



The Old Courthouse,
Jaycroft Road,
Burnham on Sea,
TA8 1LE

19th March 2025

To: All Members of the Assets & Amenities Committee

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND a meeting of the **ASSETS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE** to be held on **25th March 2025** in the Council Chamber, Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, TA8 1LE at **7.00 pm** for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the agenda below.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

Building doors will be open at 6:45pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K Noble", written on a white background.

Katherine Noble
Town Clerk

Please contact the Town Council reception (01278 788088) if you need further information on this agenda.

Members of the Assets & Amenities Committee

Councillor R. Baker
Councillor M. Facey
Councillor G. Gudka
Councillor L. Millard
Councillor C. Searing

Councillor P. Clayton (Chair)
Councillor J. Flurry
Councillor B. Metcalfe
Councillor M. Murphy
Councillor P. Wynn

Public participation

A public participation session will now be held before the meeting starts. Anyone wishing to speak on any matters is encouraged to give notice of the request and subject matter to the Town Clerk no later than midday on the last working day prior to the meeting. Public participation shall be restricted to the public participation session, unless directed otherwise by the Chair. In accordance with standing orders the public participation time will not exceed 15 minutes in total with no individual speaker exceeding 3 minutes.

Assets & Amenities Committee Meeting Agenda

25th March 2025

- 77.A24 Apologies for absence**
- 78.A24 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda**
- 79.A24 To receive and approve the minutes of the Assets & Amenities meeting held on 17th December 2025**
- 80.A24 Matters arising from previous minutes**
- 81.A24 To note the most recent committee income and expenditure report**
- 82.A24 To note the most recent footfall report**
- 83.A24 To receive Town Rangers report**
- 84.A24 To consider response to correspondence received**
 - 84.1 To consider a resident's request to create a media hub for community radio station
 - 84.2 To consider participating in Somerset Day 2025
 - 84.3 To consider appointing a Councillor to attend Wilder Churches webinar Tuesday 20th March 2025
 - 84.4 To consider request to hold a Continental Market on the Esplanade 29th – 31st August 2025
- 85.A24 To consider renewal of annual contract for Town Centre Footfall Counters for 25/26**
- 86.A.24 To consider waste services quotations and award contract for The Old Courthouse and The Princess Theatre - report to follow**
- 87.A24 Princess Theatre**
 - 87.1 To receive Theatre Managers update report
 - 87.2 Tenders received for technical services provision



**Burnham-on-Sea
& Highbridge**
TOWN COUNCIL

88.A24 Cemeteries

88.1 To receive cemeteries update report

89.A24 Allotments

89.1 To receive allotments update report

90.A24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 6th May 2025 at 7 pm.



Minutes of a meeting of the Assets & Amenities Committee held on 17th December 2024 in the Council Chamber, The Old Courthouse, Jaycroft Road, Burnham-on-Sea at 7 pm

Present: Councillors P. Clayton (Chair), M. Facey, G. Gudka, L Millard, M. Murphy, C. Searing

In attendance: E. Dutton (Deputy Town Clerk), J. Hook (Theatre Manager), N. Brookes (RFO) and two members of the public

Public Participation: There were no representations made

53.A24 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Wynn, Baker and Flurry.

54.A24 To receive any declarations of interest on items included on this agenda

There were no declarations of interests.

55.A.24 To receive and approve the minutes of the Assets & Amenities meeting held on 19th November 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Assets & Amenities Committee meeting held on 19th November 2024, were presented by the Chairman.

Resolved that the minutes be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

56.A.24 Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no matters arising.

57.A24 To note the most recent committee income and expenditure report

No queries were raised and the report was noted.

58.A.24 To note the most recent footfall report

It was discussed that the number of visitors from last year had gone down, it was something to be aware of and events should be encouraged to bring more people into the town.

The report was noted.

Signed by Chair..... Date.....

59.A.24 To receive Town Rangers report

The report was noted.

60.A.24 Princess Theatre

60.1 To receive Theatre Managers update report

The Theatre Manager gave an overview of the report.

The choir have been busy practising for the Christmas concert.

Three of the local groups using the theatre were asked how many participants they had in their cast and crew. During the 18 days they were in, between them there was 170 cast and crew working on the stage, and 1325 patrons to see their shows, that was in addition to all the visitors for the participation groups and other events.

In addition to the 18-day community groups, there were 35 other times the theatre had bookings and only 3 days in November the building wasn't used including weekends. The Theatre Manager expressed it was lovely to see it so well used and in a variety of ways.

61.A.24 Cemeteries

61.1 To receive cemeteries update report

The cemeteries report was noted.

62.A.24 Allotments

62.1 To receive allotments update report

The allotments report was noted.

63.A.24 To consider the draft committee budget for 2025-2026 for recommendation to the Finance and Governance Committee

The draft budget was reviewed and Councillors were given the opportunity to raise questions, which were answered. An amendment was made as agreed.

Resolved that the Committee submits the amended draft budget to the Finance & Governance Committee.

64.A.24 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 14th January 2025 at 7 pm.

13/03/2025

Burnham & Highbridge Town Council Current Year

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 28/02/2025

Month No: 11

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
200 The Old Court House								
1005 Old Court House Letting	88	1,332	0	(1,332)			0.0%	
The Old Court House :- Income	88	1,332	0	(1,332)				0
4350 Business Rates	0	8,577	10,650	2,073		2,073	80.5%	
4355 Utilities	957	6,911	6,000	(911)		(911)	115.2%	
4375 Cleaning	315	3,773	5,000	1,227		1,227	75.5%	
4380 Security & Alarms	0	617	800	183		183	77.2%	
4385 Maintenance	5	1,117	3,000	1,884		1,884	37.2%	
4390 H&S/Fire/Inspections	0	868	600	(268)		(268)	144.6%	
The Old Court House :- Indirect Expenditure	1,277	21,863	26,050	4,187	0	4,187	83.9%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(1,190)	(20,530)	(26,050)	(5,520)				
210 Other Assets								
4360 Electricity Town Centre	33	254	220	(34)		(34)	115.4%	
4365 Highbridge Clock Elec	138	1,402	450	(952)		(952)	311.5%	
4415 Water Fountain	53	68	1,000	932		932	6.8%	
Other Assets :- Indirect Expenditure	223	1,723	1,670	(53)	0	(53)	103.2%	0
Net Expenditure	(223)	(1,723)	(1,670)	53				
300 Allotment Highbridge								
1300 Allotment Rents Received	0	1,400	1,215	(185)			115.2%	
Allotment Highbridge :- Income	0	1,400	1,215	(185)			115.2%	0
4370 Water Rates	0	319	200	(119)		(119)	159.7%	
4385 Maintenance	0	405	600	195		195	67.5%	
Allotment Highbridge :- Indirect Expenditure	0	725	800	75	0	75	90.6%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	0	675	415	(260)				
400 TIMPS								
1400 Signal Box	0	401	60	(341)			668.3%	
1405 Event Donations Received	0	500	0	(500)			0.0%	
1410 Grass Cutting	0	417	500	83			83.3%	
TIMPS :- Income	0	1,318	560	(758)			235.3%	0
4385 Maintenance	0	535	5,000	4,465		4,465	10.7%	
4430 Benches	0	2,113	2,500	387		387	84.5%	
4440 Dog/Litter Bins	0	707	600	(107)		(107)	117.8%	
4445 Speed Indicator Devices	0	959	500	(459)		(459)	191.8%	336

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 28/02/2025

Month No: 11

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4450 Floral Decorations	0	5,020	4,400	(620)		(620)	114.1%	
4455 Christmas Lights	1,613	24,033	26,000	1,967		1,967	92.4%	(1,613)
4460 Tourism	0	1,896	2,500	604		604	75.8%	
4465 Events Expenditure	0	7,887	10,000	2,113		2,113	78.9%	
4470 Town Centre Cleaning	0	6,000	6,000	0		0	100.0%	
4475 Carnival Events Week	0	8,382	11,500	3,118		3,118	72.9%	
4485 Defibrillator	0	80	250	170		170	32.0%	

TIMPS :- Indirect Expenditure	1,613	57,612	69,250	11,638	0	11,638	83.2%	(1,277)
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Net Income over Expenditure	(1,613)	(56,294)	(68,690)	(12,396)
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6000 plus Transfer from EMR	(1,613)	(1,277)	0	1,277
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Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(3,226)	(57,572)	(68,690)	(11,118)
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Grand Totals:- Income	88	4,050	1,775	(2,275)			228.2%
Expenditure	3,114	81,923	97,770	15,847	0	15,847	83.8%
Net Income over Expenditure	(3,026)	(77,873)	(95,995)	(18,122)			
plus Transfer from EMR	(1,613)	(1,277)	0	1,277			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(4,639)	(79,150)	(95,995)	(16,845)			

13/03/2025

Burnham & Highbridge Town Council Current Year

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 28/02/2025

Month No: 11

Cost Centre Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>500 Cemeteries</u>								
1500 Wayleaves	0	4,848	4,850	2			100.0%	
1515 EROB	1,140	18,835	7,000	(11,835)			269.1%	
1520 Interments	3,620	16,955	20,000	3,045			84.8%	
1525 Memorials	1,225	6,120	5,000	(1,120)			122.4%	
Cemeteries :- Income	5,985	46,758	36,850	(9,908)			126.9%	0
4350 Business Rates	0	8,904	12,200	3,296		3,296	73.0%	
4355 Utilities	(158)	7,887	3,500	(4,387)		(4,387)	225.3%	
4385 Maintenance	(8,830)	0	0	0		0	0.0%	
4600 Equipment Purchase/Maintenance	12,808	16,100	7,000	(9,100)		(9,100)	230.0%	9,830
4605 Provision For Paths	0	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	0.0%	
4610 Pump Maintenance	0	560	1,400	840		840	40.0%	
4615 General Maintenance	246	1,951	2,000	49		49	97.6%	
4620 Mech Grave Digger	0	2,246	6,500	4,254		4,254	34.6%	
4625 Tree & Hedge Maintenance	0	285	3,000	2,716		2,716	9.5%	
4630 Fuel For Mowers	0	829	1,000	171		171	82.9%	
4635 Waste Collection	204	1,698	2,500	802		802	67.9%	
4640 Provision for Walls	0	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4645 Water Testing	0	0	1,250	1,250		1,250	0.0%	
4650 Rose Garden Memorial Expense	0	228	0	(228)		(228)	0.0%	
Cemeteries :- Indirect Expenditure	4,270	40,688	47,350	6,662	0	6,662	85.9%	9,830
Net Income over Expenditure	1,715	6,070	(10,500)	(16,570)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	1,000	9,830	0	(9,830)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	2,715	15,900	(10,500)	(26,400)				
<u>600 Princess</u>								
1600 Storage Hire	0	2,397	3,300	903			72.6%	
1605 Lettings	4,202	31,695	33,000	1,305			96.0%	
1615 Café Rent/Commission	367	5,415	6,800	1,385			79.6%	
1625 PT Merchandise	1,036	4,438	3,600	(838)			123.3%	
1630 Donations Received	78	962	0	(962)			0.0%	
1645 Show income	1,576	26,364	13,500	(12,864)			195.3%	1,522
1650 Memberships	0	150	300	150			50.0%	
1655 Participation PT	776	6,284	7,500	1,216			83.8%	
1660 Art Sales	370	1,631	200	(1,431)			815.5%	
1670 PV Cells	0	5,363	3,500	(1,863)			153.2%	
1680 Advertising income	13	221	200	(21)			110.4%	
Princess :- Income	8,417	84,918	71,900	(13,018)			118.1%	1,522

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	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4000 Salaries & Wages	9,206	95,326	97,317	1,991		1,991	98.0%	
4005 Employers Nat Insurance	869	7,625	4,755	(2,870)		(2,870)	160.4%	
4010 Employers S\Annuation	1,344	15,305	14,275	(1,030)		(1,030)	107.2%	
4060 Training	195	878	1,500	622		622	58.5%	
4065 Travel, Expenses & Subsistence	0	60	150	90		90	40.2%	
4070 Office/IT Equip & Furniture	690	4,733	3,200	(1,533)		(1,533)	147.9%	768
4080 Telephone & Broadband	135	1,883	1,900	17		17	99.1%	
4100 Insurance	0	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	0.0%	
4350 Business Rates	0	7,984	9,000	1,016		1,016	88.7%	
4355 Utilities	3,764	26,722	26,500	(222)		(222)	100.8%	
4375 Cleaning	878	7,846	9,000	1,154		1,154	87.2%	
4380 Security & Alarms	0	2,338	2,000	(338)		(338)	116.9%	
4385 Maintenance	191	9,454	13,000	3,546		3,546	72.7%	3,569
4390 H&S/Fire/Inspections	0	2,519	1,500	(1,019)		(1,019)	167.9%	
4635 Waste Collection	260	2,238	3,000	762		762	74.6%	
4700 Technician Cost	1,376	15,335	17,500	2,165		2,165	87.6%	
4701 Show costs	1,894	15,616	13,500	(2,116)		(2,116)	115.7%	3,066
4705 Advertising & Marketing	2,452	5,184	7,000	1,816		1,816	74.1%	
4710 Licences (exp)	0	816	1,500	684		684	54.4%	
4715 Card Payment Fees	217	2,106	7,500	5,394		5,394	28.1%	
4725 Technical Theatre	0	4,277	3,500	(777)		(777)	122.2%	2,760
4730 Backstage Expenses	0	361	500	139		139	72.2%	
4735 Art Sales Expenditure	407	1,398	100	(1,298)		(1,298)	1398.4%	
4740 PTAC Merchandise	182	2,476	3,000	524		524	82.5%	
4745 Participation Freelance	0	4,312	3,000	(1,312)		(1,312)	143.7%	465
Princess :- Indirect Expenditure	24,061	236,793	249,197	12,404	0	12,404	95.0%	10,628
Net Income over Expenditure	(15,644)	(151,875)	(177,297)	(25,422)				
6000 plus Transfer from EMR	365	10,628	0	(10,628)				
6001 less Transfer to EMR	386	1,522	0	(1,522)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(15,664)	(142,769)	(177,297)	(34,528)				
Grand Totals:- Income	14,402	131,676	108,750	(22,926)			121.1%	
Expenditure	28,331	277,481	296,547	19,066	0	19,066	93.6%	
Net Income over Expenditure	(13,929)	(145,805)	(187,797)	(41,992)				
plus Transfer from EMR	1,365	20,458	0	(20,458)				
less Transfer to EMR	386	1,522	0	(1,522)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(12,950)	(126,869)	(187,797)	(60,928)				

Geo-Sense Footfall Headline Report

Burnham on Sea

December 2024

68,035

Total visits this period

Footfall is

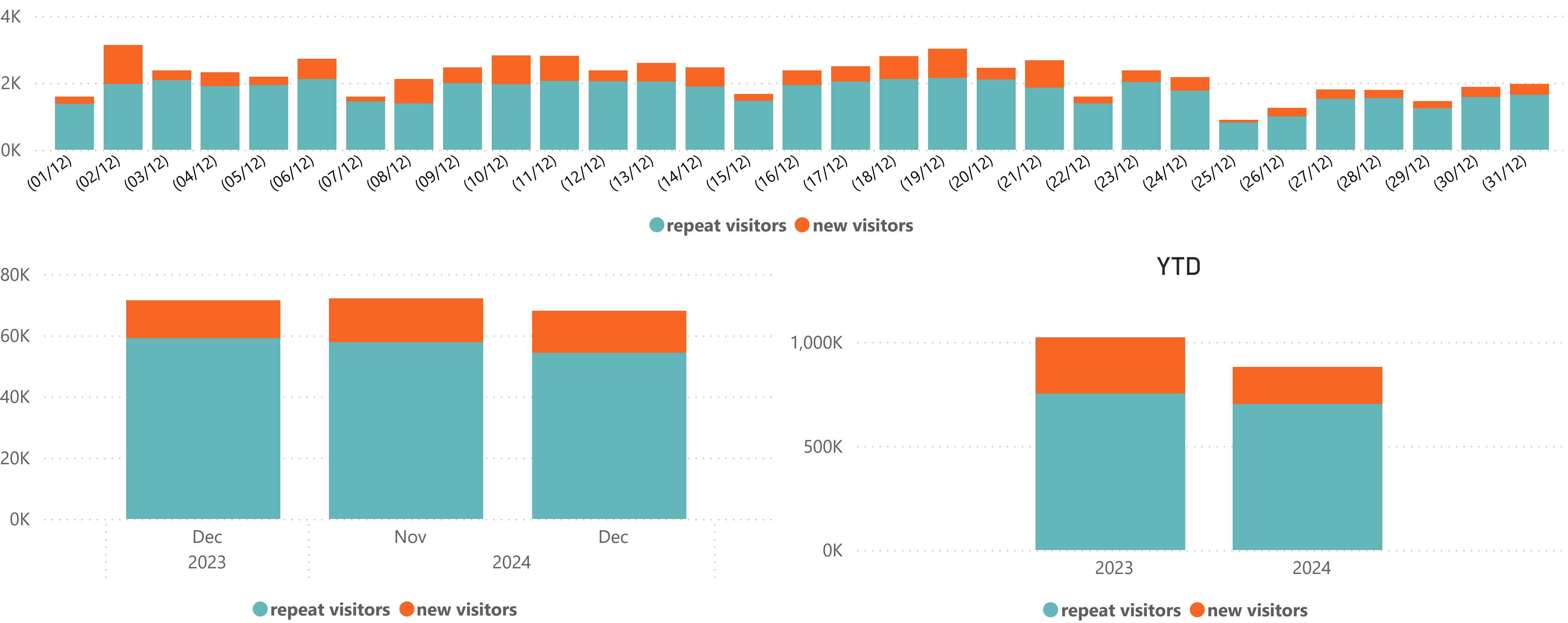
- 6%

down based on last month

2,195

Average visitors per day

Overall footfall statistics



Headlines

- The change in footfall compared to the previous month is a **-6 % decrease**
- The total number of visitors was **68,035** of which **54,397 (80%)** have visited previously and **13,638 (20 %)** were new
- This months average visitors per day is **down** by **-9%** based on the year to date average visitors per day
- Total footfall for the year to date has **decreased** by **-14% (-140,885)** based on the same period last year
- The busiest zone during **December** was **High Street / Regent Street Jct** with **49,831** visitors **73%** of the total venue visitors

Busiest Days

- The busiest day this month was **Monday 2nd** with **3,126**, **5 %** of the total visitors of which **1,159 (37%)** were new visitors
- During this day the busiest time of day was between **4:00 PM** and **5:00 PM**
- Average dwell for the day was **287** minutes.

Geo-Sense Footfall Headline Report

Burnham on Sea

January 2025

66,905

Total visits this period

Footfall is

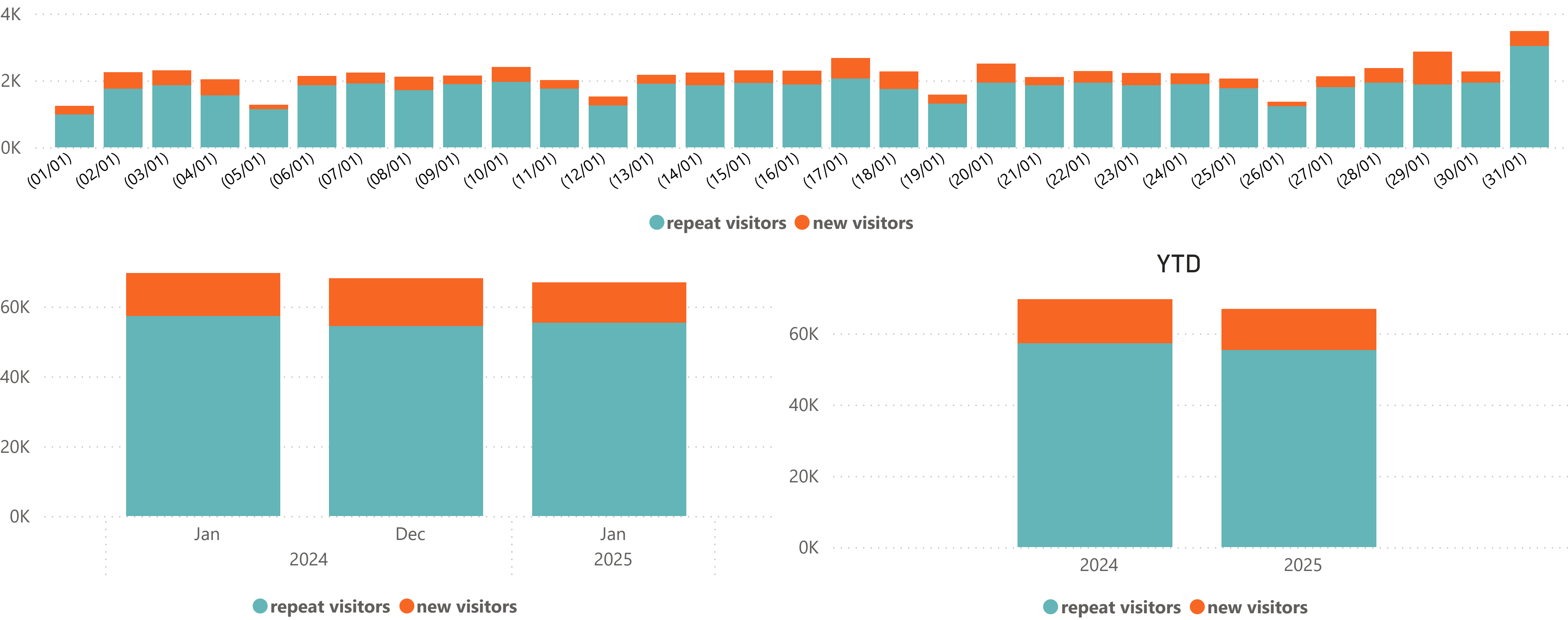
-2%

down based on last month

2,158

Average visitors per day

Overall footfall statistics



Headlines

- The change in footfall compared to the previous month is a **-2 % decrease**
- The total number of visitors was **66,905** of which **55,359 (83%)** have visited previously and **11,546 (17 %)** were new
- This months average visitors per day is **down** by **-3%** based on the year to date average visitors per day
- Total footfall for the year to date has **decreased** by **-4% (-2,641)** based on the same period last year
- The busiest zone during **January** was **High Street / Regent Street Jct** with **48,702** visitors **73%** of the total venue visitors

Busiest Days

- The busiest day this month was **Friday 31st** with **3,471**, **5 %** of the total visitors of which **443 (13%)** were new visitors
- During this day the busiest time of day was between **6:00 PM** and **7:00 PM**
- Average dwell for the day was **291** minutes.

Intelli-Sense Analytics

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<https://proximityfutures.com>

Geo-Sense Footfall Headline Report

Burnham on Sea

February 2025

68,949

Total visits this period

Footfall is

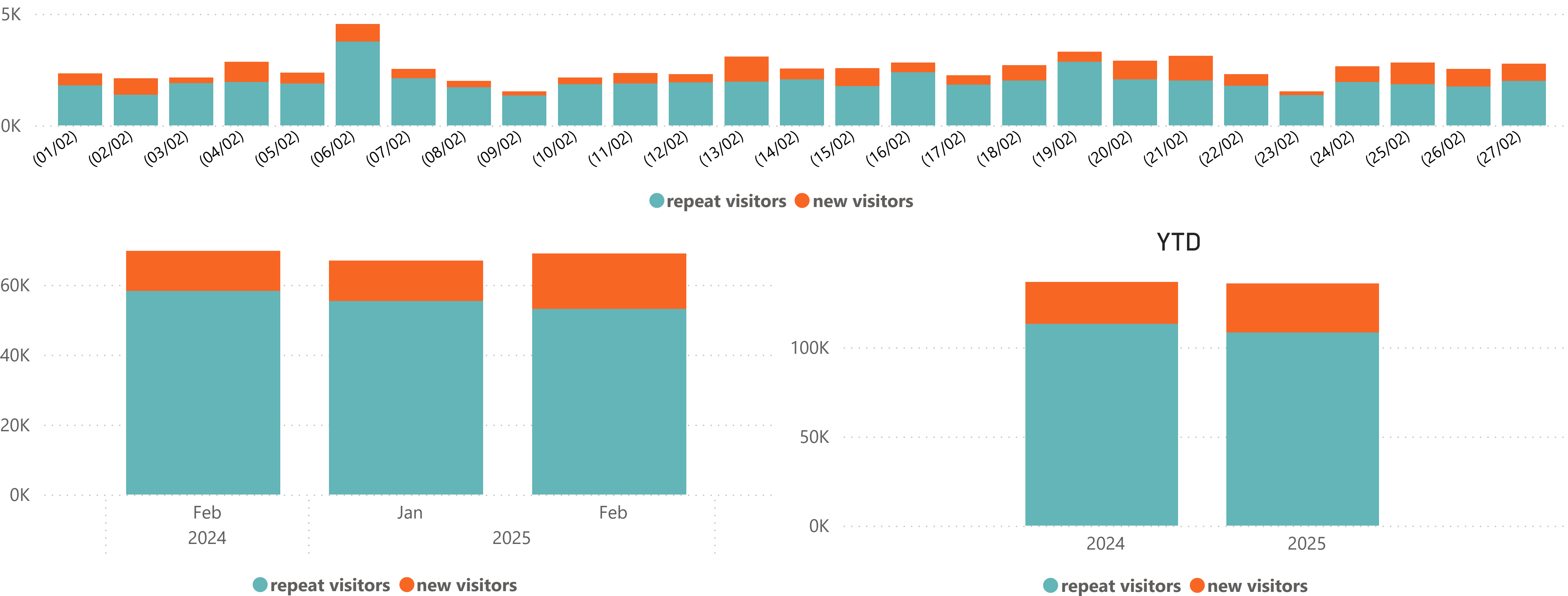
3%

up based on last month

2,554

Average visitors per day

Overall footfall statistics



Headlines

- . The change in footfall compared to the previous month is a **3 % increase**
- . The total number of visitors was **68,949** of which **53,153 (77%)** have visited previously and **15,796 (23 %)** were new
- . This months average visitors per day is **up** by **9%** based on the year to date average visitors per day
- . Total footfall for the year to date has **decreased** by **-1% (-716)** based on the same period last year
- . The busiest zone during **February** was **High Street / Regent Street Jct** with **52,768** visitors **77%** of the total venue visitors

Busiest Days

- . The busiest day this month was **Thursday 6th** with **4,537**, **7 %** of the total visitors of which **785 (17%)** were new visitors
- . During this day the busiest time of day was between **12:00 PM** and **1:00 PM**
- . Average dwell for the day was **287** minutes.

Intelli-Sense Analytics

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Report for councillors:

Town Rangers Update Report

Issued to:

**Assets and Amenities Committee Meeting -
25th March 2025**

1. Purpose of Report

To give an update on the work the Town Rangers have completed throughout Burnham and Highbridge.

2. Litter

The Rangers continue to carry out litter picking in many areas within Burnham and Highbridge.

3. Cemeteries

The Rangers have been assisting with burials and the memorial testing.

The wall at Highbridge cemetery was overgrown, this was removed and made tidy.



4. Fencing

The fence at Jaycroft Road had a lot of ivy growing over it, this was removed and the whole area made tidy.



Subject: Burnham-on-Sea based Community Radio Station

What is the most innovative and accessible opportunity for volunteering that exists today? Internet radio.

Just think. The opportunity to provide local community news, information in partnership with others such as BBC Radio and support your local charities and local advisory and support groups. Sounds great and should exist.

However, it seems to be missing from the plethora of stations that have found their way onto our local broadband. Another opportunity being wasted!

Do not get me wrong I love it when a presenter is knowledgeable about their music, but when you are playing it and still have not learned a thing that you can tell me about it...well that is a bit sad.

If there is no benefit to the listenership apart from background music, well that is even worse.

We are all potential volunteers and can pool our skills knowledge and experience, which will include human resources management, home management, social and health care, policy development, diversity and equal opportunity, charitable funding, project management even radio presentation.

The greatest achievement over the last few years, was the rediscovery of community during the lock-down periods of the covid pandemic. The internet helped to combat the isolation felt by many individuals without partner or family support.

It also created a virtual community hub, co-ordinating food donations, personal protection equipment, support with shopping and medical appointments, distribution of good parcels and dedicated support to homeless individuals. It provided a voice to those in need and a listening ear, that responded to the local needs of community members that felt abandoned and unheard.

I would like to see communities of Burnham-on-Sea, Highbridge, Berrow and Brean, take the opportunity to build on that 'spirit'.

That commitment to work with and support each other, young and old, Black and White, Disabled and Able. Utilise new technology and make a sustainable reality of the word community in the phrase 'community radio'.

We have the potential and resources in the Princess Theatre and Burnham-on-Sea news website in partnership with Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council, to create a media hub.

A centre whose community outreach strategy could target audiences currently not served or excluded, such as those living with visual impairments, learning disabilities or literacy issues. Discussions have already taken place with Burnham Library to consider the development of a Talking Newspaper Service dedicated to residents in and around the Burnham-on-Sea and wider area.

The project is at an embryonic stage but hopes to involve the CAB, RNIB, education and literacy service providers, residential and care homes the U3A and others.

We have the resources both human and bricks and mortar to provide a truly community enabling project that could attract national, regional, and local advertisers and sponsors. With the potential to create future employment opportunities for a Station Manager and Community Development Coordinators, building on the already existing art and theatre reputation of the Princess. Whilst enhancing the use of the Princess Theatre building itself.

There is also the opportunity to support Weston College by providing work experience and practical training places for media students, opportunities for both young and older people, especially those in the target service-users; to design, develop, provide, deliver, as well as monitor that service provision.

The greatest achievement over the past few years was the support we provided to each other as part of the local community during the lock-down periods of the pandemic.

Community radio can provide a voice to those in need and a listening ear, that responds to self- identified needs from community members that feel that they both abandoned and unheard.

We can build on that work and success and make a sustainable reality of the word community in the phrase 'community radio' as well as utilising the Princess Theatre building and the infrastructure of the burnhamonsea.com website to their full potential.

Somerset Day 2025 - Save the date

Dear parish, town and city councils of Somerset,

I am writing to ask you to encourage organisations in your community to **save the date** of the Somerset Day weekend of 10th and 11th May 2025.

Organised by the not-for profit Community Interest Company, Passion for Somerset, the weekend will be an opportunity for organisations and communities to join in and use the Big Somerset Picnic to raise funds.

I am attaching a flyer with QR code which takes you to the picnic page on the Somerset Day website with further information to help organisations plan for the Somerset Day 2025 weekend.

Please can you raise this at your next council meeting and circulate it to other organisations in your community, so they can save the date.

This really is a great opportunity for organisations in your community to raise much-needed funds.

I wholeheartedly support this and hope you will too.



Creating a Better Somerset

Get involved in Somerset Day

Celebrate Somerset Day next May and be a part of something special.

Hosted by **Passion for Somerset**, a not-for-profit CIC, we help communities, organisations, charities and businesses raise funds, support our local economy and celebrate everything that makes Somerset amazing.

Save the Date for 2025!

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**SOMERSET
DAY 2025**



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Host your own event as part of The Big Somerset Picnic. Charge for entry, sell food, offer entertainment or hold raffles to raise funds. Indoors or outdoors, the fun continues - rain or shine!

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Hang the Somerset Flag and Bunting in your shops, offices or restaurants. Host your own event or sponsor one on Somerset Day to show your support.

Individuals

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**SOMERSET
DAY 2025**





Somerset communities encouraged to make space for nature in their local churchyards and burial grounds

Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Bath and Wells invite more communities to join in with the 'Wilder Churches' initiative and take action for nature through a special online workshop, supported and attended by the Bishop of Bath and Wells.

- 'Wilder Churches' supports communities to work together to find ways to make more space for nature in their local churchyards, burial grounds, or other church land.
- The initiative has been running since 2021, and over 100 communities have already been taking action for nature in churchyards across Somerset and beyond.
- The first event of 2025 will take place on Thursday 20th March, attended by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who will be answering questions, providing inspiration, and sharing his vision for a greener, flourishing Diocese.

'Wilder Churches' is a partnership initiative between Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Bath and Wells, which has been **encouraging communities across the county to take action for nature in their local churchyards and burial grounds since 2021**. Through community action, these often-overlooked natural areas can become more valuable spaces for nature and support a wide range of diverse plant and animal species.

This year, new communities are encouraged to get involved and help transform their local churchyard or burial ground into a haven for wildlife. Those interested in learning more are invited to join **a special online workshop on Thursday 20th March**, which will be attended by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Michael Beasley. Bishop Michael will be sharing his love for the natural world, including stories from his own woodland and the importance of preserving precious wild habitats. This is a unique opportunity for people across Somerset and beyond to support their local community, ask questions about the initiative, and gain inspiration for creating wilder churchyards.

Pippa Rayner, Wilder Projects Coordinator at Somerset Wildlife Trust says:

"Wilder Churches has now been running for over three years, and since then, we've seen incredible support for the initiative, with communities discovering wildflowers they never knew were there, running community events, building bug homes, collecting grass cuttings, planting for pollinators and more besides! As well as being valued by people, churchyards can offer important habitats for wildlife, including precious wildflower-rich grassland, which has 'hung on' in many churchyards whilst the vast majority has been lost from the surrounding countryside (due mainly to intensification of agricultural practices). Ancient trees, hedgerows, walls, woodland and planted areas can also give a variety of wildlife somewhere to feed, nest, shelter or hibernate, so finding out 'what they've already got' has been exciting for many communities (and us!). Every churchyard is different and although some currently hold little value for wildlife, with community support there is so much that can be done to turn this around. That's why Wilder Churches is all about supporting local people to come together and take positive, evidence-based action for nature in a way that also works for their community. We've already seen incredible results through this initiative, but if we're to reverse the staggering loss of biodiversity in the UK, we need more communities to

get involved, which is why we're hosting a special welcome event in March this year, and we're inviting anyone interested to come along and find out more!"

Sara Emmett, Climate Justice & Environment Advisor for The Diocese of Bath and Wells, adds: "A quarter of our churches across Somerset are now part of the Wilder Churches initiative, working with their communities to care for God's creation – it's been wonderful to see. We are thrilled that Bishop Michael will be joining us for our first online event of the year, and we'd love you to join us. Everyone is welcome, whether you attend church or are part of the wider community, whether it's your first time or you are a regular Wilder Churches' attendee, if you are just curious, or passionate about the environment and nature."

The 'Wilder Churches: an event with the Bishop of Bath and Wells' webinar is being held online on **Tuesday 20 March from 19:00 – 20:30**. Everyone is welcome – for more information, or to book your place, visit: www.somersetwildlife.org/events/2025-03-20-wilder-churches-event-bishop-bath-and-wells

Editor's notes

About Wilder Churches:

'Wilder Churches' is a partnership initiative between Somerset Wildlife Trust and the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The initiative supports communities to get to know the wildlife in their local churchyard, other church land, or burial ground and work together to find ways to increase the value of these special places for wildlife. You can find out more [here](#).

About Somerset Wildlife Trust:

Somerset Wildlife Trust is a nature conservation charity. Its purpose is to restore and protect the populations of species across the county and the habitats they call home. Climate change is one of the greatest threats to nature, natural habitats and the ecosystems that support our life on earth. Our aims are to help address both the ecological and climate crises and put nature back into people's lives.

Nature reserves and protected sites on their own are not enough. In order to reverse the decline in species diversity and abundance, and create resilient landscapes and habitats for wildlife and for people that can adapt to climate change, **we need to:**

- Encourage and support landowners to manage their land positively for nature; create more space for nature.
- Connect wildlife-rich spaces across the wider landscape to create a robust Nature Recovery Network for Somerset.
- Create a movement of people – at least 1 in 4 – that take action for nature's recovery across Somerset as part of Team Wilder.

Report for councillors: Footfall Sensors Renewal Report

**Issued to: Assets and Amenities Committee Meeting -
25th March 2025**

1. Purpose of Report

For the Committee to consider the renewal of the footfall sensors.

2. Background

The Town Councils current agreement for the footfall sensors ends on the 31st March 2025.

3. Financial implications

To renew for 12 months

Details	Monthly Cost	Total Cost
2 x GEO-Sense footfall sensors	£122.00 + VAT	£1,464.00 + VAT

4. Recommendation

For the Assets and Amenities Committee to decide if they want to renew the agreement for the footfall sensors for 12 months.

Managers Update Report						
Sales Comparisons 23/24 – 24/25						
2023/24	Ticket sales	Revenue £		2025	Ticket sales	Revenue £
April (2023)	307	£2,554.70		April (2024)	1,325	£18,005.85
May	663	£4,821.40		May	972	£9,693.10
June	394	£4,705.20		June	675	£8,860.80
July	486	£3,961.60		July	545	£9,138.40
August	698	£7,979.90		August	378	£6,470.10
September	799	£12,335.00		September	651	£10,369.80
October	1,098	£16,641.90		October	1,376	£22,311.60
November	846	£13,176.50		November	718	£11,721.50
December	308	£4,925.40		December	390	£6,429.00
January (2024)	850	£14,128.90		January (2025)	983	£16,431.00
February	554	£11,510.85		February	723	£14,026.30
March	1,213	£14,291.35		March*	577	£6,436.50
Total	8216	£111,032.70	Total	9313	£139,893.95	

*Report made on March 14th 2025 – figures comparable to March 1st-March 31st 2024 in comparison.

Ticket Sales Comparison		
	Tickets purchased	Revenue
9 th December 2024 – 13 th March 2025	2,577	£41,821.30
9 th December 2023 – 13 th March 2024	2,155	£33,920.80

Participation Groups	Number of attendees
Community Choir	200
Kurling	235
Open Art Studio	76
Seated Exercise	99
Contemporary Creative Textiles (These sessions are once per month)	38

Shows 9 th December 2024 – 13 th March 2025		
Event	Type of hire	Number of Attendees
Santa's Christmas Cracker	Split	188
Songs for the Season	Princess (HPC)	66
January 2025		
Cupcake Decorating (HPC community fund event)	Princess (HPC)	31
Aladdin (Burnham & District Panto Society)	Hire	803
February 2025		
Matilda the Musical Jr (Spectrum Musical Theatre)	Hire	348

Tim's Sing-a-Long	Princess (HPC)	50
The Fleetwood Mac Songbook	Split	194
March 2025		
Sleeping Beauty Adult Panto	Split	179
The New Jersey Boys	Split	196

Events Coming Up	Tickets sold to date (7th March 2025)
March 2025	
Highbridge Festival of the Arts – Junior Dance night	111
Highbridge Festival of the Arts – Intermediate Dance night	108
Highbridge Festival of the Arts – Senior Dance night	109
Crafts for Spring	30
Far from the Madding Crowd	83
Hundred Watt Club	130
Six: Teen Edition	274
April 2025	
There's Something about Typhoid Mary	67
Get Your Groove On (Disco)	27
The Angie Lang & Tim Pitman Show	24
More 2025 shows on sale	

News and Updates
<p>Highbridge Festival of The Arts</p> <p>As I write this report, we are pleased to have the Highbridge Festival of the Arts with us for a week long run of amazing competitions for Children and adults. It has attracted not only local talent but other groups of dancers from other parts of the UK. It is a privilege to see so many talented individuals and groups take to our stage.</p> <p>Seniors Events</p> <p>We have held 9 events since June 2024, these included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June – Choir performance for D Day • July – Exercise & Therapies for Health • August – A Cabaret afternoon with a talented singer • September – Flower arranging • October – Pottery Painting • November – No Deal or Deal, a take on the TV show Deal or No Deal followed by a disco • December – A Festive concert by the talented Princess Community Choir with a festive buffet and Christmas raffle • January – Creative Cup Cake design • February – Sing a long to many favourite tunes <p>Each event was accompanied by refreshments from tea and biscuits to a full afternoon tea or finger buffet.</p>

We have a total of 434 people attend these session and offered some feedback questionnaires for attendees to complete, asking them to score how they rated the events offered, the food served, the ability to meet new friends etc, the overall score was 9.2 out of 10 for their enjoyment. With comments of wanting more of the same.

The grant received was to be for events until March and another grant was applied for, sadly without success, however the Somerset Community Fund has referred our request to another round of grant applications to be considered, once they have received the report on how the funds were spent, and the outcome of the project for the grant awarded. The report was sent on 26th February.

Café/Bar

The owners of the Cabaret Café Bar gave notice to vacate on 20th March and I am pleased to announce we have a local established company who will be taking over the running of the Café and Bars on a temporary contract and they will start on 21st March giving us continuity of service. We welcome them to the Princess Theatre and wish them well with the venture.



Report to Councillors: Tender for Technical Services at The Princess Theatre

Issued to: Assets & Amenities Committee Meeting 25th March 2025

1. Purpose of Report

For the Committee to consider the tender submission and to award the technical services contract for 1 year with the option to extend it for a further year at The Princess Theatre and Arts Centre.

2. Background

A tender was published for the provision of technical services at The Princess Theatre and Arts Centre to start on 1st May 2025. The invitation to tender was published on the Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge Town Council website, the Princess Theatre and Arts Centre website, social media site and by discussion with various industry professionals. The closing date was 28th February 2025.

We received one tender submission, which was opened at 12.30pm on Monday 3rd March at the Council Office, in the presence of Katherine Noble – Town Clerk, Cllr Peter Clayton and Julie Hook – Theatre Manager.

The submission requirement was for an hourly rate for the services provision;

Company A £24.00 + VAT per hour.

The tender proposal received is from a reputable company who can offer the services required to industry standards.

3. Financial implications

The proposed fee falls within the budget parameters set for the budget year April 25-March 26.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Assets and Amenities Committee agree to award the contract to Company A, subject to the provision of health and safety documents and public liability confirmation,



Report for councillors: Cemeteries Update Report

Issued to: Assets and Amenities Committee Meeting - 25th March 2025

1. Purpose of Report

To give an update on the 3 cemeteries at Highbridge, Brent Road and Westfield Road.

2. Burials

February

	Number of Burials	Number of Ashes
Burnham		
Brent Road	3	2
Highbridge	1	2

March

	Number of Burials	Number of Ashes
Burnham		1
Brent Road	2	3
Highbridge		1

3. Complaints

A complaint was received from a member of the public regarding the removal of items and how they are notified. A statement was given stating that following feedback raised last year, regarding how the Council inform families visiting their loved ones, the Council have been placing individual notices on graves during monthly inspections, rather than generic notices around the cemetery.

4. Memorial Testing

The memorial testing has been completed at Brent Road and Westfield Road, Highbridge is near completion.



Report for councillors: **Allotment Update Report**

Issued to: **Assets and Amenities Committee Meeting -
25th March 2025**

1. Purpose of Report

To give an update on the management of the allotments at Walrow, Highbridge.

Number of plots	Number of vacant plots	Number on waiting list
36	0	8

2. Inspections

Inspections were carried out during the first week of March, at this inspection no issues were reported.