



# **High Wycombe Town Committee Special Expenses Outturn 2021/22**

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## Introduction

Committee are asked to consider and acknowledge the outturn position for 2021/22. This report sets out the 2021/22 revenue outturn position and the impact on working balances at year end for High Wycombe Town Committee.

## Special Expenses Outturn 2021/22

The net outturn position for 2021/22 is £280k, a forecast underspend of £86k against a total budget of £366k. The table below provides the detail at activity level:

Activity Area	Analysis	2021/22 Budget	2021/22 Actuals	Variance
		£	£	£
Footway Lighting	Exp	1,800	480	-1,320
	Inc	0	0	0
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>-1,320</b>
Cemetery	Exp	337,746	332,742	-5,004
	Inc	-182,250	-237,859	-55,609
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>155,496</b>	<b>94,883</b>	<b>-60,613</b>
Town Twinning	Exp	3,000	3,000	0
	Inc	0	0	0
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Community Grants	Exp	25,660	9,293	-16,367
	Inc	0	0	0
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>25,660</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>-16,367</b>
Recreation Grounds (Local)	Exp	144,085	137,478	-6,607
	Inc	0	0	0
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>144,085</b>	<b>137,478</b>	<b>-6,607</b>
Allotments	Exp	20,430	22,128	1,698
	Inc	-60	0	60
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>20,370</b>	<b>22,128</b>	<b>1,758</b>
War Memorial	Exp	3,000	0	-3,000
	Inc	0	0	0
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-3,000</b>
Community Centres	Exp	13,000	13,000	0
	Inc	0	0	0
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Exp</b>	<b>548,721</b>	<b>518,121</b>	<b>-30,600</b>
	<b>Inc</b>	<b>-182,310</b>	<b>-237,859</b>	<b>-55,549</b>
	<b>Net Exp</b>	<b>366,411</b>	<b>280,262</b>	<b>-86,149</b>

## Commentary on significant variances

### Footway Lighting

This budget is for the repair of 3 footway lights. In Q4 some small works were undertaken leaving a remaining underspend of £1k.

### Cemetery

Expenditure budget underspend of £5k is reported. An overspend of £17k in rates due to 2 years being charged (as reported in the Q3 report) was mitigated by an underspend in Grounds Maintenance of £23k.

Cemetery income is overachieved by £56k in 2021/22, due to an increase in ashes burials in the first half of the year due to people storing the ashes of their loved ones during lockdown until such a time as a funeral could be held with more attendees.

### Community Grants

An underspend of £16k is reported. This includes savings on the Management Fee of £3k resulting from a reduction in charges as agreed with the Committee earlier in the year. The remaining £13k is a result of an underspend on grants approved. There has been no change since Q3 with the following grant applications approved in 2021/22:

Name	Date	Amount
Wycombe Friends of the Earth	08/07/2021	£ 1,186.00
Wycombe Women's Aid Limited	27/07/2021	£ 900.00
St Annes & St Peters Parochial Church Council	23/12/2021	£ 1,499.00
The High Wycombe Society	31/01/2022	£ 1,500.00
Ummah United Sports Club	31/01/2022	£ 1,045.65
Total		£ 6,130.65

Further detail on grants is available in Appendix A which highlights grants approved, grants declined and pending grant applications.

### Recreation Grounds

An underspend on the expenditure budget of £7k is reported. This is due to a slight underspend on Grounds Maintenance as routine maintenance has been undertaken with very little additional (non-routine) maintenance required in 2021/22.

### Allotments

A slight overspend of £2k is reported on Allotments. This is due to a new gate that was fitted as well as additional keys for the gate being provided.

### War Memorial

Underspend of £3k due to no cleaning scheduled for 2021/22 as comprehensive cleaning took place last year. Comprehensive cleaning will take place again in 2022/23.

## Impact on Working Balances

The impact of 2021/22 activities are given in the table below:

	£	£
<b>Balance at 1st April 2021</b>		<b>-535,056</b>
Revenue Expenditure Actuals	280,262	
Precept	-271,924	
Interest	-8,200	
<b>Movement in reserves</b>		<b>138</b>
<b>Balance c/f 31st March 2022</b>		<b>-534,918</b>

The working balance as at March 2022 is £535k which is higher than the recommended minimum level of £150k. Please note that the year-end accounting for the council is not yet finalised and includes these provisional figures. This amount is set aside as an earmarked reserve and therefore ring-fenced for HWTC.

## Penn Road Cemetery

The Penn Road Cemetery was within the developer's maintenance contract until 27 November 2021. From 1 January 2022 it has been added to the new grounds maintenance contract. There is a small amount of CIL funding remaining (£96k) which is being used to fit out the Penn Road Cemetery office. This will be finished in 2022/23.

## CIL Funded Projects

The following is a summary of existing CIL funded projects / commitments and the responsible project officers:

Project	£000's	Commentary	Contact Officer
Bull Lane Service Yard Gates	15	This project will be delivered as part of the wider White Hart St Public Realm Enhancement project that is being led by Rub Nawaz (Economic Growth & Regeneration). A design consultant is due to be appointed by the end of June, with a concept design for the area, including Bull Lane, to be delivered by November 2022.	Rub Nawaz
East Wycombe Panoramic Walkway	35	The East Wycombe Panoramic Walkway scheme was awarded £35,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy funding by the former Wycombe District Council. This funding is allocated and will only be used towards this scheme. Following the award of CIL funding, the scheme was transferred to the Transport Strategy	Jonny Fuller

		<p>scheme, but had not progressed due to resource changes and constraints.</p> <p>A cost estimate for the delivery of the scheme has recently been issued by Transport for Buckinghamshire. This estimate is based on the original project brief and supporting materials/discussions with Cllr Julia Wassell and previous officers. The cost estimate has identified that there is likely to be a funding shortfall to deliver all aspects of the project, as per the brief. Officers in Transport Strategy are proactively exploring potential opportunities for collaborative working and match funding with other council teams.</p> <p>A further update has now been shared with Cllr Julia Wassell to discuss findings, explore opportunities for collaboration and agree next steps. Costs have been provided and two 'packages' can now be taken forward.</p>	
Local Centres	125	The District Centres project retained £125k and the parking pressures project (£100k) has now been combined with the parking review project (see next item).	No Lead Officer however John Callaghan can assist
Local Centres and Parking Pressures Project	468	Cllr Clarke was successful in securing a recommendation to Cabinet to progress the new Parking Review project in addition to the parking pressures project. HWTC allocated £368k of CIL to the new Parking Review project.	Julie Rushton (Lead Officer)
Cemetery	96	This remaining amount is currently being used for the final fit out of the Penn Rd Cemetery office. It is anticipated to be spent in full in 2022/23.	Lindsey Vallis
<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>739</b>		

## Appendix A Grants Update

### Accepted Grants

Name	Date	Amount
<p><b>Wycombe Friends of the Earth</b> - The proposed Bee Squared projects aims to engage with residents living in High Wycombe with the aim to increase awareness of biodiversity by providing packets of seeds and encouraging the planting up a small patch of wildflowers. Instructions are to be provided alongside advertising locally on local residential social media groups (and a market stall if possible). Blue hearts for putting in gardens will also be provided to advertise the project and link in with the 'Rewilding Britain' blue heart campaign.</p>	08/07/2021	£ 1,186.00
<p><b>Wycombe Women's Aid Limited</b> - A summer playscheme for children living in the refuge over the 6-week school summer holiday period including a range of activities, such as arts and crafts, cooking and sports, as well as trips to local attractions and places of interest. The playscheme will run during the school summer holiday starting on 22.07.21, finishing on 03.09.21 and have approximately 30 children attending.</p>	27/07/2021	£ 900.00
<p><b>St Annes &amp; St Peters Parochial Church Council</b> - The objectives of the Church's community service meet those of the project which is to host a Craft Club whereby residents living in the unparished wards of Micklefield, Marsh and surrounding areas can meet to socialise, learn new skills and in addition recycle materials.</p>	23/12/2021	£ 1,499.00
<p><b>The High Wycombe Society</b> - The High Wycombe Society, with the support of Wycombe Arts Centre, are holding an art exhibition to celebrate 250 years of two paintings of 'The High Street in High Wycombe in 1972' by William Hannan. In addition to this there will be paintings of Wycombe by other local artists. This is a</p>	31/01/2022	£ 1,500.00

<p>golden opportunity to showcase Wycombe art through the ages.</p> <p>The event will be open to the public from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> April and is a demonstration of how different organisations can come together to present an event with the potential to have long-term benefits of local art appreciation.</p>		
<p><b>Ummah United Sports Club</b> - Ummah United Sports Club provides local young people with opportunities to train and play a variety of different sports such as swimming, football and cycling. The club is providing affordable sessions for 10 – 20-year-olds to attend which gives them an opportunity to meet and engage with adults who can provide positive role models to younger people. The sessions are fun and create a positive environment whilst providing opportunities to exercise and try new sports. The club has approximately 90 members from the local community. Ummah United Sports Club states that the grant funding will be used to purchase new sports equipment to help the provide better sessions for the young people attending. The sessions aim to provide new sports opportunities at a very low cost to participants in order to engage them with positive role models.</p>	31/01/2022	£ 1,045.65
<p><b>Wrights Meadow Centre</b> - Wrights Meadow Centre have a coffee morning every Wednesday. The plan is to provide a craft session within this coffee morning once a month for those who are isolated/lonely so that they can share ideas and enjoy likeminded company. This session is open to all local residents and is free of charge.</p>	09/02/2022	£366.00
	Total	£ 6,496.65

## Declined Grants

Name	Date	Amount (Estimated)
<p><b>Lacey Green &amp; Loosley Row Tennis Club</b> - Applicant is seeking a facilities grant for the Tennis Club. <b>Location of tennis club is not within the unparished wards of High Wycombe, therefore not eligible for HWTC funding.</b></p>	20/10/2021	£10,000
<p><b>Wycombe Food Hub</b>, Enchanted Wonderland - The Enchanted Wonderland event is an interactive Christmas experience for children aged 8 and run from November to December in the rear entrance to WFH in the Chilterns Centre. Applicant states that hosting Enchanted Wonderland is advantageous for WFH, BC, HWBIDCo, Chilterns Centre, The Old Town, local businesses and residents because as it will be the only Charity Santa experience in the old town centre of High Wycombe, and it meets Community Board objectives of Covid-19 recovery, resilience and regeneration of improving the environment and supporting economic recovery of Local infrastructure and transport to community cohesion, mental health and community. It also states it will increase awareness of Wycombe Food Hub and has the potential to raise donations. <b>Having carried out an in-depth assessment it was felt that there was not enough information or transparency provided or considered on the financial modelling and planning of the event, with £6k to £11k required, however no mention of how this would be made up using other confirmed sources of funding.</b> Consideration was also made to the total cost of the event and the <b>anticipated donations that would be received by Wycombe Food Hub as a result, which appeared to be disproportionate.</b> It was also mentioned on the application that this would be the only Santa's Grotto in High Wycombe town centre this year, however we understand from the promotion of other local events that there are <b>several festive events of this kind taking place in High Wycombe.</b></p>	11/10/2021	£1,500
<p><b>Wycombe Youth Action</b> - Applicant is seeking ongoing financial support for the operation of <b>Wycombe Youth Council, which does not meet criteria of HWTC community support grant programme- therefore declined on receipt.</b> Applicant invited to submit future applications for projects/events or activities available to the wider community.</p>	13/10/2021	£1,500
	Total	£13,000.00

## Pending Grants

Name	Date	Amount
<b>Royal British Legion Wycombe March Branch -</b> Wycombe Marsh Branch currently holds services for most theatre of war commemorative dates and holds events within the local community and carries out the role of branch community support (welfare) within the community and the applicant is aware that war memorial area at Wycombe Marsh needs some TLC which is funded by HWTC but the applicant is looking to have 2 Lest We Forget Benches in place of the old wooden ones it would really make the area look more presentable for those that do visit the war memorial to remember their loved ones.	03/03/2022	£1,332.00 (TBC)