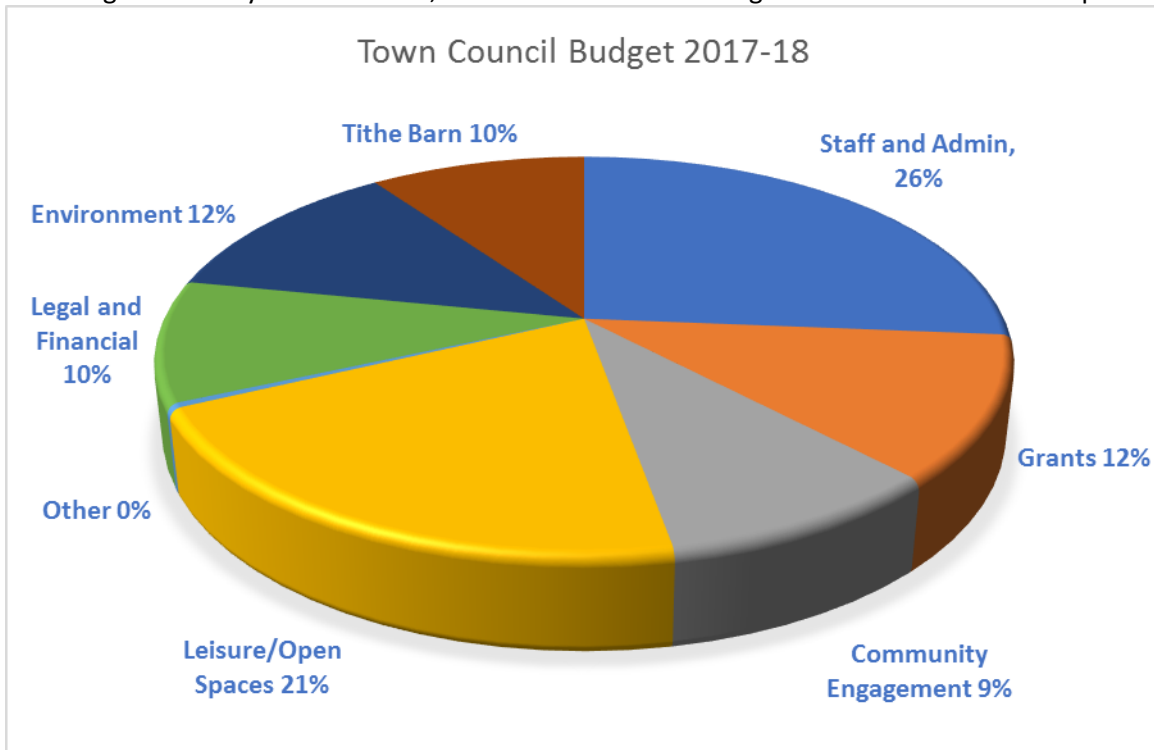


Nailsea Town Council Annual Report 2017-18

The budget summary is shown here, and a breakdown of the figures is at the end of the Report.



I am starting tonight with a commercial. We are a year away from elections for the Town Council in May 2019. Your dedicated Councillors have carried out their duties conscientiously for the last three years and I know will continue to do so. For those Nailsea residents who feel they also have something to offer to the town please consider putting your name forward for the elections next year.

Looking back now over the last twelve months much of the conversation has been about housing. For many years this Town Council has supported the limited growth of housing in the town and there is general agreement it is very much needed. Unfortunately, the wheels of both central and local government grind exceedingly slow and of the 1267 new homes allocated to Nailsea for the period up to 2026 only 203 completed up to 2017 with most of the remainder yet to be built. So we have some way to go to meet the needs of all those people who wish to stay in the town, those who would like to move into our town and those who may be looking to downsize thus freeing up existing larger properties. At a build rate of, say, 50 houses per year by 2026 we will only have around 400 - 450 new homes built.

In the last year through the West of England Joint Spatial Plan process we have been informed that Nailsea is being allocated a further 2,750 new homes to be completed by 2036. This represents a build rate beyond 2026 of 275 homes per annum. On past experience this seems ambitious. Government is however determined that Nailsea should be expanded as a town and so it is up to us to make sure that all future development is undertaken in a way that brings improvements to the town and that the appropriate infrastructure is in place to meet the needs of this increase in population.

To this end the Town Council has commenced with the preparation of a vision for the town as it

develops over the coming years. This vision will consider education, employment, culture, sport and leisure recreation, retail, transport, infrastructure and housing. The aim will be to have a Town Plan in place by the end of this year to feed into the Local Plan that North Somerset Council will prepare following the Planning Inspector's report on the Joint Spatial Plan to be issued at the end of this year.

To assist with our vision planning the Town Council has already appointed a consultant to carry out a study into the leisure and sports facilities currently existing within the town and to assess the requirements for the future. Many clubs and organizations have already been contacted and offered their views.

We know from the Town Consultation held in 2016 that residents consider that Nailsea offers a good quality of life, a positive sense of community and a pleasant environment. The future must build upon this and provide facilities in and around the town that enhance the lifestyle of residents in the years ahead. The Town Council will look to residents to engage in and contribute to the Town Plan as it is developed over the coming months.

In my report last year I mentioned the purchase of the building at 65 High Street. Since October last year 65 High Street has been reopened to provide a variety of services to the community. There are many groups now using the building on a regular basis such as WECIL, Diabetes UK, Carers Support Alliance, Autistic Spectrum Disorder Club, Young Carers, Better Nailsea and Craft groups.

A founding project has been the NHS Digital Pathfinder project that helps the 'techno timid' become familiar with the use of tablets, phones and laptops so they can access services on line, communicate visually with their friends and family and to gain confidence in using the technology that our modern life requires. This has been made possible with a group of willing volunteers, including students from Nailsea School.

Then upstairs the Youth Club has been given a new lease of life under their own brand of 6t5. There are now four sessions a week taking place. The users have decorated the rooms themselves and worked with a graffiti artist to clearly identify their part of the building.

Number 65 is also becoming a centre for art. Nailsea school students have been active with designs for pieces of glassware that were created by Bristol Blue Glass and are now on permanent display and one student assembled a temporary art exhibition that took place during February and March. Looking forward there is an art exhibition running from April through to June organized by North Somerset Arts, an 8-week programme of craft activities and a 12-week programme of activities held by Theatre Orchard all starting in April.

Number 65 is developing as a 'go to' place for those whose aim is to help people with challenges in their lives and also as a meeting place for individuals and groups. Over the last month a new offering has been developed where individuals can rent desk space to run their businesses. In less than a year number 65 has become a focus point in our town for a wide variety of users and it is intended it will continue to develop and reflect the requirements of the town.

Last year I was able to report on the very successful Christmas Fair of 2016. Again, I can report another successful fair held last December and as always, any new volunteers will always be welcome to help make this year's Fair equally successful.

In 2017 a new website was launched for the town – nailseatown.com. The website gives comprehensive information about Nailsea, including upcoming events, shopping, community organisations, businesses and history of the town. It is there to inform and if anyone wishes to add to it go to the contact button.

I wish to thank all of our staff who work tirelessly on behalf of the Town and Town Council – Ian, Pennee, Emma, Nicky and our new recruit this year Trudy. We also have a new Town Orderly – Joel Hopper. Joel is doing a great job and always has a watchful eye out for those dropping litter! Thanks also go to Jo Liddiatt who manages our markets and our new caretaker Mauro Realmi. However, we have said goodbye to Mark Denham who has now left us to go to Backwell School.

I will conclude with a huge thank you to all of the volunteers who work tirelessly in Nailsea for the many clubs, societies and organisations – too many to mention individually – and many who I am sure go unrecognized. Our town is all the better for your contribution.

Cllr David Packham, Town Council Chair
April 2018

How has the Council spent your money?

The total expenditure budget of the Council in the year was £553,360 and the precept was £457,606: the 5th year in a row when it has remained unchanged. The Precept accounts for 83% of income: the Council also generates funds from other activities, such as hiring the Tithe Barn (11% of the total), allotments, grazing on its land at Gaulacre and market canopy hire.

The major items of revenue expenditure are:

Staff, office and administration costs: £145,500 (26% of the total budget) - this includes: office staff, Caretakers, health and safety, IT and office costs.

Leisure and open spaces: £114,725 (21%) - this includes: maintenance and improvement of sports fields, public rights of way, woodlands, open spaces, Glassworks, Golden Valley Bridleway, skatepark, Nailsea in Bloom, planting and watering, Garden of Rest, allotments, play equipment and Farmers and Craft markets.

Environment: £66,700 (12%) – Town Orderly, litter and dog bins, bus shelters, street lighting, Christmas lights, street cleaning, town centre improvements, car parks and CCTV.

Grants: £64,326 (12%)

Community Engagement: £51,240 (9%) - this includes the web-site, youth services and 65 High Street.

Tithe Barn: £54,150 (10%) – Events' Coordinator, caretakers, maintenance and repairs.

Legal and banking: £54,669 (10%) - legal and professional fees, banking costs, loans, audit and insurance.

Other: £5,920 (0%) - includes contingency costs.

The diverse activities of the Town Council require many hours of councillors' time: they do not receive any allowances for their work.