



Lyt Up!

April 2026

The Town Council Newsletter for Lytchett Minster and Upton

A hello from us...

Welcome to "Lyt Up!" for April: our newsletter helping to keep you in the loop about all things Lytchett Minster and Upton.

...and a goodbye from Karen!

After 19 years as Town Clerk, Karen Cane is retiring from work at Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council.

Having grown up in the town and attended the local schools, Karen has overseen all council matters with a local's perspective, and has made sure to keep the wheels of local government turning.

'It goes without saying that we are beyond grateful for Karen's contributions to the council, and to the local area at large.' Says Kate Osborne, Acting Town Clerk, 'With her extensive knowledge, diplomacy, and sense of humour, she has guided us all through almost two decades of changing times. We are sorry to see her go!'

Mayor Ray Griffin added, 'It has been my great pleasure to work alongside Karen as a councillor for the entirety of her role. It would be difficult to find a wiser and more dedicated person who has given everything to the community which she was so proud to serve. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks and every best wish for a happy and fulfilled retirement.'

Karen now plans on a holiday to visit her son abroad; we wish her all the best in her retirement.



Council Meeting Dates

All meetings take place on Tuesdays from 6:30pm at the Council Offices on Moorland parade. Members of the public are entitled to attend meetings and can speak at the beginning of each meeting.

- **Full Town Council:** 14th April
- **Environment/Planning:** 21st April
- **Finance and Admin:** 28th April

Visit our office (09:30-13:00, Mon-Weds):

1 Moorland Parade, Upton, BH16 5JS

www.lytchettminsterandupton-tc.gov.uk



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and Upton Town Council"



@lytup_tc

Volunteers of the year

Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council will award four prizes for contributions to the local area:

- Adult (Organisation)
- Adult (Individual)
- Under 18 (Organisation)
- Under 18 (Individual)

More information about entering can be found on our website, and the deadline for entries is **Friday 3rd April** at midday.

On **Wednesday 29th April**, we will be announcing our winners at our Community Volunteer Awards for Lytchett Minster and Upton, during our Annual Assembly (see below for details).



Our Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly (also known as the Annual Town Meeting) is an important part of local democracy. Anyone on the electoral roll for Lytchett Minster & Upton (that is, all Lytchett Minster & Upton voters) can come along to the meeting and have their say. It's the ideal place to put forward any questions you wish to the Town Council.

The meeting will be held at St Dunstan's Church, Poole Road on Wednesday 29th April from 6:30pm. This year we will be providing information about producing a Neighbourhood Plan for the town. A neighbourhood plan is a community led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area. If this is something you'd like to be involved in, please come along to the meeting to find out more.

A reminder about our precept

You will soon receive your annual Council Tax letter from Dorset Council, setting out the new payments to be made for 2026-2027. You'll see that a proportion of the Council Tax is raised by Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council which is the precept and is the smallest portion of the total Council Tax bill. The precept is the total amount budgeted to provide Council services in the coming year. Setting that precept means striking the right balance between funding services and projects to make our town the best it can be – while making any increases as affordable as possible. As a result, the precept is increasing by 10.15%

For a Band D property, this works out to an extra £1.35 a month, or 31p a week. This budget has been prepared with the cost-of-living crisis at the forefront of our minds. The increase reflects internal costs rising at a rate above inflation, and also Town Council's ambitions to build on the improvements made in 2025/26, setting aside funds for several new projects of community benefit in financial year 2026/27. **The full budget and accompanying statement can be found at:** www.lytchettminsterandupton-tc.gov.uk/Council_Finance.

Save the date: Picnic in the Park (Sat 27th June)

Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council are once again putting on our summer celebrations: we will hold our annual, FREE Picnic in the Park event at **Upton Recreational Ground on Saturday 27th June**. With proceedings starting at 1 o'clock, there will be fun for all the family: bouncy castles, ice cream, interactive history tents, entertainers, music, falconry, and more!