

Introduction

Dursley is a small market town nestling in a steeply sided wooded valley. Walk or drive to the summit of any of the hills surrounding the town, and you will be rewarded with breath-taking views of the Gloucestershire countryside, including the Severn estuary and even Wales. No wonder that for many holiday makers, Dursley is an excellent stopping off point on the Cotswold Way.

Although Dursley is no longer the major employment centre that it was, it has reinvented itself and is proving very attractive to people who want to live in a small, friendly, country town, with all the essential amenities close to hand, and excellent transport links to further afield. With excellent schools and sports facilities, it is an ideal location in which to bring up a family.

Dursley has a wide range of independent shops, radiating from its Market Hall. Above all, it is the people who are making Dursley the success that it is, especially when it comes to the numerous clubs and societies which meet the needs of a wide range of interests. From football to the arts, from local history to the environment, Dursley offers something to everybody.

The Town Council have 17 elected councillors whom reside in the local area and are elected to the council every four years with a Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected annually to lead the council. The councillors are supported by a Town Clerk and his team of office staff and groundsmen.

The five aims of the Town Council for the period 2017-20 are:

1. **Encouraging a Dynamic and Sustainable Economy for Dursley** –Dursley Town Council wishes to support the economic growth of the town to ensure its future prosperity. This means recognising that tourism and local events are the main driver of the local economy and supporting its further development, through a Neighbourhood Development Plan and supporting local groups.
2. **Create a Vibrant Participatory Community** - As a local council we are close to our community. We take care of it by providing local leadership and ensuring that new developments are sustainable. We maintain and improve the town's green spaces and town centre facilities.
3. **Supporting the town's young people** – In partnership with The Tabernacle URC we have provided a new youth club for the town's young people and will continue to deliver a diverse range of youth sessions.
4. **Improving the town burial assets** – The Town Council will continue to manage and maintain the Cemetery at Kingshill Road and the closed graveyard at St Marks. This will include the continuing expansion of the cemetery and the creation of a new Garden of Rest.
5. **Ensuring an Innovative and Supporting Town Council** – To ensure a fit for purpose Town Council that is able to continue the town to grow the Town Council will strive to achieve Silver Status on the Local Government Awards Scheme, review staff structures and ensure training is made available to develop staff and councillors.