

TownTalk



News and views from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

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BURY ST EDMUNDS
TOWN COUNCIL

Volume 3 : Issue 2

September 2011

Introduction

The past few months have seen a continued focus on the new allotment site at Cotton Lane and it has been exciting after such a long wait, to see the change from barren earth to full productivity.

Consultations by Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council have continued as they seek to obtain residents views about where the required savings can be made.

Staff changes

We were pleased to welcome Gill Cook as Allotments and Administrative Assistant on 22 August 2011. Gill will be a regular visitor to the Allotment sites and will endeavor to meet as many tenants as she can.

Our new Clerk will be joining us in October – more details to follow in the next edition.

Elections

Elections were held on 5th May 2011 and all 17 Town Council seats were up for re-election. Nine Councillors were re-elected and the remaining eight are new, although two have previously been Town Councillors. The full list of Councillors names is shown on the next page along with their contact telephone numbers.

The next ordinary elections are scheduled to take place in 2015.

Councillors are here to represent, you, the residents of this Town. They help shape their community and improve life

for local residents. They seek to ensure that the Council is aware of and takes into consideration the needs and views of all sections of the community within their ward. They contribute actively to the formation, development and review of the Council's policies, plans and budgets. They also meet local stakeholders on a regular basis and are accessible to residents to listen to and help deal with issues affecting them. They are often involved with local schools, residents' associations, groups and charities. A Councillor should also assist in ensuring that local residents are well informed about the Council and the services it offers.

New Cotton Lane allotment site

Most of the 38 new plots were let in time for the main growing season and, after a lot of back breaking digging and hard work by all the tenants, the site has been extremely productive, with the full range of vegetable, fruit and flower crops being grown. All those tenants are to be congratulated for their magnificent efforts!

The deer fencing, however, is a bit of a sore point because, as you may have seen in the Press, the smaller muntjac deer are able to get through it. In partnership with the Cotton Lane Allotment Holders' Association who will provide the labour, additional fencing will be overlaid thereby reducing the size of the holes. This work is scheduled for completion in the next couple of weeks. No doubt this cannot happen soon enough for all of the allotment tenants whose produce is being eaten!

Allotments

Tenants at the Barn Lane, Vinefields, Sicklesmere Road and Nowton Road sites are reminded that the next allotment holders' meeting is scheduled for Thursday 12 January 2012 at 7pm at the Town Council Offices, 7 Angel Hill.

The winner and runners up of this year's award for 'Best Allotment Plot' will be presented with their prizes at the St Edmund's Day celebration event on Tuesday 15 November 2011. Full details of the prize winners will be included in the next edition.

St Edmund's Day

This year the Council is once again pleased to be holding the awards for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Nomination forms have been widely circulated to churches, community and other associations, residents groups and schools. The closing date for nomination is Friday 14 October 2011 and those shortlisted will be invited to a presentation to be held on Tuesday 15 November 2011.

Official Town Guide

The third edition of the official town guide is due to be published early next year and will again include much useful and interesting information about the town, as well as a map. If you have any suggestions about additions or improvements please contact us using the details at the top of the page. This free publication will be available from the Town Council offices and many other local outlets.

Grit bins

Another batch of bins has now been put out at requested locations throughout the town, making a total of around 75. Requests are still being considered.

Budgeting and the Precept

Each year Council has to agree its budget for the following financial year, in much the same way as any other business does.

It decides what it intends to spend money on and what it expects to receive as income and the difference between the two, called the precept, is the amount of money that it needs to raise through Council Tax from the residents of Bury St Edmunds.

The Finance, Policy & Resources committee will begin the budget setting process for the financial year 2012/13 at its October meeting. This year's Precept figure is £188,585, which represents £13.50 per Band D equivalent property.



Help and advice
for young people in Suffolk on the Source

COURSES
JOB
APPRENTICESHIPS
CAREERS
MONEY
HOUSING
HEALTH

www.thesource.me.uk



Need help now?
Call 0800 085 4448 and ask to talk to a youth support worker from Children and Young People's Integrated Services

National careers information and advice helpline 0800 100 900
Open every day from 8am to 10pm

Schedule of Meetings

All meetings are open to the public and are held at the Town Council offices on Angel Hill. Notices and agendas are displayed on the notice boards at Cornhill, in the office, the library and at St Edmundsbury Borough Council offices as well as on the Council's website (address shown at the top of page one) a few days before the meeting.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

12 October 2011

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

26 October 2011

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Full Council 7.00

09 November 2011

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

23 November 2011

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Staffing & Employment 7.00

30 November 2011

Full Council 7.00

07 December 2011

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

14 December 2011

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Precept Ratification meeting 7.00

11 January 2012

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

25 January 2012

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Full Council 7.00

08 February 2012

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

22 February 2012

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Staffing & Employment 7.00

29 February 2012

Full Council 7.00

14 March 2012

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

(Dates for April and May in next issue)

Councillors details

All Town Councillors can be contacted via the telephone numbers shown (all numbers have 01284 as their dialling code unless specified otherwise), or by e-mail. Some have mobile or business telephone numbers as shown on our website www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| ¹ Cliff Hind | 706542 |
| ² Paul Simner | 768202 |
| ³ Jonathan Hartley | 762467 |
| ⁴ Bob Cockle | 756249 |
| ⁵ Stefan Oliver | 706172 |
| ⁶ Paul Farmer | 768777 |
| ⁷ Patrick Chung | 761120 |
| ⁸ Nicola Ridgeway | 723948 |
| ⁹ Alan Turner | 489171 |
| ¹⁰ Kevin Hind | 706542 |
| ¹¹ David Nettleton | 702212 |
| ¹² Neil Moffat | 724323 |
| ¹³ Richard Rout | 767494 |
| ¹⁴ Ross Taylor | 07794 881672 |
| ¹⁵ Clive Springett | 753120 |
| ¹⁶ Patricia Warby | 704138 |
| ¹⁷ Quentin Cornish | 750264 |

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|---------------|-------------------|
| 1, 15 and 16: | Moreton Hall ward |
| 2 and 5: | Westgate ward |
| 3 and 17: | Minden ward |
| 4 and 10: | St Olaves ward |
| 6 and 13: | Abbeygate ward |
| 7 and 8: | Southgate ward |
| 9: | Northgate ward |
| 11: | Eastgate ward |
| 12 and 14: | Risbygate ward |

Staff contact details

The members of staff are:

Town Clerk:
Tel: 01284 757139
Email:

Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible
Financial Officer:

Sue Hindry
Tel: 01284 757157
Email:
susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Allotments and Administrative Assistant:
Gill Cook

Tel: 01284 757158
Email:
gill.cook@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Keeping you informed

You can find information about the Town Council on the website, www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk.

We also appreciate that not everyone has access to, or wants to use, the internet. Everything that we provide online can be provided on request in hard copy. We welcome your suggestions, feedback and comments.