

# TownTalk



## News and views from Bury St Edmunds Town Council

7 Angel Hill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1UZ

( 01284 725111

\* [info@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:info@burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk) & [www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

BURY ST EDMUNDS  
TOWN COUNCIL

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### Introduction

We are very pleased that this edition of the newsletter is appearing in Dispatch, the new free magazine delivered to each house in Bury St Edmunds. This will enable us to communicate better with more people in the town.

The past few months have seen a focus on the new allotment site at Cotton Lane and it has been exciting to see this gradually taking shape, after such a long wait.

We seem to have been bombarded by consultations from Suffolk County Council as they seek to gain 'information to stimulate a 'creative conversation' ' regarding the services they are planning to 'divest'. It has made for quite an unsettling period as key services in our community are faced with being cut.

### Staff changes

We are very sad that Paula Gladwell, our administrative assistant, will be leaving at the end of March. Paula has made a huge contribution to the smooth running of the office, and has undertaken the bulk of the work connected with the allotments. Her hard work, practical talents and cheerful manner will be sorely missed, and we wish her well in the future.

### New Cotton Lane allotments site

Work is progressing well on the new Cotton Lane allotments site. The site has been cleared and deer fencing has now been erected to keep the muntjac deer out. Work has now been completed on marking out the new plots and those on the top of the waiting list have been contacted and offered plots.

The rent for these will be significantly higher than for existing plots, as the Town Council is having to pay rent on the land to the Borough Council. However, this rent will be fixed for 5 years, by which time it is hoped it will be equal with other sites.



*Some of the plot layout volunteers!*

### 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.

For the financial year 2011/12 this figure is £188,585, which represents £13.50 per Band D equivalent property.

### Elections

Elections will be held on 5 May and all 17 Town Council seats will be up for re-election for the four years 2011-15. We would encourage you to

consider standing and making a difference to your community.

Councillors are representatives of the people living in the Wards they represent – 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 of the ward to listen to, and help deal with, issues affecting local people. They are often involved with local schools, groups, charities and committees. A Councillor can also assist in ensuring that local residents are well informed about the Council and the services it offers.

Nomination packs are available from the Town Council offices, and the deadline for returning these is noon on 4 April. If you are interested in standing for the Town Council, please contact us, or the Borough Council to find out what is involved.

Only those people who are on the Register of Electors as at 14 April will be able to vote at the election on 5 May 2011. If you are not sure if you are registered then contact the Electoral Services section of St Edmundsbury Borough Council to check (phone: 01284 757131 or email: [elections@stedsbcc.gov.uk](mailto:elections@stedsbcc.gov.uk) giving your full name and address.

## Grit bins

Another batch of bins has now been put out at requested locations throughout the town, making a total of 59.

## Census 2011



The 2011 Census takes place across England and Wales on 27 March 2011. A census is a count of a population and one has been held in England and Wales every ten years since 1801 (except during the Second World War in 1941). The information that the census provides helps to identify the characteristics of the population and helps central and local government, to understand the needs of local communities, and plan and prioritise resources and public spending on housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for running the census in England and Wales, and for producing the statistics which are vital to shaping our communities for the future.

Completing the census is a legal requirement and non-compliance could lead to prosecution and a fine. It can be completed online, and is available in different languages, though has to be completed in English (or Welsh).

## Suffolk County Council's New Strategic Direction

Town Council staff have attended several meetings regarding Suffolk County Council's plans to transfer services to other organisations.

Several of these services are currently under consultation, notably the library service in Suffolk, where 29 local libraries are threatened with closure unless alternative ways of running them are

found. 'Core' libraries, such as Bury St Edmunds, will be maintained, though ideas for cuts of up to 30% are being sought. This consultation ends on 30 April, and can be viewed online at [www.suffolk.gov.uk/librariesconsultation2011](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/librariesconsultation2011).

Other services that are being considered for 'divestment' are: youth clubs, school crossing patrols and country parks. A consultation is currently being undertaken on the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2011-14. The deadline for this is 5 May, and it can be accessed on [www.suffolk.gov.uk/IRMP](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/IRMP).

Hard copies of all these consultation documents are available in the office.

The Town Council has been involved in discussions with Suffolk County Council regarding the future of school crossing patrols in the town, and how these can be saved.

## Bury Society

The Bury Society is holding a photographic competition to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the theme of 'My Bury St Edmunds'. There are money and voucher prizes in 3 categories: 7-13, 14-18 years, and adults. The photo size can be up to A4, and in colour or black and white. Details on [www.burysociety.com](http://www.burysociety.com). The closing date is 22 April.

## 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](http://www.burystedmunds.suffolk.gov.uk)

<sup>1</sup> Roy Bebbington	706981
<sup>2</sup> Keith Bird	763689
<sup>3</sup> Patrick Chung	761120
<sup>4</sup> Bob Cockle	756249
<sup>5</sup> vacancy	
<sup>6</sup> Paul Farmer	768777
<sup>7</sup> Allan Jones	756415
<sup>8</sup> Christopher Turner	07816 843778
<sup>9</sup> Edward Lockwood	711698 <sup>#</sup>
<sup>10</sup> Michele Lockwood	711698 <sup>#</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Stefan Oliver	706172
<sup>12</sup> David Nettleton	702212
<sup>13</sup> Richard Rout	767494
<sup>14</sup> Paul Simner	768202
<sup>15</sup> Clive Springett	753120
<sup>16</sup> Patricia Warby	704138
<sup>17</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:susan.hindry@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 next meetings are:

13 April  
Planning and Licensing 6.30  
Finance, Policy & Resources 7.00

27 April  
Planning and Licensing 6.30

18 May  
Annual Meeting of the Town Council  
7.00