

External Organisations at May 2023

Policy & Resources Committee

Thame Barns Centre

Charity No 900597 (unincorporated Charity)

Thame Barns Centre is a conversion of old farm barns and was brought about in 1989 through an initiative between Thame Town Council and St Mary's Church. It is situated in the conservation area next to the old grammar school and opposite the tithe barn which is next to its original Church – St. Marys.

The centre is a community facility with several meeting rooms and a fully equipped kitchen available for functions, lunches etc. The centre is widely used by local businesses (for meetings and conferences), by a cross section of community groups and is popular for family celebrations and wedding receptions.

The Town Council in partnership with the Diocesan Trustees (Oxford) own the buildings which are leased to the Barns Centre Trustees.

- The Trustees Governing Body of the Barns Centre are made up of:
- 2 elected Thame Town Councillors and the Town Clerk
- 2 elected representatives of the Parochial Church Council and the Vicar of St Mary's Church.
- An Honorary Treasurer
- The Manager(s) of the Barns Centre are non-voting members of the Governing Body.

Citizens' Advice (CA)

The Citizens' Advice is located in Market House in North Street and aims to provide the advice people need for the problems they face and improve the policies and practices that affect people's lives. The service provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. It values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination.

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) / Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC)

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils is part of a national network and has been representing Town & Parish Councils, and Parish Meetings for over sixty years. It provides advice and information, and training for Councillors and Clerks and represents local council interests through partnerships with other local and regional agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

There are 250 Town and Parish Councils¹ and 68 Parish Meetings in Oxfordshire. These range in size from less than 100 to over 30,000 electors. The larger town and parish councils

¹ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/about-your-council/government-oxfordshire/parish-and-town-councils>

include Abingdon, Banbury, Bicester, Blackbird Leys, Didcot, Faringdon, Grove, Henley, Kidlington, Thame, Wallingford, Wantage and Witney.

OALC is affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils for specialist advice and run regular meetings and training open to clerks, chairs and councillors

NALC is the only national body specialising in the work of local councils. It takes an enthusiastic role in protecting and advancing the rights and interests of member councils in the Government, main political opposition parties, Parliament, in media, private, charity and other parts of the public sector.

95% of all town and parish councils in England are NALC members representing the interests of 9,000 parish and town councils and 80,000 councillors. NALC provide support and advice to members directly through a network of County Associations and is run on a democratic

structure with all important decisions about how it operates made through National Council and standing committees.

Individual town and parish councils are members of their local County Association and the National Association. Each County Association appoints one representative from their member councils to sit on National Council. The representative must be an elected councillor. Each National Council representative is responsible for ensuring the views of councils in their county area are voiced, and decisions made at national council are communicated back via their county association structure.

Thame Business Forum

A group of business leaders from local companies based mainly on the industrial estates around the town meet to discuss their future needs. The group meet every other month with each business taking it in turn to host the meeting. Topics that have been discussed to date have included issues with broadband, community energy, apprenticeships, commercial waste and recycling.

21st Century Thame Partnership

21st Century Thame is a town partnership set up to facilitate projects which enhance the town for residents, businesses and visitors alike. Their aim is to enhance the town by protecting its past and promoting its future as a vibrant and flourishing centre serving the whole community. The Partnership provides a platform for partnerships and initiatives, brings businesses together, supports technology such as wi-fi and is working to improve cycleways, signage and traffic in the town centre.

Thame Welfare Trust

Charity No 241914-1.

The Thame Welfare Trust provide grants to people in need who live in Thame and the immediately adjoining villages.

Health Hub

~~Originally the Health Summit, a project to ensure that as much health provision as possible that Thame needs stays in Thame.~~

Red Kite Family Centre

Charity No 1171250

The Red Kite Family Centre is located in the old library building at the end of Rooks Lane in the town. The Centre caters for children under five and their families, providing a place where they can take part in a variety of activities, play, gain information and support from professionals working in a wide range of fields.

Thame Senior Friendship Centre

Charity No 1039978

Provides day care, support and friendship to older people living in Thame and surrounding villages who are elderly, frail, or perhaps isolated. The Centre first opened over 35 years ago and currently accommodate about 60 members and a small waiting list. The group meet at Thame Town Cricket Club, three days a week providing a day out with plenty of refreshments, a two-course meal and a variety of entertainment.

Thame Youth Memorial Trust

Charity No 1135630

The Trust act as a support within the local community for those affected by the premature death of a young person and the impact such a loss has not just on the family but on the whole community.

The Objectives of the Trust are:

- To educate the people of Thame and the surrounding area in the emotional and physical needs of those affected by the premature loss of a loved one.
- To support a place of reflection for those affected by the loss of a youth of Thame & surrounding villages.
- To provide and maintain a lasting monument in Thame to the youth of the town and surrounding area who die prematurely.
- To provide a plaque of remembrance for each individual person who has died, as desired by their loved ones.

Thame Youth Projects Group

Charity No 1187553

Thame Youth Projects Group (TYPG) was set up in 2012, its aim to do all that it can to support the young people of Thame.

Thame Youth Café (part of TYPG) provides a hub where young people can gather safely, enjoy a variety of activities, and get some refreshments. Thame Youth Café is primarily run and supported by volunteers from all walks of life. There are two cafes: one for 11-14s and one for 14-16s.

Thame Youth Projects Group is working on a number of initiatives, one of which was to employ a full-time youth worker to continue the work of the Youth Cafes and develop outreach work to meet and support as many young people around the town as possible. The new youth worker joined the Project in April 2023. Another exciting initiative is, together with the Town Council, TYPG have submitted a planning application for a much-needed permanent home for the young people of Thame; Which will be part of a new community and youth building on the Southern Road recreation ground.

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Chinnor Rugby Football Club

Chinnor Rugby Football Club was founded in 1962 and is located on the edge of the town next to the Show Ground. The Club has several adult and junior teams playing in competitive leagues. The venue is also used for parties, private dining, wedding receptions, christening parties, Christmas parties, anniversaries, meetings, conferences, training days, hospitality and corporate events.

Thame Town Cricket Club

Thame Town Cricket Club is situated in the centre of Thame and enjoys a picturesque setting at Church Meadow. The Club caters for the serious and committed adult and youth competitive cricketers as well as those who enjoy only the occasional game.

The Club currently plays in the Sports Cherwell League. It fields three senior teams on Saturdays and one on Sundays, as well as five junior teams in respective Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire leagues. Several friendly matches are played throughout the season for all age groups.

The Club is recognised by the England and Wales Cricket Board as one of four 'Focus Clubs' in South Oxfordshire by virtue of its standards, youth coaching programmes, Clubmark status and links with Lord Williams's School.

Thame Town Council leases the ground and the pavilion to the Cricket Club.

Cuttle Brook Management Committee

Cuttle Brook Nature Reserve is located to the west of the town, beside the Southern Road Recreation Ground and is maintained through the extensive work of the Cuttle Brook Volunteers.

The Cuttle Brook Volunteers group meets twice a month – the third Sunday and last Wednesday – to share hands-on tasks such as mowing paths, building or maintaining boardwalks and bridges, creating seats, 'laying' hedges, protecting reed beds, tree planting, pollarding, pond digging and generally improving access for all.

Thame Good Neighbour Scheme

Provides voluntary services to the isolated, elderly and vulnerable in Thame. A team of dedicated volunteers provide help to people in the community and work in partnership with other services to promote involvement and well-being for the people of Thame, whatever their age.

Since its launch in March 2015 the Scheme has helped hundreds of people with all manner of things, including befriending, shopping, collecting prescriptions, transport to doctor or hospital appointments, light gardening jobs, minor household tasks and completing forms. Thame Town Council Officers, along with the Blue Heart's volunteers (out of ours) are the administrators of this scheme.

Thame Carnival Committee

Thame Carnival is an annual event held in the town. Community groups parade through the High Street finishing in Southern Road Recreation Ground where there is a variety of stalls

and entertainment for all the family. The Carnival is run by a small but dedicated team of volunteers.

Thame Football Partnership

Thame United was formed in 1883 making it one of Oxfordshire's oldest clubs. Its early years were spent in Oxfordshire Leagues and in 1906, 1909 and 1910. Thame won the Oxfordshire Senior Cup and the Senior League in 1907, 1908, 1910, 1930 and 1931. The 2010/11 season was the most significant in the Club's recent history. With work on the new £3.1 million ground at Meadow View Park commencing in March 2010, United returned to Thame in December 2010. Boasting eight pitches, a floodlit 3G training pitch and an 8000ft² clubhouse, United now have one of the best sporting facilities in the Hellenic League. Thame Town Council own some of this land and lease all of (underlease) the ground to the Football Partnership. TTC lease the rest of the land from OCC (headlease) to make this possible.

Thame Museum Trust

Charity No 1174795

Thame Museum is located in the High Street in what was originally the County Court House built in 1861 and altered to accommodate the Magistrates Court in 1984. The building was purchased by the Town Council in 2005 and converted to house the Museum. A variety of local artifacts are on permanent display and together with programme of exhibitions and talks throughout the year.

Thame Town Council own the building which is leased to the Museum Trust.

Thame Remembers

The Thame Remembers project ran from 2014-2018 and sought to research all the names on Thame War Memorials to discover more about their lives, and challenged the community to place a Thame Remembers Cross at the grave or battlefield memorial of every serviceman from Thame who lost their life in conflict during the last 120 years, wherever in the world that may be. The project was 100% successful and commemorated 212 men at 133 locations in 23 countries and across four continents. As part of the project the team gave a range of talks at LWS and other locations, mounted two stage productions at Thame Players, achieved wide TV and media coverage, and caught the imagination of Thame's community.

The project is essentially complete but remains active in two respects, engaging with the Town Council in arrangements for the addition of 30 new names to the town's war memorial, and installing individual plaques on the houses in Thame where it can be evidenced beyond reasonable doubt that those who died had lived. Two Councillors were the originators and driving force behind this ambitious project and they continue to update the Council on progress.

Thame and District Twinning Association

The town is twinned with Montesson, a town near Paris. The Twinning Association is an independent and self-financing organisation with active members in Thame and the surrounding villages. Their aim is to facilitate visits and exchanges between the people and associations of Thame and Montesson. Annual visits and exchanges take place in September to Montesson and in May to Thame.

Thame Sinaia Friendship Association

Thame formed a Friendship Association with Sinaia in September 2012. Sinaia is a town and a mountain resort in Prahova County, Romania. The town was named after Sinaia Monastery, around which it was built. The Festival of Sinaia is held at the end of September each year.

Music in the Park

Music in the Park has been held every year since 2011. It is a family-fun event featuring live music and dance acts to please kids, teens, parents and oldies alike! The music festival is held in Elms Park on a Sunday in late April / early May and runs from noon until around 9pm. Money raised by the event is given to projects to enhance Elms Park and to support local charities.

Thame Shed

A community initiative, based on the “men in sheds” original idea, to create a space for people to meet up in an active way. Based at Chinnor Rugby Club they opened in 2022 and now operate on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings. Thame Shed is available for anyone of any sex or orientation, who enjoys creating, making, mending or has a practical skill they are willing to share. It is also a place for those who have never had the opportunity to develop practical skills or haven't the space to do the practical things they want to do, or at the moment spend their time alone using their skills. It could also provide an opportunity for those who simply want to watch others work, sharing conversation, perhaps supporting the emotional wellbeing of its retired, or unemployed populace.

Thame Sports Club

The combined Bowls and Tennis clubs which recently completed their new clubhouse, using s106 funds via the Sports Facility Strategy.

Friends of Elms Park

Relaunched in 2018, the Friends of Elms Park is a community not for profit group that has the interests of Elms Park at heart. Initially looking at organising small scale events to gain further interest, it will become very involved with the full refurbishment project and then help to ensure that the results of the refurbishment are used to their fullest extent.

Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee

Transport Representative

Parish and Town Transport Representatives meet at Oxfordshire County Council to discuss transport issues that affect the County and local areas.

Thame Community Land Trust

Community Benefit Society – Reg. No: 8070

The Thame CLT was founded in 2018 by a group of Thame residents with the goal of building genuinely affordable housing to buy or rent which meets the needs of local people, Homes which make it easier to live well on less.