



Annual Report

This Annual Report provides an overview of the Civic Year
1st May 2024 - 30th April 2025



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A message from Mayor James Murray

May 2024 - May 2025

Dear Residents,

As I have come to the end of my two terms as Mayor of Thornbury, I want to take a moment to reflect on the 2024-25 year.

Each mayoral event I attended was truly special and will forever be etched in my memory. I thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in the Thornbury community and meeting so many wonderful residents. A personal highlight was the Mayor's Awards at Thornbury Castle, where we celebrated the true stars of our town – our unsung heroes, tireless volunteers, and local champions.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow councillors for their hard work and commitment throughout the year. Working alongside them has been a privilege and a pleasure, and their dedication to our community has been truly inspiring. The success of our councillors' work is a testament to the hard work of our dedicated office and outside teams. I am incredibly grateful for their unwavering commitment and the incredible effort they put into making our visions a reality.

We finished the year in a strong position, with a superb capital strategy to deliver over the next few years. The first stages of this strategy are already coming to life, with a MUGA soon to be installed at the Mundy Playing Fields, a new water play facility, and a beautifully refurbished chapel in the cemetery.

I want to thank each and every one of you for your unwavering support over the past two years as Mayor. It is a time I will cherish and look back on fondly for many years to come.



Pictures show Mayor James Murray at the Thornbury Mayor's Awards 2025, Rotary Swimmarathon, Mundy Playing Fields and at the Chantry Road Basketball Area

Mayor's Awards 2025

Congratulations to all winners of the Mayor's Awards 2025!

Thank you to everyone who put forward a nominee as well as the nominees who make outstanding contributions to our town.

Thornbury Town Council would also like to thank Thornbury Castle for hosting the awards.

Community Hero - Group or Organisation:
JIGSAW Thornbury



Community Hero: Sandra Davies



Arts Organisation or Facilitator:
Gillian Holmes



Small Business Winner:
L.E. Riddiford



Large Business Winner:
Maidenhead Aquatics



Amateur Sport - Volunteer Leader:
Matt Lansdown



Arts Adult: Jackie Jackson



Arts Youth: Imogen Bailey



Amateur Sport - Individual:
Marrie Kingscott



Amateur Sport - Adult Team:
Thornbury Ladies Run Together



MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

North East Ward



Cllr Chris Rowe
Councillor



Cllr Danny Bonnett
Councillor



Cllr Helen Ball
Mayor



Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Councillor



Cllr Emma Shepherd
Councillor



Cllr Gil Gilroy
Councillor



Cllr Christine Carter
Councillor



Cllr Chris Bloor
Councillor

North West Ward



Cllr Chris Woodhouse
Deputy Mayor



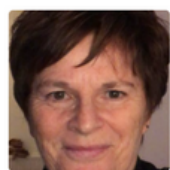
Cllr John Reynolds
Councillor



Cllr Phil O'Rourke
Councillor



Cllr James Murray
Councillor



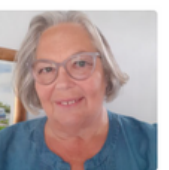
Cllr Kath Greenman
Councillor



Cllr Chris Davies
Councillor



Cllr Maggie Tyrrell
Councillor



Cllr Fiona Deas
Councillor

South East Ward

Thornbury has a total of sixteen Councillors, all with a real passion for our town.

Councillors enjoy working with residents, and we encourage you to get in touch with them or pop along to our monthly 'Meet Your Councillor' sessions which are held on the last Saturday of each month between 10.00am and 12.30pm.

Details of how to contact Councillors are on the Thornbury Town Council website www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Councillors in the Community

The 'Meet Your Councillors' outreach event at Cleve Wood was a great success, with fun had by all. Thank you to their Residents Association for inviting us. It was a great opportunity for Councillors to hear from some of our newest residents. We hope to repeat this in the near future in more estates.



Thornbury Town Council warmly welcomes Emma Shepherd and Christine Carter as new Councillors for the South Ward

Emma writes: I have lived in and around Thornbury for 18 years with my family. I am a keen runner and helped set up Thornbury Park Run in 2017. I am passionate about inclusivity in all areas, for the whole community.

Christine writes: My family have always lived in the Thornbury area. I grew up in Rudgeway and attended school in Thornbury. I live in the centre of the town and am aware of what is happening. I listen to the concerns of local people.

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Meetings Attended	Full Council (7)	Finance & General Purpose (7)	Open Spaces (6)	Planning (5)	Staffing (2)	Climate & Nature (5)
Cllr						
Helen Ball	6	7	N/A	3	2	N/A
Danny Bonnett	6	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	4
Chris Rowe	5	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
Jayne Stansfield	7	6	N/A	4	2	2
James Murray	7	4	6	N/A	N/A	N/A
Phil O'Rourke	6	N/A	5	N/A	N/A	N/A
John Reynolds	6	7	5	5	2	N/A
Chris Woodhouse	5	N/A	2	N/A	2	2
Chris Bloor	7	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	5
Gil Gilroy	6	N/A	5	N/A	1	N/A
Chris Davies	7	6	5	5	N/A	N/A
Fiona Deas	6	6	6	4	N/A	N/A
Kath Greenman	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	5
Maggie Tyrrell	5	6	2*	5	N/A	N/A
Emma Shepherd	1*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christine Carter	1*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Helen Harrison	1**	N/A	1**	N/A	N/A	1**
Simon Johnson	1**	N/A	0**	N/A	N/A	N/A

The number of meetings per year are listed beneath the committee name in brackets.

*Joined Council or Committee mid year

**Left Council or Committee mid year



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Helen Ball, Chair of the Finance and General Purpose Committee

This committee is responsible for ensuring that the Council manages its finances within budget, and annually reviews, in depth, proposals for the following year's budget and makes recommendations to Full Council. The committee considers specific budget requests from other committees for approval and also oversees plans and expenditure related to the council's Capital Strategy. For example, the committee approved expenditure associated with re-establishing the Community Toilet scheme, and the development of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) planned for the Mundy's Playing fields.

The committee ensures that all our policies and procedures are reviewed and updated regularly, including our risk register, and ensures that the buildings owned by the council are maintained in good repair. So for example, the Town Hall has had its heating and lighting upgraded to modern environmental standards, and the lift has been serviced to ensure proper accessibility within the building. Every year there is an independent audit carried out of the council's operations, and we have continued to achieve a judgement of 'High Standard', which can give reassurance to our residents that we are working effectively for their benefit.



Image of Chantry Field, May 2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor Chris Woodhouse, Chair of the Staffing Committee



Over the past year, the Staffing Committee has been focused on working closely with the Chief Executive to ensure the Town Council is adequately resourced to support the progression of the Council's objectives, including our capital strategy projects over the coming years. We have welcomed new additions to the team in key strategic positions, all of whom have hit the ground running having an immediate impact. We have said a fond farewell to those that have chosen to move to pastures new and thank them for their contributions during their time with us. The Town Council staff are committed to ensuring the highest standards are achieved and maintained and I would like to thank them for all their efforts and commitment over the past year.

Councillor Maggie Tyrrell, Chair of the Planning Committee

The majority of planning applications considered by the Planning Committee during the year were of a small scale, mainly house extensions, which Councillors found no objection to. The Committee objected to the design of houses on a new development on Butt Lane and the replacement of Little Coppice, Kington Lane with a new build property. Change of Use applications and Licenses were also considered, the majority being acceptable, with strong concern was raised on only one, regarding possible noise nuisance.



The Committee also considered work to a number of protected trees. The necessity of the work is always checked and a replacement is required where a tree has to be removed due to disease or safety reasons. The Committee also reminded South Gloucestershire of its obligation to consider the Thornbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) with all applications. Thornbury Health Centre new build application was commented on and the principle of the development welcomed as it aligns with the Thornbury NDP. The Committee also responded to consultations on the survey on the Police and Crime Plan, the NHS Change Plan, where lack of infrastructure for the new housing was highlighted.



Pictures taken of Mundy Playing Fields wildflower meadow, June 2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor John Reynolds, Chair of Open Spaces Committee

After much careful consideration, the Open Spaces Committee took the difficult decision to close the splash pad at the Mundy Playing Fields. The equipment was failing and beyond economic repair. The tender process for a new water play facility is now underway, and we are looking forward to the exciting changes that this will bring. In the interim, the space has been turned into a temporary picnic area. The Committee is looking forward to overseeing the changes to come in that space.



There have been lots of other changes and improvements on many of our open spaces. In the Mundy Playing Fields the public tennis courts were fully refurbished and the new pay and play booking system was launched in June, a new BBQ facility was opened and, as part of lots of tree and hedge planting across all sites, the Mundys became part of Thornbury's developing Biodiversity Ring. Following our community survey asking residents where they would like new seating, lots of new seats are on the way across many sites. We have fully supported our Footpath Warden in making Thornbury a "Walkers are Welcome" town. We have also funded an extension to the opening hours of toilet facilities at the Mundys during the summer months.

During the year, the Committee agreed to progress lots of new and important projects over the next couple of years including a new Multi-Use Games Area in the Mundys, along with a covered seating unit. Funding has been agreed, and a contractor chosen, for extensive refurbishment works in St Mary's Churchyard, and agreement has been reached on funding for our next play area refurbishment in Streamleaze. Work also continues on implementing changes to our grounds maintenance regimes to encourage biodiversity, and new battery-powered grounds equipment planned to reduce our carbon footprint. Alongside all these exciting plans, our grounds staff continue to maintain all our open spaces and play areas to a very high standard.

Councillor Danny Bonnett, Chair of the Climate and Nature Committee

We implemented many nature-friendly improvements in how we maintain our grounds, including reducing verge cutting, reducing frequency of general grass cutting and allowing areas of meadow and grassland to develop. We created wildlife habitats such as bird boxes, bug hotels and hedgehog houses, and organised wildflower sowing days, planting a total of 650m². We asked for local residents' views on locations and species of new trees, and supported by a grant from the Tree Council, we held volunteer tree planting days, planting 70 trees and establishing 102m of hedgerow, some of which are enhancing Thornbury's Biodiversity Ring.



There have been lots of other achievements during the year – adoption of a Pesticide Policy to eliminate glyphosate-containing products; a workshop on converting fruit peels into cleaning solutions, raising awareness of food waste; a clean-up day at Chantry Field during which volunteers collected 485g of general waste and 197g of recyclables we registered the Town Hall as a water refill point; and with support from Plastic Free Thornbury, we conducted a plastic audit and are phasing out single-use plastics, adopting refill packs and recycling soft plastics produced at the Town Hall.

We began annual carbon emissions accounting to assess and identify ways to minimise them. We replaced a diesel vehicle with an electric one, reinforcing our commitment to clean air, lower running costs and reduced carbon emissions. We conducted an energy efficiency survey and thermal imaging at the Town Hall, resulting in an Energy Saving Action Plan to guide our future conservation efforts. We have continued to promote our climate and nature initiatives at events such as the Christmas light switch-on, the Carnival, and the Annual Town Meeting, to help spread the word.

NEW PROJECTS, INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Pride In Parks Award

The Grounds Maintenance Team were delighted to be awarded a prestigious 4* Pride in Parks Award by Britain in Bloom South West judges for Mundy Playing Fields. Congratulations!



Chantry Road Basketball Area

Despite torrential rain, children came to play their first game of basketball with Mayor Councillor James Murray at the opening of new basketball area at the Chantry Road Play Area.



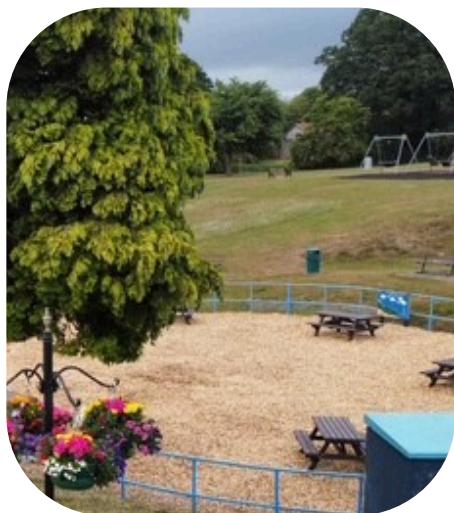
Circular bench installed at Mundy Playing Field

A circular bench has been installed around a newly planted copper beech tree in honour of Judith Hurford, our former Tree Warden. Judith has been awarded 'Freedom of the Parish' for her work in planting over 230 trees in Thornbury.



New Temporary Picnic Area at Mundy Playing Field

Residents of Thornbury and visitors alike have enjoyed water play at Mundy Playing Fields for decades. However, due to it ending its operational life, we have installed temporary seating to be used as a picnic area, while plans are drawn up for an exciting new water play area. We will keep everyone updated during this project through www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk



New BBQ area at Mundy Playing Fields

A new BBQ area is available for all to use at Mundy Playing Fields. We installed this after a disposable BBQ accidentally caught fire. There is now a safe area to cook in, and there is also a handy and safe bin to dispose of used BBQ's.



NEW PROJECTS, INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Capital Strategy Adopted

The Council has adopted a new Capital Strategy, approved on 10th September 2024, to guide the sustainable development of its buildings and land over the next 10 years. The strategy aims to balance community needs with operational and environmental responsibilities, setting out plans to enhance community facilities, green spaces, and public amenities. Funding will be drawn from a mix of sources, including the Community Infrastructure Levy, grants, and reserves. For more information, please visit the Council's website.



Annual Town Meeting



On Tuesday 29th April 2025 Thornbury Town Council hosted the Annual Town Meeting at Turnberries Community Centre. Chaired by Town Mayor James Murray, the evening was filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community spirit. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for local people to come together, discuss issues that matter to them, hear an update from the Town Council, and engage with the many organisations that make Thornbury such a vibrant and welcoming place to live.

Letters to Heaven

If you have recently been to Thornbury Cemetery you may have seen a white post box. This is a 'Letters to Heaven' post box and is part of a national scheme to help people through all stages of grief. The bereaved can write letters, cards and messages to those they have lost and post them in the white 'Letters to Heaven' post box at the entrance of the cemetery. Every letter or card put into the memorial post box is treated with the utmost respect and confidentiality. They are stored securely and are never opened or read. Once the post box is full, the letters will be fragmented and added to the compost in the cemetery which provides nutrients for nature to grow.



Community Toilet Scheme

Hawkes House, The Swan, Foxhills Cafe & Gifts and The Royal George have all been accepted onto Thornbury Town Council's Community Toilet Scheme, which means you can use the toilets in these businesses without making a purchase.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Actual Income and Expenditure Overview

This table presents Thornbury Town Council's confirmed financial figures for the years ending 31 March 2024 and 31 March 2025. It outlines key areas of income and expenditure across council operations, community support, and reserve allocations, providing an overview of how financial resources have been allocated over the two-year period.

	Year Ending	
	31 March 2024 (£)	31 March 2025 (£)
Income:		
Precept	898,894	931,436
Other Income	351,610	542,717
Expenditure:		
Councillor	20,731	1,245
Staffing	426,214	454,000
Administration	20,853	22,600
Central Services	133,608	163,249
Vehicles and Street Furniture	40,787	19,192
Open Spaces	88,054	72,694
Site & Property	88,454	107,919
Grants & Service Level Agreements	83,776	63,359
Projects	121,697	20,791
Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	62,237	417,097
Transfer to General Reserves	164,093	132,007

Grants 2024- 2025

Thornbury Town Council offers grants to support organisations that directly benefit the local community, with a focus on helping to fund development, projects and equipment, rather than ongoing operational costs. The Council prioritises applications that align with its own strategic goals, particularly those addressing climate change, conservation, innovation and under-served populations. Grants applications are considered twice a year, in the Spring and the Autumn, and there are three types of grants on offer (Small Grants, Community Development Grants and Local Events Grants). Full details on eligibility and terms can be found on the Town Council website. Details of the grants awarded in 2024/2025 are set out below.

Love Thornbury	Cabling, tables, chairs and gazebos	£3,000.00
Thornbury Radio	Server upgrade	£750.00
The Inspire Arts Trust	Weekly fitness sessions	£750.00
Thornbury Musical Theatre Group	Hazer	£400.00
Sustainable Thornbury	Community Engagement and phase 2 of stream projects	£750.00
Thornbury Christmas Lights Association	New equipment to make project more environmentally sound	£750.00
Thornbury Area Youth Music	Violins, trombones, saxaphones	£750.00
Thornbury Town Football Club Under 9's Team	Kit	£750.00
Jigsaw Thornbury	Printer	£500.00
Thornbury Netball Club	Kit	£750.00
Thornbury Rugby Club	Gazebo	£750.00

Thornbury Town Football Club Under 9's Grant Feedback

We were delighted to hear from James Gingell, Chairman of Thornbury Town Football Club, under 9's, who said "I know I have said this many times, but thank you again! Your help, guidance and support has helped us and the club massively. It will bring smiles to 24 kids, which will delight parents, family, coaches and all connected to the club. Without grants such as this, I don't know how we'd be able to put those smiles on those young faces... So, a thousand thank yous!!"



Picture: Thornbury Town Football Club under 9's kit, purchased using grant funding awarded by Thornbury Town Council

New for 2025!



Thornbury Museum and The Thornbury Quilt Exhibition

Thornbury Museum is a real asset to our town and plays a key role in displaying, archiving and publishing the history of Thornbury. We are fortunate to have the fascinating 'Thornbury Quilt' on display in the Town Hall, available to view on Wednesdays between 9am - 4.30pm. Interesting artefacts are also on display in the entrance foyer.

Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 13th September 2025 10am - 2pm: The doors of the Town Hall are open for the Heritage Open Day, and you can enjoy a free guided tour of the building

Saturday 4th October 2025 11am - 2pm: Come and say hello to Councillors and Town Council staff at the Fun Palaces event, organised by South Gloucestershire Council, in St Mary's Centre, Thornbury

Saturday 15th November 2025: Talk with Councillors, find more about the area and maybe even win a teddy at the Thornbury Christmas Light Association's big switch on event (timing TBC)

More events will be added to our website, Facebook and Instagram accounts throughout the year

Fancy a game of Tennis?

We have excellent quality tennis courts available to hire



Situated in the beautiful Mundy Playing Fields in Thornbury, we have two newly-refurbished tennis courts available for hire to residents. Enjoy beautiful surroundings as you play a set or two!

Both courts have tarmac surfaces, and have recently been deep-cleaned, re-painted and re-lined.

The public courts are located just past Thornbury Tennis Club – just continue along the path, past the Club and the courts are on your right. They are conveniently located just a few minutes' walk from the Mundy Playing Fields car park.

Courts can be booked in advance for one hour sessions. We offer lower rates for those on reduced incomes (see our website for more details).



Scan the QR code to book a court
or visit
www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Did you know that the country's gardens cover a larger area than all National Nature Reserves combined?

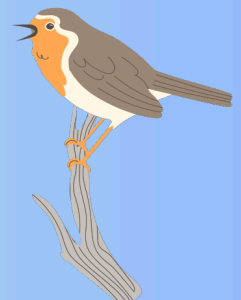
Together, our gardens and green spaces can provide a vital lifeline to struggling wildlife. And sharing your garden with wildlife is fun too!

Here in Thornbury we are creating a **Community Nature Reserve** and we'd love you to join us.

Whether you are a seasoned wildlife-friendly gardener, or a complete newbie, you're welcome to join in. No space is too small and its easy to sign up.

You can connect with like-minded gardeners across our town and get hints and tips about how you can work with wildlife.

Just **scan the QR code** below to join the wildlife-friendly community in Thornbury.



Questions? Contact climateandnature@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk, call 01454 412103 or pop into the Town Hall during office hours.