THERAPY CENTRE

The West Berkshire Hydrotherapy Scheme has made strong progress over the past year, with a number of key developments moving the project forward.

The Therapy Centre has now submitted a planning application, following review by the WBTC Hydrotherapy Pool Working Party. At the same time, Trustees have begun active fundraising efforts to support this significant project.

The outline proposals have been considered by the Working Party and are regarded as viable overall, subject to a small number of points requiring further discussion.

One key issue identified is the need for increased clearance at the emergency exit, as required by the Town Council; however, this is not expected to present any significant difficulty.

Heads of Terms are still to be finalised, with a Town Council template currently under consideration. It is anticipated that agreement will be reached before any major construction work begins.

In summary, this is a high-quality project that is now approaching agreement. While several steps remain before construction can commence, the Working Party is confident these can be addressed and that the scheme will deliver a valuable asset for Thatcham.

Cllr Owen Jeffery

THE GREENHAM AND CROOKHAM COMMONS COMMISSION

Established under the Greenham and Crookham Commons Act 2002, which formally restored the commons to public access, the Town Council has the right to nominate one of the twenty Commissioners.

The duties of the Commission are defined in the Act, and include:

- conserving the Common as a peaceful place of natural beauty.
- conserving its flora and fauna, and any parts that are Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- promoting and improving grazing animals on the Common, including the rights of commoners.
- managing the Common as a public open place open to the public for recreation.

The Commons are managed for West Berkshire Council by Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT). An important role for the Commission is managing the balance between conservation, public access (especially for large organised events) and grazing.

The commons require active management to maintain their character, which includes limiting the number of cattle that can graze on the commons over the winter. Over the last few months, this has also required the removal and burning of gorse, which would otherwise spread across the commons.

The Crookham Pools were originally excluded from the legally defined area of the Commons. Steps are now being taken to include this area, and to have the whole of both commons shown on Ordnance Survey maps as Access Land.

The Commission is taking action to prevent and remove encroachments onto the commons from adjoining properties.

Cllr Simon Pike

THATCHAM ALLOTMENT GARDENING CLUB

Henleys Allotments are managed by Thatcham Town Council. We currently have 189 plots. Allotments are very popular and if a plot is not immediately available, there is a waiting list that your details can be added to. The allotments are used by a wide variety of people, covering all ages and backgrounds. As a plot holder you are also enrolled in the Thatcham Allotment Gardening Club who produce seasonal newsletters and arrange social activities, including seasonal coffee mornings, where people meet to chat and share gardening tips, with delicious homemade cake on offer too. This is a really great way to meet friendly, like-minded gardeners and get tips and advice for advancing your plot. To apply for an allotment, please contact Thatcham Town Council on 01635 863592 or email: enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Petra Pemberton

HOME-START WEST BERKSHIRE (HSWB)

Home-Start is a local community network of experts and trained volunteers helping families with young children through their challenging times. They provide families with emotional and practical support and friendship. HSWB's motto is 'We are there for parents when they need us most, because childhood can't wait.' This friendly parent-to-parent support is a simple yet effective way of enabling families to get back on track.

In Thatcham the number of families supported remains at about 40, and that number is steadily rising. The demand for this work continues to increase, while resources at professional levels are reducing, putting more pressure on the voluntary sector. HSWB's highly valued work is limited only by funding and the availability of volunteers.

HSWB carefully match volunteers with an appropriate family. The volunteers visit families within their own home and provide support in times of need. They also organise group meetings and provide a Baby Bank service.

There are multiple ways that you can help Home-Start West Berkshire in a voluntary capacity. Volunteers are at the heart of Home-Start. They offer invaluable friendship, emotional reassurance, and practical help, making a meaningful difference in the lives of parents and children in need. If you or anyone you know wishes to volunteer, please get in touch with the charity.
www.home-startwestberks.org.uk

Cllr Petra Pemberton

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY WEST BERKSHIRE

Dementia Friendly West Berkshire (DFWB) is a local partnership initiative that brings together organisations, businesses, volunteers and community members to improve awareness and understanding of dementia across the district, meeting bi-monthly at Thatcham Town Council's offices.

The group works collaboratively with people living with dementia and their carers to ensure their experiences and perspectives inform the development of local support and services.

DFWB is committed to increasing the availability, range and inclusivity of dementia-related services in West Berkshire. Their website provides a centralised source of information, guidance and signposting to assist individuals, families and carers in navigating the dementia journey. Resources include practical advice on caring for a loved one, details of local support groups, and links to further specialist information.

The website can be accessed at:
dementiafriendlywestberkshire.co.uk
For further enquiries or advice, the DFWB team can be contacted via email at DFWBerkshire@AgeUKBerkshire.org.uk.

Cllr Petra Pemberton

THATCHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

There are two principal charities – Thatcham Parochial Almshouse Charity and Thatcham Relief in Need. The Board of Trustees comprises representatives from Thatcham Town Council and the Parish Councils of Cold Ash, Midgham and Greenham, with the Rector and three churchwardens as ex-officio members. Thatcham Town Council is currently represented by Councillor Mike Cole and Chris Druce. The Trustees normally meet four times per year. Both charities are assisted by ancient endowments granted over many centuries, the first recorded one being in 1594.

Thatcham Parochial Almshouse Charity

The object of the Charity is to provide almshouse accommodation for elderly people in need within the parishes of Thatcham, Cold Ash, Greenham and Midgham (the ancient Parish of Thatcham). There are 14 almshouse flats in Thatcham. Maintenance works highlighted in the Quinquennial report continue alongside general maintenance and improvement. The latter half of 2023 saw 2 almshouse flats become available which is quite rare. The Trustees sanctioned some remedial work on both flats before the vacancies were advertised locally. Any new applicants must meet the charity qualifying criteria to be considered.

Thatcham Relief in Need

The object of the Charity is to relieve, either generally or individually, persons resident in the Ancient Parish of Thatcham, who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress, by making grants of money or providing items or services to reduce that need. The Trustees have a wide discretion regarding the allocation of those funds. During 2024 the charity made grants amounting to £15,033 for a variety of requests including: 2 wheelchair upgrades; flooring and bedding (especially for those moving into Housing Association properties); financial support to enable some children to attend their school residential trip; furniture items and a contribution to BBOWT to support the re-opening of the dementia café at the Nature Discovery Centre.

Cllr Mike Cole

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Every year Thattham Town Council seeks nominations from members of the public for individuals, groups, organisations and businesses who have demonstrated outstanding service to the community, made a significant contribution to public life in Thattham and have shown real dedication in helping local residents.

A panel of Councillors met on the 1st of April to consider all of the nominations:

This year the Committee recognised two winners of the **Community Contributor Award**. Glendale Youth Café Team were selected as winner for Group/Organisation, and Pete Stuart was selected as the individual winner. Pete has been a warm, friendly face at Thattham Train Station for many years and always helps to find the best route and fare. Community United, MOVEability, and Newbury Pride were all noted as highly commended by the committee.

Patricia Glover, who delivers Carbon Literacy Training, was selected as **Environmental Champion**. Emily Down was noted as highly commended by the committee.

Sienna Williams was selected as **Inspiring Young Person**. Sienna competed at The Disability British Championships 2025, proudly representing her club 'Summit Gymnastics' and the deaf community. Sophie Cooke and Kennet School Wellbeing Forum were noted as highly commended by the committee.

Committee decided on two winners for their **Volunteer Champion**. Janice Schofield was chosen as the individual winner and Thattham Community Larder as winner for Group/Organisation. Freddie Bigglesworth was noted as highly commended by the committee.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** for achievement was awarded to two winners - **Mike Farmer**, a lifelong Thattham resident, has dedicated his life to supporting local causes, notably through over 50 years with the Newbury District Agricultural Society, where he served in various leadership roles. His contributions extend to volunteering in education, serving as a school governor, aiding through the Citizens Advice Bureau, and managing challenging portfolios at the Thattham Memorial Foundation, all with a reputation for practical and effective problem-solving. **Denise Newport**, a dedicated member of the Francis Baily School community since 1984 and an inspiring leader in the Guiding movement for 57 years, has left a lasting impact on countless children and families through her roles as a teaching assistant, Brownie leader, and community volunteer, earning recognition for her exceptional service and her unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds.

MAYOR'S AWARDS

Each year the Mayor of Thattham recognises residents who have gone above and beyond to support them in their Civic year. This year, Mayor Cllr Petra Pemberton presented a Mayor's Award to the following people:

Cindy Bunce

For her enthusiasm and hard work at a variety of Town Council and charity events throughout the year.

Dr Nick Young

For his support on the Mayor's Fundraising History Talk and dedication to history across Thattham.

Bingo Buddies

For their incredible fundraising efforts which have greatly impacted the lives of residents and organisations across Thattham.