

TownTalk



News and views from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

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BURY ST EDMUNDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk's introduction

I can't believe it's the end of another year already. The Town Council has been busy, particularly dealing with grit bin requests in the light of the recent unexpected snowfalls. If you have requested one and not received it yet, please be patient while the process is gone through.

It was a pleasure to receive the nominations for Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, and very heartening to read about the wonderful achievements of those nominated. So many people put so much time, energy and commitment into the town, and it's a shame we can't make awards to them all.

May I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Allotments news

The Town Council felt it was important to reinstate meetings with allotment holders. To date, a meeting has been held with Sicklesmere and Nowton Road allotment holders, with a second arranged for January. The allotments champion, Cllr Stefan Oliver, and the Town Clerk attended a meeting of the Cotton Lane Allotment Holders Association committee meeting, and have agreed to go to every other meeting. In addition, following burglaries at Nowton Road, the police held a meeting with allotment holders to discuss security issues, and ways of reducing crime, such as signing up to Suffolk Allotment Watch.

A skip at the Cotton Lane site resulted in a successful weekend's clearing not only of rubbish accumulated on plots but also

of that in the surrounding hedges and scrub areas.



New Cotton Lane allotments site

Work is progressing well on the new Cotton Lane allotments site. The site has been cleared and deer fencing is being erected to keep the muntjac deer out. It is hoped that the new plots will be ready to be allocated for the new growing season.

War memorials

At the last council meeting, it was agreed to apply for funding from the War Memorials Trust towards the cost of inspections by professional stone and metal conservators of the condition of the War Memorials on Angel Hill and in the Cornhill to ensure that the Town Council is doing all it can to preserve these in the best possible condition.

St Edmund's Day

St Edmunds Day was celebrated by presenting certificates to the Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year at an awards ceremony held at the Town Council offices.

The finalists for the Citizen of the Year were:

Ivy Goodman, for her unstinting work over many years running the Newbury Community Centre

Tom Murray for his photographic work which over the years has raised more than £1m for charities

Peter Watson for his tireless work in enabling deaf/blind people to access services

Daphne Dyer for her continuing work in enabling young people to take part in musicals of the highest quality each year

Arthur Smith for setting up, and continued devotion to, the Over 60s club and community activities on the Mildenhall Road estate.

The decision was a very hard one to make. All those nominated give a lot of their time and energy to the town, and to their communities. In the end two winners were chosen: Daphne Dyer and Arthur Smith.

The Young Citizen of the Year award went to Joseph Weaver for his sterling work with young people in the town, particularly organising music events for them, while being a young carer for his mother.



(from left to right, Daphne Dyer, Arthur Smith and Joseph Weaver)

Quality Town Status



The Council was pleased to be presented with its certificate for the re-accreditation of Quality Town Status. This independent assessment demonstrates that the council is properly managed by highly qualified staff. It was first awarded in March 2006, and has to be renewed every four years.

Grit bins

The recent heavy snowfalls took everyone by surprise, and have led inevitably to increased demand for grit bins. New bins have now been delivered to the Town Council offices and those where the consultation process has been completed will be appearing on your streets over the next few weeks. We are visiting other sites that have been requested but if you know of a site which could do with a grit bin, please let us know and we will investigate. The criteria are that it must not be on an existing gritting route, and should be on a hill, or a particularly dangerous junction.

Flags

Flags will once again soon be flying from the flagpole at the top of 7 Angel Hill. It has been decided that the Union Flag will be flown, except on St George's Day and St Edmund's Day, when the appropriate Saints' flags will be flown.

Suffolk Traders

A new initiative has been set up by Suffolk Trading Standards which aims at protecting the public against rogue traders and cowboy builders. A database of trusted traders is available online at www.suffolktrustedtrader.com or by phoning 01473 264859.

Suffolk County Council's New Strategic Direction

Suffolk County Council has set out its proposals for making huge cuts to its services. These have three themes: 1) Supporting and strengthening local democracy 2) Enabling and encouraging more responsive and cost effective services, by putting budgets in the hands of individuals and communities. 3) Working with communities, so that they are more able to look after their own needs and to take more control over their lives.

The County Council is currently holding meetings to gain people's views, and Town Council staff and councillors have been engaged in finding out as much as possible how this will affect residents. More information available on www.suffolk.gov.uk.

How to make contact

All Town Councillors can be contacted via the telephone numbers below (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 www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk.

¹ Roy Bebbington	706981
² Keith Bird	763689
³ Patrick Chung	761120
⁴ Bob Cockle	756249
⁵ James Dinsdale	07940 536269
⁶ Paul Farmer	768777
⁷ Allan Jones	756415
⁸ Christopher Turner	07816 843778
⁹ Edward Lockwood	711698 [#]
¹⁰ Michele Lockwood	711698 [#]
¹¹ Stefan Oliver	706172
¹² David Nettleton	702212
¹³ Richard Rout	767494
¹⁴ Paul Simner	768202
¹⁵ Clive Springett	753120
¹⁶ Patricia Warby	704138
¹⁷ Kevin Waterson	764804

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

[#]dial 01638 before this number

The members of staff are:

Town Clerk:

Jen Larner

Tel: 01284 757139

Email:

jen.larner@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer:

Sue Hindry

Tel: 01284 757157

Email:

susan.hindry@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

Administrative Assistant:

Paula Gladwell

Tel: 01284 757158

Email:

paula.gladwell@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk

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 a few days before the meeting.

The meetings for next year are:

12 January

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

26 January

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Full Town Council 7.00

9 February

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

9 March

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

Staffing & Employment 8.00

23 March

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Full Town Council 7.00

13 April

Planning and Licensing 6.30

Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00